

Policy Statement on Local School Governance

Draft #2 – for discussion on February 27, 2012

The Board of Education has a governing responsibility to foster conditions that enable every school in the Oakland Unified School District to create learning environments that make more effective teaching and learning possible.

The Board of Education believes that those closest to students at a school – employees, parents, students, community partners – are generally in the best position to know the specific academic, social, and emotional needs of their students, and how best to address those needs.

The Board of Education, within the context of established OUSD strategic priorities and performance accountability standards, believes that empowering school governance teams to align and manage resources to address the specific needs of their students is a necessary and fundamental condition to enable every school to make more effective teaching and learning possible.

Therefore, the Board of Education hereby establishes its intent to:

1. Provide school governance teams increased decision-making authority and responsibility to:
 - a. Engage their entire school community – employees, parents, students, and community partners – in a continuous process of school quality improvement.
 - b. Establish a coherent Theory-Of-Action and program strategy to improve student attendance, academic achievement, and wellness based on a specific understanding of the needs and conditions of their students.
 - c. Align and manage resources – people, programs, money, and time – to their school's established Theory-Of-Action and program strategy.
2. Ensure the Superintendent provides meaningful support to school governance teams – commensurate to each team's unique needs and conditions – to enable them to be effective in the performance of their decision-making authority and responsibilities.
3. Ensure the Board of Education, Superintendent, and school governance teams identify, communicate, and implement appropriate policy changes and system improvements based on the qualitative and quantitative findings of established OUSD student and school performance assessments.
4. Establish conditions, through established collective bargaining protocols and agreements, to enable school governance teams to determine the composition of their employee teams.
5. Allocate funding to schools in a manner that:
 - a. Equitably distributes financial resources based on the different needs and life circumstances of students.
 - b. Maximizes the percentage of all OUSD revenues to be distributed to schools.

Within four months following the Board of Education's adoption of this policy statement, the Superintendent shall present to the Board of Education a comprehensive plan to make operational this policy statement in the 2012-2013 academic school year.