



POLICY: LEARNING IMPROVEMENT TEAMS

West Valley schools exist in an ever-changing environment to serve a changing clientele. The purpose of school "renewal" is to keep schools constantly adapting to those changes so that all students succeed. "Renewal" is an ongoing process which may include restructuring of schools and/or approaches to teaching and learning improvement in order to assure the highest possible student performance.

Schools may offer diverse programs and services as they seek to meet the unique needs of their students. It is recognized that differences which may exist among schools, due to restructuring, are acceptable. However, to preserve the common values of the West Valley School District community, each school will make decisions within a framework of state laws and regulations, board policies and procedures and strategic plan, and annual district goals and expected outcomes.

Consistent with its mission statement and strategic plan, the West Valley Board of Directors believes that school renewal may best be achieved through the process of school-centered decision making within the learning improvement team. This process shall provide individual schools the opportunity for decision making concerning school renewal and improvement through the participation of those most directly in contact with or concerned about the students and within the context of a district and state framework surrounding the school.

A cooperative partnership in which parents/guardians/custodians, staff, students (as appropriate) and community patrons work together on a School Improvement Team for Education (SITE) shall enhance the renewal and improvement process. The principals shall be both members of their respective teams and technical advisers to their teams and shall assist the superintendent in achieving the purposes of this policy. Each school participating in school renewal and improvement activities is expected to:

1. Establish a fair system for selecting representatives for the school improvement team;
2. Be responsible for regular communications with their broader constituencies;
3. Provide a decision-making process marked by mutual respect and support among all of the participants;
4. Strive to achieve maximum effectiveness by seeking participants' commitment to support implementation of each decision;

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5. Coordinate activities with district support staff to ensure effective implementation of school goals; and
6. Obtain initial board approval if the proposed improvement plan is a variance with existing board policy, administrative procedures or district goals.

Information reports regarding renewal and improvement activities during concept development, planning and implementation shall be provided in a timely manner to the superintendent and board.

Each school shall evaluate its progress in school improvement activities and share the results with the school's community. Such assessment should be regular and frequent.

Each school shall also submit an annual written school improvement plan to the superintendent and school board. A description of the membership of the School Improvement Team for Education (SITE), decision-making process used, the goals achieved and how the improvement process has contributed to learning by individual students shall be included in this report.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

RCW 28A.150.210	Basic Education Act – Goals
RCW28A.300.130	Educational improvements and research – Center for the improvement of student learning – Clearinghouse for commission on student learning and for information regarding education restructuring and parental involvement programs
RCW28A.655	Academic Achievement and Accountability
RCW 70.190.040	Funding – Grants to improve readiness to learn
Ch. 180-18 WAC	Waivers for restructuring purposes
WAC 392-140-800 to 836	Local Enhancement Funds