

LEARNING IMPROVEMENT TEAMS

Learning Improvement Teams

The Port Angeles School District is committed to sharing decisions on instructional program improvements with all stake holders in a school. It is believed that if parents, patrons, and staff are involved in instructional decision making they will have a greater ownership and commitment to the decision.

Student learning is at the core of the school district's mission. Since students' learning needs vary and learning is most successful in a highly supportive environment in which teachers, students, parents, and others work closely and harmoniously together, it is essential to focus attention on plans for improving student learning at each school. In developing and implementing those plans school staff must work closely with parents, community members and, where appropriate, students.

Learning Improvement Team Responsibility

A Learning Improvement Team (LIT) shall be established and maintained at each school building in the district. The charge of each team is to develop a plan for its school by specifying the activities, necessary human and material resources and budget that will improve student learning in the school. Each team is also charged with adopting bylaws, subject to board approval, for its operation. The teams shall operate within the district's policies, unless waived by the board; budget parameters established by the board, the requirements of contracts to which the district is a party and all other legal constraints. The teams' activities, decisions and recommendations shall be consistent with the district's strategic plan and shall contribute to achieving district goals.

Once a school's learning improvement plan has been approved by the board, the team shall meet at regular intervals to review progress toward the plan's goals, to develop actions and strategies which may contribute to the plan's success, and annually to evaluate and report to the board on the progress of the student learning improvement plan.

Learning Improvement Plan Approval

The learning improvement plan developed by each team shall be reviewed, seconded and approved by the building principal before being submitted to the school board. If the principal does not approve the plan, he or she shall work with the LIT until consensus is achieved. The board shall conduct a public hearing on the plan and may refer a plan back to a LIT with recommendations for change. When approved by the board the plan shall be submitted to the superintendent of public instruction as part of the district's application for student learning improvement grants.

Learning Improvement Team Accountability

The superintendent, in collaboration with the LITs, shall develop evaluation instruments and procedures for the teams which include the following criteria:

- A. What are the specific results from the student learning improvement plan and other team activities?
- B. Is there evidence of improved student performance, improved school climate, or improved support for the school among parents, students and the community?

- C. Has the team operated within its delegated authority by focusing on plans and strategies to improve learning? Has the team avoided micro-management?
- D. Does the team act in the best interest of all students?
- E. Are team decisions objectively reached?
- F. Do the team's decisions reflect consideration of the need for consistency and compatibility among schools in the district?
- G. When considering its options does the team take into account general community reaction and satisfaction?

Annually each team shall assess its own performance and include its conclusions in its report to the board.

Implementation

The annual reports from the LITs shall be considered by the board in conjunction with its annual review of the district's strategic plan. The superintendent shall develop procedures or guidelines to implement the provisions of this policy and assist both the board and the teams by making any recommendations which will enhance the success of the teams and achieve the district's goals. 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.

Cross Reference: Board Policy 5021

Applicability of Personnel Policies

Legal Reference: RCW 28A.150.210
RCW 28A.300.130

Basic Education Act — Goals
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

RCW 28A.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

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