

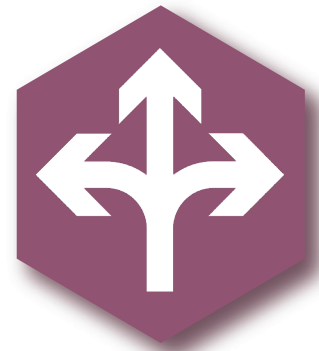
Decision-making

Parent and community involvement in school decision-making encourages greater ownership and ensures local needs are reflected. Decisions about student needs should involve effective consultation and collaboration with stakeholders and open and transparent communication at all stages of the process.

To support informed decision-making, parents and community members need to understand the purpose, aims and background to the issue, as well as the findings of any relevant evidence-based research. Reciprocal trust and ownership of decisions assists in successful implementation.

Points to consider

- ▶ To what extent are goals, progress and achievements systematically and regularly monitored and refined if required?
- ▶ Is consultation and collaboration encouraging, open and honest?
- ▶ Does the school offer training and support to build parent leadership capacity, empowering parents to participate effectively in consultation?
- ▶ Does the school collaborate with the community by consulting on formal/informal decision-making, reviews and new school policies (for example, assessment, reporting and curriculum changes)? How?
- ▶ Has the school considered how it will include local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents, Elders and community groups in decision-making processes?
- ▶ Are parents and community partners consulted as part of decision-making on issues in which they have particular expertise?



Links with the NSIT

Decision-making aligns with the following aspects of Domain 9 of the NSIT:

- ▶ Major partnership decisions are made collaboratively and partnership activities are designed to make best use of partners' expertise.
- ▶ Goals, progress and achievements are systematically and regularly monitored and refined as required.
- ▶ Partners are involved in collaborative planning and committed to the purposes and objectives of the partnership.





Achieving results: Ideas for improvement

Every day

- Be open, accountable and transparent in decision-making.

Early in the school year

- Encourage active participation in the P&C, school council and other school decision-making groups.
- Involve parents and the school community in developing the [Student Code of Conduct](#) for students to align the behaviour expectations of the school to community expectations and build a shared understanding of what is expected.
- Enlist Indigenous education workers and community liaison officers to help build connections and to enable all parents and community members the opportunity to participate in consultation and inclusive decision-making. In particular, these staff may be able to help school leaders understand and engage with local protocols and processes about how communities make and communicate decisions.
- Offer training and skill development opportunities to parents and teachers to help them make the most of consultation opportunities.

Throughout the year

- Ensure consultation processes are flexible to reach a wide range of students, parents and community members. Use different modes of communication for parents who may find it difficult to engage in decision-making and if needed, use different languages to ensure all respondents can participate. Organise interpreters if required.
- Encourage student participation in decision-making processes. Develop the capability of student leaders so they can participate effectively in decision-making, as appropriate.
- Discuss and review strategies being used to encourage parent and community engagement at school leadership team meetings.
- Consider involving independent third parties (for example facilitators) in consultation activities to enable discussion of matters that are particularly sensitive.
- Welcome a diversity of views, beliefs, behaviours and preferences within communities. For example, while some parents may feel comfortable attending a consultation meeting, others may prefer and need a more personal or confidential medium.
- Establish networks to link parent and community leaders to the broader school community.
- Encourage the school's P&C to review the P&Cs Qld website for ideas on how to work with school leaders and to contribute to collaborative decisions for example business operations, policies and procedures.

Once a year

- Depending on the school community, formally or informally survey parents (for example verbally or in writing) regarding their satisfaction with, and suggestions on, their involvement in the school's decision-making processes and suggestions for improvement.
- Evaluate if:
 - consultative mechanisms about school priorities and needs have been effective
 - goals are mutually set to meet the school's vision.
- Seek feedback from the P&C and other partnership members to determine if it considers parent and community partnerships are influencing school decisions and improving student outcomes.