

Establishing the School Community Steering Committee

Members of the School Community Steering Committee (SCSC) will help envision the big picture of the school, its mission/vision, and define success. They will engage in setting goals, seeking root causes for the issues and considering new strategies by exploring the Essential Practices. They will also create, implement and monitor the Plan, as well as adjust the course as needed.

Thoughtful consideration needs to be given to the composition of this team. Most likely each school has a Leadership Team. Some have advisory teams, which include parents or community partners. These existing groups may or may not fully represent the group needed for the purpose of this work. Rather than automatically inviting these members to serve on the SCSC, careful reflection should be given to the contribution and commitment they will be able to make over the next 2-3 years.

The Facilitator will engage in an important task: guiding each principal to think through the work of the SCSC throughout the cycle of improvement and ensure the members are representative of the school community. Membership may range from 10- 15 members.

Guiding questions:

- Who should be a member?
- Who is in a position to understand the needs of students and why these groups have been identified as in need of support?
 - Teachers of students: general education, special education, English learners, specialists, school counselor
 - Parents/guardians
 - Students (in upper grades)
 - Alumni
 - Community partners
- Other questions to ask when considering membership:
 - What is the membership's understanding of school history?
 - Are there any untapped groups?
 - Do we need someone with a fresh perspective?
 - How is union representation included?
 - How will people be invited to join? Can all members access our ongoing communication?
 - What concerns do you (the principal) have regarding authentic engagement?
 - What help may I provide?