




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools Required to Implement School Governance Councils
Executive Directors of Regional Educational Service Centers
Directors of Magnet and Charter Schools Required to Implement School
Governance Councils

FROM: Stefan Pryor
Commissioner of Education 

DATE: May 24, 2013

SUBJECT: School Governance Councils: New Schools and Upcoming Training

School Governance Councils were initially enacted by state legislation in 2010 to enable parents, school staff, students (where appropriate) and community leaders to work together to improve student achievement in the state's lowest performing schools.

The state education reform law (Public Act 12-116, Section 23) made changes to that legislation requiring additional schools to implement councils. The full text of Public Act 12-116 is available at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2012/act/pa/pdf/2012PA-00116-R00SB-00458-PA.pdf>.

New Schools Required to Implement Governance Councils: Amendments to the School Governance Council legislation directed the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to amend the list of schools required to implement councils. The new list includes those schools that failed to make adequate yearly progress in mathematics and reading at the whole school level prior to July 1, 2012. In addition, all Level 4 and 5 schools are required to have councils. The list of all schools required to implement councils is attached.

Those schools newly required to implement School Governance Councils must have their councils in place by **November 1, 2013**. This means that elections for parents and teachers must be held and the first council meeting must have taken place.

Please note that the legislation does not make any provision for ceasing the operation of a council; therefore, schools that were previously required to implement councils based on the 2010 legislation are still required to maintain their councils.

In some cases a school may be allowed to adopt a model that is "similar" but not identical to the state mandated model for School Governance Councils (per Section 10-223j of the Connecticut General Statutes). For a model to be considered similar to the state mandated model it must: (a) have been in place at the time the school was designated as in need of improvement or as a low-achieving school; (b) have membership that includes teachers from each grade level or subject area, administrators, paraprofessionals and approximately 50 percent of the membership must be

parents from the school; and (c) the model must have been adopted by the school and currently in use as of July 1, 2011. To request to use a similar model, a school must document that it meets all of the specified criteria. Additional information is available at: www.sde.ct.gov/sde/SGC.

Informational Session: The CSDE will host a live webinar on Thursday, June 20, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to provide information on launching new School Governance Councils and to answer questions. The webinar will be recorded and made available for later use. Please see the attached flyer.

Resources for Further Information: The CSDE views School Governance Councils as a unique opportunity for Connecticut schools to engage with families and community members in the essential dialogue about student achievement and preparing all students for success. The CSDE Web site provides a number of resources to support those schools and districts required to implement School Governance Councils. Please go to www.sde.ct.gov/sde/SGC for information on membership, the election process, and bylaws. This site also provides tips for setting goals and activities as well as a list of frequently asked questions covering many aspects of School Governance Councils' operations.

Additional information on the responsibilities of School Governance Councils will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Judy Carson at 860-807-2122 or via e-mail at judy.carson@ct.gov.

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Attachments (2)