



## School-Based Decision-Making Councils (SBDM)

1. School-Based Decision-Making Councils (SBDM) (sometimes called “site-based councils” or just “school councils”) were created under the Kentucky Education Reform act of 1990.
2. Kentucky created its SBDM councils in order to allow parents and teachers to participate in important school policy and practice decisions and to provide stakeholder oversight of important administrative decisions.
3. Under the Kentucky law on SBDM, KRS 160.345, each public school is governed by *and answerable to* the parents and staff who make up the school community.
4. Every school council consists of **one principal**, at least **three teachers** and at least **two parents**. All teachers are elected by teachers, and all parents are elected by parents. The school council may increase membership but the increase must be proportionate. Any school council may apply to KDE to be allowed to create an alternative membership model.
5. KRS 160.345 also requires that the SBDM council of any school having a minority student population of eight percent (8%) or more shall have at least one minority member (even if it changes the fundamental structure of the council).
6. KRS 160.345 assigns specific duties and responsibilities to school councils, including, but not limited to: developing and implementing school policies on curriculum, assignment of instructional and non-instructional staff time, discipline, instructional practices, and wellness; making personnel decisions; selecting instructional materials; determining which student support services the school will offer; planning professional development; and hiring their principals.
7. State law requires that school councils comply with all provisions of the Kentucky Open Meetings Act. Each council must establish and publish a regular meeting schedule. Any meeting where a quorum of the membership is present, where public business is being discussed, or at which actions are taken or decisions are made must be open to the public.