**SBDM Frequently Asked Questions**

**Who Can Serve on a School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Council?**

The law requires membership of the SBDM Council to include parents, teachers, and administrators of the school. Parents and teachers are elected to serve on the SBDM Council by their constituents in a process determined at the local school.

**Why Should I Get Involved?**

When parents and teachers are involved, they are able to be a part of the decision-making process that directly affects the learning environment. Participating on the SBDM Council at your child’s school allows you to share your expertise and to participate in the decisions that directly affect students. Your involvement will aid in increasing student achievement. Each member represents a stakeholder group at the school, and this enables mutual understanding of the concerns of each group as they assist in making decisions for the school.

**How Do SBDM Councils Enhance Student Achievement?**

When adopting SBDM policies, input from a variety of perspectives is important in determining what will be most effective in enhancing student achievement. Once the SBDM Council establishes policies, it is the responsibility of the principal, along with the entire school staff, to implement these policies.

By adopting SBDM policy, the council makes effective changes in the learning environment to enhance the achievement of all students. While working together to accomplish the task of enhancing student achievement, SBDM Council members share equally in the decision-making process.

**What Are the Responsibilities of the SBDM Council?**

The SBDM Council is responsible for setting school policies consistent with the Anderson County Board of Education policies, to enhance student achievement and to help students meet established academic goals. The SBDM Council has authority in the following areas:

* Determining the number of persons to be employed in each job classification (e.g., teachers, counselors)
* Consulting with the principal when hiring new personnel
* Selecting a new principal from a list of qualified applicants, as determined by the superintendent
* Selecting instructional materials, textbooks, and school-support services
* Determining budget for the school from allocations provided
* Determining the curriculum
* Assigning of staff time
* Assigning of students to classes
* Determining the schedule within the established school day and week
* Determining the use of school space during the school day
* Planning instructional practices
* Determining discipline and classroom-management techniques
* Approving the Emergency Plan
* Determining extracurricular programs and student participation in programs
* Determining technology use
* Wellness (Primary to grade five)
* College-level course (secondary)

The law requires that Council members receive training in the process of school- based decision making. New SBDM Council members receive six hours of training, and returning SBDM Council members receive three hours of training.

**When and Where Do They Meet?**

SBDM Councils determine when and where the meetings will be held. This information may be obtained by calling the local school. The meetings of the SBDM Council must meet Open Meetings and Open Records requirements. This means that you may attend the SBDM Council meetings of your school or another school of interest to you. The frequency and length of each meeting will depend on the issues that must be addressed at the local school. You also may review the records of these schools by requesting the records at the school.