



School Governance Council Update

February 15, 2012

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Web page for School Governance Councils

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/SGC>

Update for School Governance Councils

Welcome to the new Update for School Governance Councils. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is communicating periodically with School Governance Councils in order to provide information on new policies and training opportunities, and to solicit feedback on particular issues.

If you have questions or suggestions for future editions of the Update, please contact Judy Carson at judy.carson@ct.gov or 860-807-2122.

Request for Information: Reply by February 29

The CT State Department of Education (CSDE) has been asked to report on the number of School Governance Council members who have participated in training programs related to parent or civic leadership. In order to prepare this report, we are asking councils to complete a **short** survey.

The survey asks each school to report on the number of council members who have participated in:

- The Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)
- Parents Seeking Educational Excellence (Parent SEE)
- People Empowering People (PEP)
- Aspira's Parents for Excellence (APEX) Program
- Other models of parent leadership (please list program name)

Please go to this link to complete the survey:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dEtIV3NERllDaok1LWpBNkwyZU9PSnc6MQ>

Only one response to the survey is needed from the school; not a separate response from each member. Please complete the survey by **February 29, 2012**.

Add Council Members to This Mailing List

Would you like other members of your School Governance Council to receive notices like this? The survey mentioned above will allow you to identify up to two members from the School Governance Council (in addition to the principal) who should also receive periodic notices like this from CSDE.

Topical Networking Sessions for Councils

CSDE is working the Connecticut Parent Information and Resource Center (CT PIRC) and the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) to host informational networking meetings for councils this spring.

Session 1: Everything You Always Wanted to Know about the Freedom of Information Act



- ✓ *Does your council have questions about the Open Meetings Act?*
- ✓ *Have you wondered if your meeting agendas should be sent to the town hall? to the state?*
- ✓ *When does email between council members constitute a “meeting”?*

School Governance Councils, as publically elected bodies, are required to follow the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. Come learn more about this important public access law and how it applies to School Governance Councils.

Experts from the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission and the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) will be on hand to offer tips and take your questions.

March 20, 2012

Registration 5:30 p.m. ♦ Program 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Location: Mid State TBA

Light refreshments will be served

Registration information for this session will be sent shortly.

Topical networking sessions will also be held in April and May in the north central and southwest areas of the state. More information on those events will be sent shortly. Materials from all sessions will be available on the CSDE web site following the meeting.

Technical Assistance

As a reminder, technical assistance for School Governance Councils is available from Connecticut Parent Information and Resource Center (CT PIRC), Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) and Leadership Greater Hartford (LGH). Contact information was sent to principals last fall and is also available at www.sde.ct.gov/sde/SGC (look under Resources).

Statewide Conference on May 9, 2012 School-Family-Community Partnerships

A key role for School Governance Councils is to assist their school in building school-family-community partnerships for student success. Join us on May 9, 2012 to learn about successful family engagement strategies from two national leaders.

At this day-long activity, Dr. Joyce Epstein and Dr. Mavis Sanders, nationally recognized researchers, authors, and teachers, will share successful school-created strategies from their new book, *Multicultural Partnerships: Involve All Families*.

Multicultural Partnerships: Engage All Families

National Presenters



Joyce Epstein, Ph.D. Director
Center on School, Family, and Community
Partnerships and the National Network of
Partnership Schools (NNPS)
Johns Hopkins University



Mavis Sanders, Ph.D. Professor of
Education
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

For more details and registration information go to: <http://bit.ly/zM4tzQ>

Presented by the CT State Department of Education (CSDE) and the CT Parent Information and Resource Center (CT PIRC).