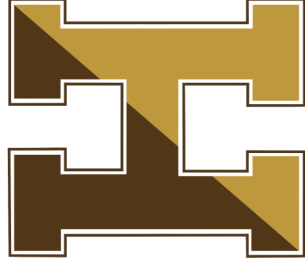


How to get more information.

Site Councils were established to advise the principal on management issues within the school building. The principal is chair of the site council and should be the first point of contact for anyone who wants more information about site councils.

If you have additional questions, contact a parent representative on your site council or the Assistant Superintendent of Schools at 978-374-5740.



Haverhill Public Schools

So What is a Site Council? (Site Based Management)

Haverhill Public Schools

**4 Summer Street
Room 104
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-374-3400**

Mission Statement

The Haverhill Public School system is dedicated to ensuring each learner meets or exceeds rigorous academic standards to become citizens with integrity, skills, and the resources to succeed in the global community.

Q. What is a site council?

A. A site council is a school building based committee focused on improving the school and plays a role in shaping the policies and programs of the school.

Q. Why are site councils needed?

A. The Massachusetts Education Reform law established site councils because they believe that decisions are best made by those closest to the teaching/learning relationship. The law says that the site council “creates through the development of a shared vision and planning, a school environment which unites all members of the school community in a sense of belonging, commitment and growth.”

Q. Who is on the site council?

A. Parents of students attending the school, teachers, community and or business representatives, principals and sometimes students.

Q. How are people chosen to be on site councils?

A. The law provides leeway in the election process. However, it affirms the idea of peer selection:

- Parent members are to be elected by parents through the local PTO.
- Teachers are to be selected by teachers.
- Community and business members are recruited.
- The process must be fair, open and without influence.

Q. What is the term of a site council members?

A. Site councils should have by-laws that specify the term of a member. The by-laws are established by the site council.

Q. What do site councils do?

A. The major areas of responsibility for site councils are to:

- adopt educational goals for the school,
- identify the educational needs of students,
- review the annual school building budget,
- formulate a school improvement plan,
- develop student handbook including safety and discipline guidelines and
- provide advice and support to the principal on all aspects of the building management.

Q. What is a School Improvement Plan?

A. A school improvement plan outlines areas of improvement within the school, outlines steps needed to improve and determines who is responsible for overseeing the steps. Areas that the SIP may address are:

- Student-to teacher ratios
- Professional development for staff
- Enhancement of parental involvement
- School safety and discipline
- School climate
- Extra curricular activities
- Means to meet through educational programs the needs of as many children as possible and more.

TOP TEN REASONS TO JOIN A SITE COUNCIL

1. Help give direction to the schools
2. You know what’s going on in the school.
3. It is a way to be heard.
4. Get to know and work with other parents, teachers and administrators.
5. Be an agent of change and improvement.
6. Gain multiple perspectives on educational issues and options.
7. Make a real difference in student achievement.
8. You are at the center of the action in the school.
9. It feels good to be an advocate for students.
10. Improvement planning makes a difference.