

How parents and teachers can have a voice through their School and District Leadership Teams

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School Leadership Teams (SLTs)

- New York State Education Law Section 2590-h requires every NYC Public School to have a School Leadership Team (SLT).
- SLTs are a vehicle for collaborative school-based decision making for parents and school staff as well as other stakeholders in developing school plans and policies.
- The rules and regulations governing SLTs are outlined in Chancellor's Regulation A-655

Role and Responsibilities of SLTs

- The SLT is responsible for developing an annual school Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP), which outlines the goals and strategies for improved student outcomes.
- The SLT must be consulted by the principal in developing the school-based budget to ensure that it is aligned with the CEP.
- The SLT must be consulted prior to the appointment of a principal or assistant principal (per Chancellor's Regulation C-30).
- The SLT must also provide an annual assessment to the superintendent of the principal's shared decision-making relationship with the SLT.

Composition of SLTs

- SLTs should have a minimum of 10 members and a maximum of 17 members.
- 3 Mandatory Members – Principal; PA/PTA President (or Co-President); UFT Chapter Leader (or their designees).
- SLTs must also include other parents and staff, elected by their own constituent groups, and must have an equal number of parents and staff.
- SLTs may also include students (minimum of 2 students is required in high schools) and representatives of Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

SLT Process and Functioning

- Once the SLT is constituted, it must select a Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons, as well as Secretary, from among its membership.
- SLTs must use consensus-based decision making and must seek assistance if unable to reach consensus on the CEP.
- Every SLT must develop bylaws containing operating guidelines such as: team composition; quorum; method of election of parent and staff members; length of term; meeting specifications; etc.
- SLTs should meet at least once a month during the school year (10 times per year). SLT meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Law and their meetings must be open to the public.

District Leadership Teams (DLTs)

- Every Community School District in New York City must form a District Leadership Team (DLT) pursuant to Section 100.11 of the Regulations of the (NYS) Commissioner of Education.
- The DLT will develop the District Comprehensive Educational Plan (DCEP), which includes annual goals and objectives that are aligned with the district's and the Chancellor's goals.
- DLTs also provide support, guidance, technical assistance, and conflict resolution to the SLTs in their districts.
- In addition, DLTs must conduct a biennial review of the district's 100.11 plan to evaluate the effectiveness of shared decision making in the district.

Composition of DLTs

- The DLT consists of representatives from the elementary, middle, and high schools geographically located within that district.
- Required members of the DLT are: Community Superintendent; High School Superintendent(s) for high schools within the district; CSA representative; UFT representative; DC 37 representative; President of the district's Presidents' Council; President of the borough High School Presidents' Council; Chairperson of the Title I District Parent Advisory Council (or their designees).
- The DLT may also include CBOs; president of the District CEC (or designee); and a member of the Citywide Council on High Schools whose child attends a high school in the district.

Support for SLTs and DLTs

- Per CR A-655 – “Every community school district, borough, and District 75 will have a designated member of the Office for Family Engagement and Advocacy (now known as the Division of Family, Community, and Student Empowerment) staff, who will provide comprehensive services to assist SLTs and DLTs, including professional development and technical support.
- The designated staff will act as facilitators to assist all team structures in carrying out their roles and responsibilities.
- The staff will also provide regular training sessions to the SLTs and DLTs in their districts, as well as those in the high schools.

Resources

- Chancellor's Regulation A-655 - SCHOOL AND DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAMS; Issued: March 25, 2010; available on NYCPS website
- Class Size Matters website - "Parent Empowerment and School Leadership Teams" available at <https://classsizematters.org/parent-empowerment/>

Call to Action Re: School Leadership Teams (SLTs) & District Leadership Teams (DLTs)

- Actively monitor/participate in the SLT and DLT process to see if they are effectively including/uplifting the parent voice in shared decision-making.
- Strategies:
 - Review your school's CEP and school-based budget
 - Attend SLT meetings
 - Contact parent reps on SLT to share your input/feedback/concerns
 - Also attend DLT meetings and share concerns and feedback