

# Policies

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## Westerly Public Schools Parent-Teacher Organizations

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The Westerly School Committee recognizes and encourages community involvement in the schools. Cooperation with all parent organizations should be encouraged as they represent a source of information and ideas. The parent-teacher organization can be advocates for the School Committee policies, programs and goals.

Acknowledging that parent-teacher organizations represent the best means of communication between home and school, the following guidelines have been established for School Committee recognition of parent-teacher organizations:

1. There shall only be one parent-teacher organization recognized by the School committee in each school as determined by majority vote of the parents/legal guardians and teachers of students in the school.
2. Organizational structure shall be determined by each parent-teacher organization.
3. By-laws are in accordance with Westerly Public Schools policy no. 1220.
4. Membership must be open to all parents/guardians and teachers in the school community and, where applicable, all students in the school.
5. All membership meetings held in the Westerly Public Schools shall be held in public forum
6. Parents will be involved in decisions that affect matters of educational significance, including but not limited to the following:
  - Curriculum and Student Achievement
  - Student Activities
  - School Rules
  - Grading and Attendance Policies
  - Budget and Facilities
  - Safety and Discipline Policies
  - Volunteers in Schools
  - Fund Raising
  - Broader Based District Issues
7. It shall be expected that the administrators will maintain a continual dialogue with parent-teacher organizations and parents in general through meetings and other vehicles of communication on all matters of educational significance.

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8. Administrators may distribute parent-teacher organization information to parents via the children which:
  - Is of general public interest
  - Promotes the education or other best interests of the pupils
  - Is informational in nature
  - Is based on established facts
9. Parent-teacher organizations shall follow School Committee policy where applicable.
10. The parent-teacher organization cannot obligate the School Committee to any current or future expenditure or to involvement in a particular program.

### **DISTRICT PARENT COUNCIL:**

At the discretion of the Superintendent, a district-wide parent's council may be organized to enhance the strength of the school district through communication and cooperation. The Superintendent will establish the method of selecting representatives to this council.

Adopted: April 17, 1991  
Approved: March 17, 2004  
Revised: January 3, 2007