

# #1 Develop a Mission Statement

## ***What is a Mission Statement?***

*A site council works best when everyone understands its purpose and goals.*

The council's mission or purpose statement is a statement of the reason it exists. Whether you call it a mission or purpose, it represents the fundamental reason for the group's existence. What are we here to do together? The site council mission is different from a school mission.

The district has identified the primary duty of the Council as involvement in and review of the progress made on the schools School Improvement Plan in furtherance of student achievement. This includes:

- Reviewing the vital signs in the Strategic Plan as they apply to the individual school.
- Developing and coordinating plans for staff development needed to implement the School Improvement Plan in consultation with principal and staff.
- Developing an effective, two way communications plan with the school community around issues of school improvement and student achievement

## ***Why is it important?***

Many people joining a site council have a different understanding of the council's purpose. Reaching a common understanding of the council's purpose gives a council a firm foundation.

Reaching consensus on a council mission assists in several ways:

1. Assists council members in understanding working parameters and what the council is supposed to do.
2. Clarifies what the council is not supposed to do.
3. Defines success for the council.
4. It is critical for council members to understand the district expectations for councils as well as any contract, district, or site parameters under which the council operates.

## ***When do you need it?***

The first step in making an effective council out of a diverse group of individuals is to develop a common understanding of the council's purpose.

## ***How do you develop it?***

To complete a mission statement, ask council members to complete the following sentences. Write their ideas on a flip chart.

1. We exist to ..... achieve what results?
2. By using ..... what activities?
3. Within ..... what boundaries/constraints?

Together, identify the most important concepts and craft a statement.

To test your mission statement, ask the following:

- Is it short and simple?
- Will our stakeholders buy-in?
- Will it inspire the team to strive for results?
- Does it describe the fundamental purpose over which the council has control?

### **Sample Mission Statement: The Harrison High School Site Council**

The mission of the Harrison High School Site Council is to provide leadership, direction and support to the school community to achieve school improvement. The scope of work of the council is on the following areas:

- Reviewing the vital signs in the Strategic Plan as they apply to the individual school.
- Developing and coordinating plans for staff development needed to implement the School Improvement Plan in consultation with principal and staff.
- Developing an effective, two way communications plan with the school community around issues of school improvement and student achievement

**Our Mission Statement**