

BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR SCHOOL COUNCIL

When families, school, and the community work together...

...our children enjoy school and learning.



WHY JOIN THE SCHOOL COUNCIL?

The Education Act 2015 (NT) Part 6 Parent and community involvement in government schools recognises the importance of parents and communities in the governance of schools. School Council enables parents to provide relevant input into the long-term strategic vision of the school.

An informed and effective School Council ensures schools establish and maintain genuine engagement and meaningful partnerships through best practice governance and decision making.

WHO CAN BE A MEMBER?

The number of members is defined in your School Council Constitution.

Your School Council membership must include between 5 and 19 members.

Membership must include:

- Parents (50% of the total membership)
- Teachers (at least 1 teacher)
- Principal

Membership may include:

- Students (Secondary Education)
- Invited Members

OFFICE BEARERS:

- Chair (Must be a Parent Member)
- Secretary (Should be a Parent Member)
- Treasurer (Should be a Parent Member)

Education Regulations 2015 (NT)
Part 5 Parent and community involvement in government schools s. 22.1-4, 7

FUNCTIONS OF A SCHOOL COUNCIL:

As a School Council Member, you are actively involved in the governance of the school.

School based governance is organised into seven broad categories.



The establishment of good governance processes achieves a balance between formal meeting procedures and a friendly atmosphere of inclusion, cooperation and participation.

Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (NT COGSO)



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WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL COUNCIL DO?

- Provide input into the strategic direction and vision for the school
- Approve, plan and monitor the annual budget
- Lead school community conversations about key issues and challenges in education
- Provide input into the development and implementation of school policy
- Assess and advise on the physical needs of the school
- Oversee work on buildings and grounds
- Ensure that the school is responsive to the needs of the local community
- Approve community use of school facilities outside of school hours
- Advise the CEO in regards to the position description of the Principal
- Carry out fundraising activities and spend the funds accordingly
- Employ School Council staff
- Determine the amount of fees and seek voluntary contributions from parents

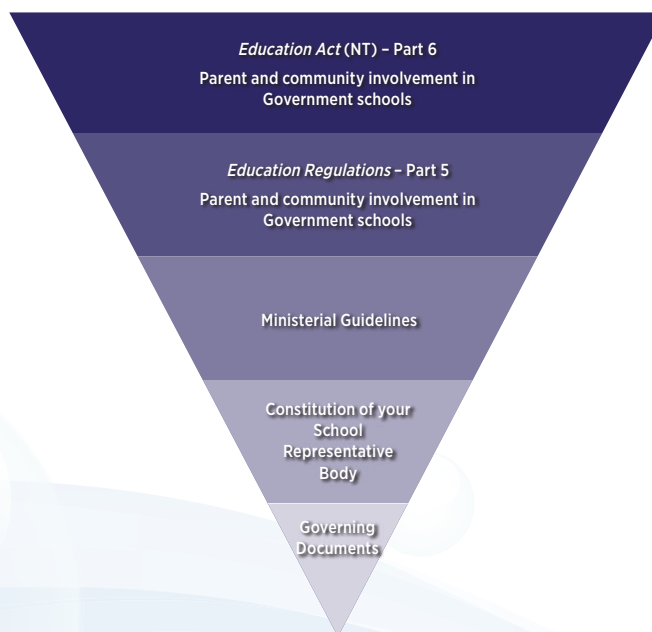
Education Act 2015 (NT)
Part 6 Parent and community involvement in government schools s. 107

DECISION MAKING:

- Decisions must be in the best interest of all students
- Voting is a simple majority
- Each elected member has one vote

Education Regulations 2015 (NT)
Part 5 Parent and community involvement in government schools s. 27.1-4, 7

LEGISLATION:



YOUR COMMITMENT:

Although each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, members may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that may be unfamiliar to them. NT COGSO provides high quality training and support to School Council Members.

MEMBERS SHALL:

- Attend the 8 meetings per year
- Represent the best interests of every student and the school at all times
- Work within the duties outlined in the constitution
- Hold or be eligible to obtain a working with children clearance (Ochre card)

WHY IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL IMPORTANT?

- School Council supports families to support the school and students
- School Council assists families to be involved in the education outcomes of all students
- School Council helps every child to come to school every day
- School Council helps the school to support families and students



MORE INFORMATION:

Contact your school Principal for more information on becoming a School Council Member.

Contact the Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (NT COGSO) for School Board governance support and advice.

Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (NT COGSO)



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For further information, please visit www.ntcogso.org.au, call 8999 3255 or email enquiries@ntcogso.org.au