



Ten Keys to an Effective School Council

1. School council members act as advisors to the principal.
2. Members work together to identify the needs of students and make recommendations to increase student performance.
3. They ask questions, provide important feedback, and consider ways to solve problems.
4. A major function of school councils is the development of the school improvement plan, which addresses these areas:
 - curriculum/ instruction/ assessment
 - professional development for staff
 - respectful community
 - school space
5. Members provide information and make suggestions. They seek to understand the viewpoints of all council members, and through this process, council members gain an increased understanding of the school, its strengths, needs, and goals.
6. Council members seek to reach consensus about school needs and plans for improvement.
7. A school council's goals should be consistent with the goals established by the district's School Committee.
8. Members regularly engage in two-way communication with the populations they represent.
9. Council members take their responsibilities seriously by attending and participating in meetings.
10. The council's focus remains on the needs of the school and its students, not personal issues. Those are best addressed in a more private forum.