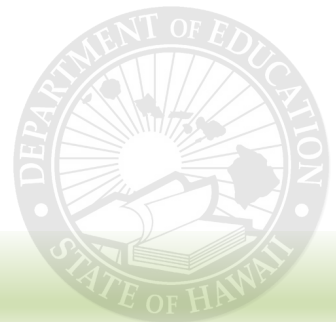# Understanding Your School Community Council
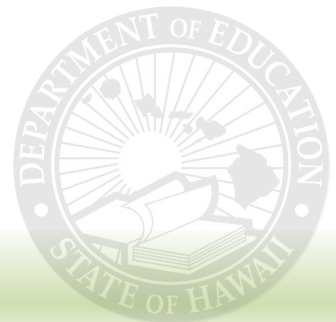
Farrington High School
July 29, 2019

Dr. Polly Quigley
Community Engagement Office

Objectives

- Provide an overview of School Community Councils (SCCs)
- Review common issues SCCs face
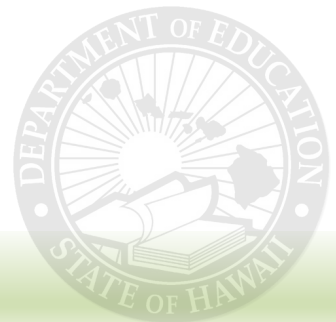- Effective Family Engagement
- Resources available

What can we offer you?

- Provide training (school and complex levels)
- Provide guidance and support on Community Engagement Webpages
- Answer questions and address concerns about:
  - Roles and responsibilities
  - Recruitment and election
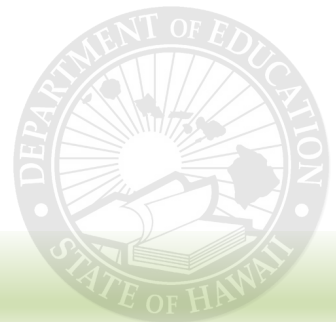 - Timeline
  - AFP
  - Forms
  - Waivers
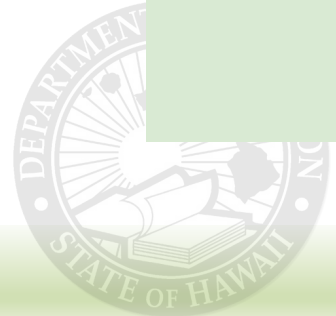
School Community Councils
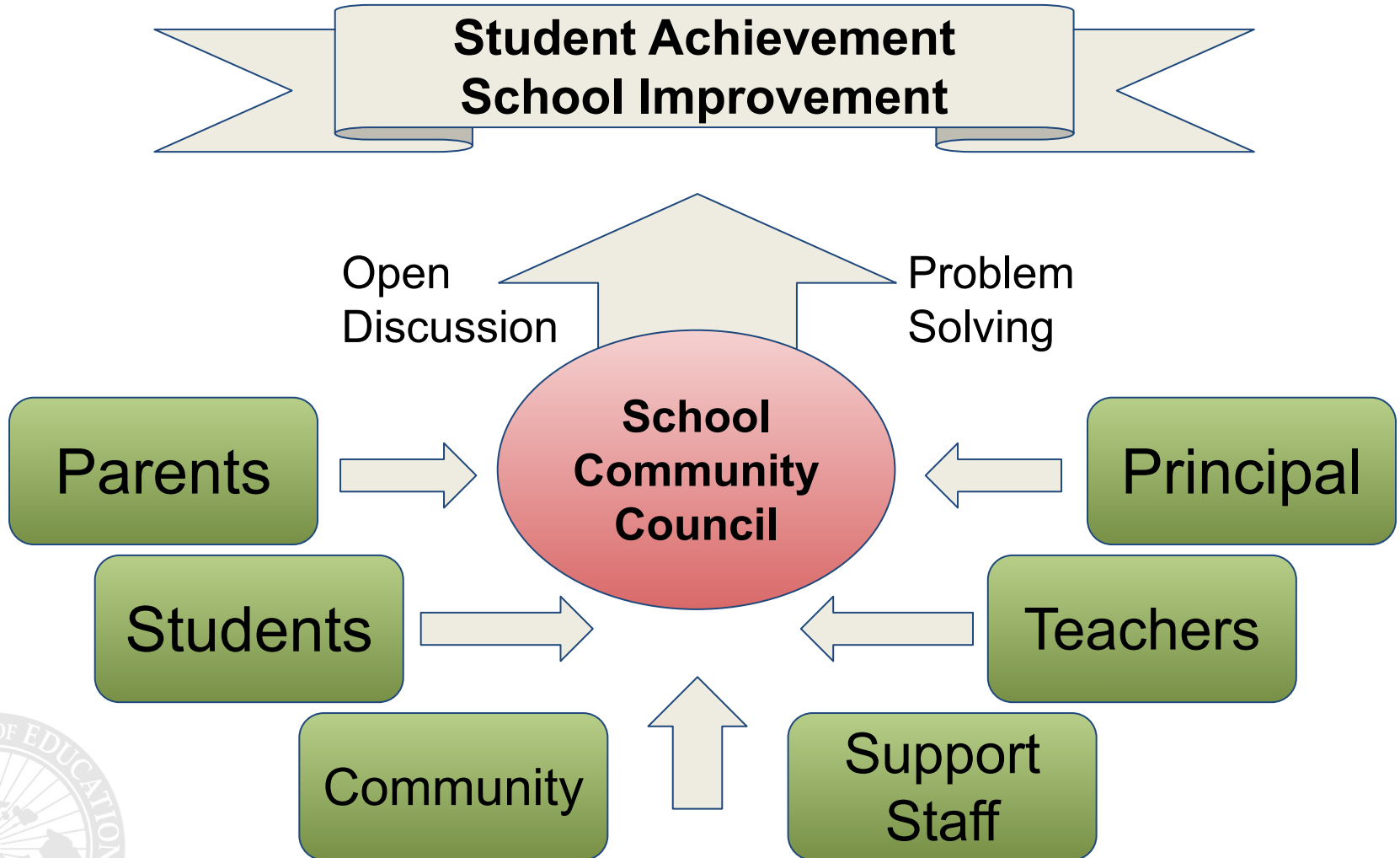
Purpose, Roles, Responsibilities

What is a School Community Council?

Student Achievement
School Improvement

Open Discussion

Problem Solving

School Community Council

Parents

Principal

Students

Teachers

Community

Support Staff

Membership- Elections & 50/50 Rule

Principal	Parent
Teacher	Community Rep
Non-certificated Support Staff	Student
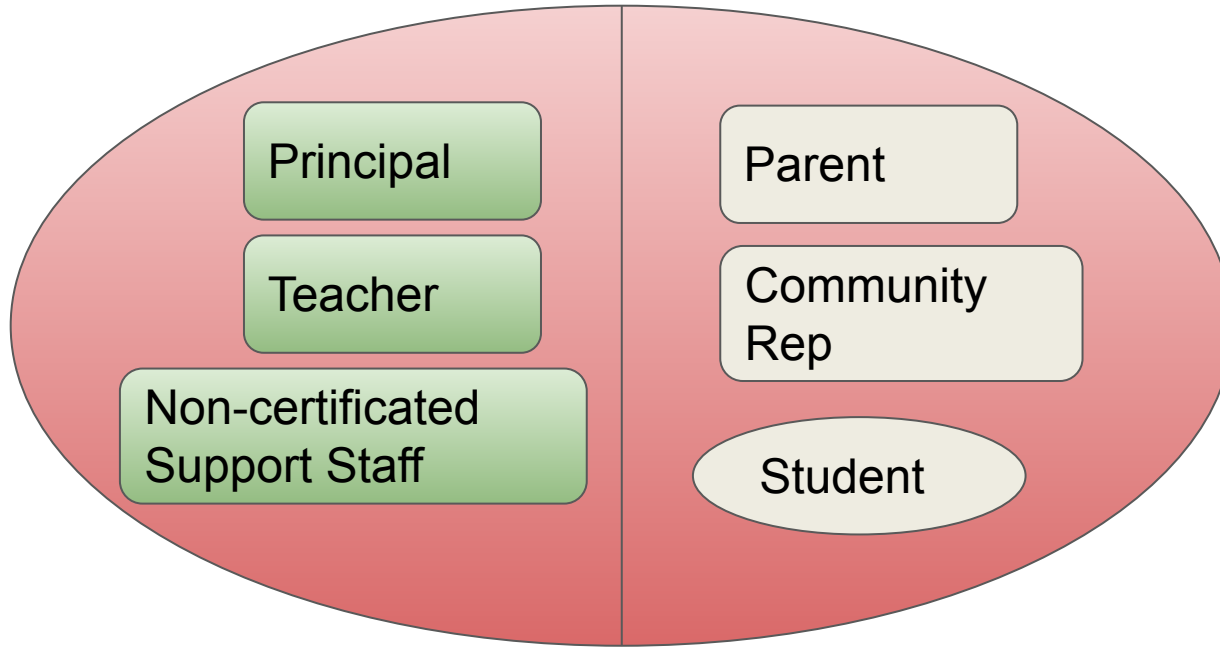
- All SCC members except students & Principal are elected by ballots distributed among and collected from their role groups
- Students are **selected** by the student council of the school
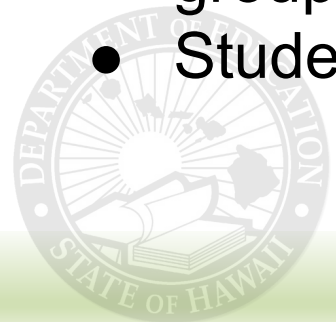
What is the Purpose of SCCs?

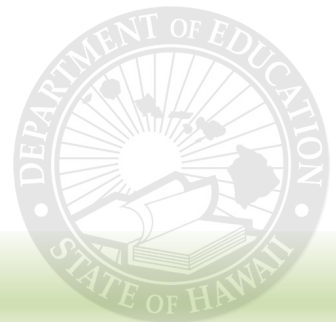"...to provide a <u>mechanism</u> whereby parents, the community and other key stakeholders can have a substantially <u>increased voice</u> in the affairs of their local schools, with a clear and concrete enunciation of powers and responsibilities, and how these are <u>shared</u> with those of the principal" (Act 51)

Parents

School

SCC

Community
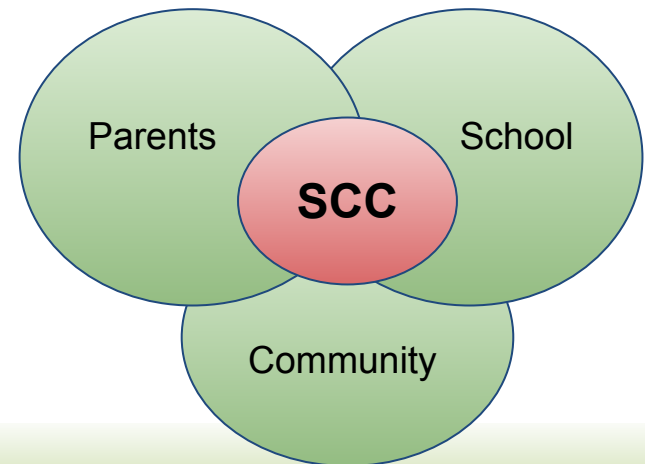
How does the SCC achieve its purpose?

SCC as a mechanism that will:

- **Review the Academic and Financial Plans (AFP)** and provide recommendations to principal or recommend approval by CAS

- **Review evidence of school progress** on the implementation of the AFP and align the plan with the educational accountability system

- **Participate in principal selection and evaluation**

- **Provide opportunities for community input and collaboration**

- **Review school's repair and maintenance needs**

- **Recommend or develop new school-level policies and rules**

- **Request waivers from state agency policies, rules, procedures and exceptions** to collective bargaining agreements

SCC Roles and Responsibilities (Act 51, HRS 302A-1124, Policy 500.19)

WE ARE LEADERS AND LEARNERS
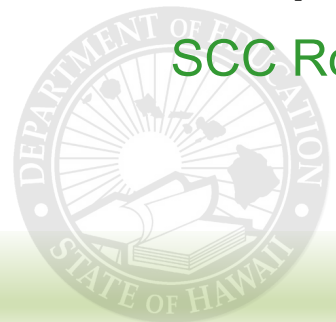
How does the SCC achieve its purpose?

SCC as a mechanism that will:

- **Make available notices and agendas of public meetings no less than six calendar days prior** on the school's Community Engagement webpage and in the office

- **Make available minutes from public meetings on a timely basis** on the school's Community Engagement webpage and in the office

- **Establish policies governing SCC composition, election, staggered terms of office for members, operation, and vacancies;** ensure membership includes the principal and at least one parent, teacher, staff, community member, and student and the number of school personnel equals the number of primary stakeholders

- **SCCs shall elect officers** (chair, vice-chair, secretary, others as needed)

SCC Roles and Responsibilities (Act 51, HRS 302A-1124, Policy 500.19)

WE ARE LEADERS AND LEARNERS
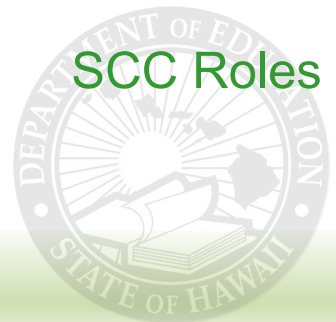
Recommended Timeline

August	Send in SCC Member Roster, conduct orientation, review bylaws, set meeting dates
September	Review Strive HI report/prior year data
October	Community Meeting #1, begin working on waiver/ exception requests
January	School Waiver Submission Round #1 (January 2020
March	Community Meeting #2, School Waiver Submission Round #2 (March 2020)
April/May	Nominations and elections for SCC
May	Self-Assessment survey, SCC Principal Survey, election of SCC officers
Ongoing	Review new AFP, monitor AFP implementation

What a SCC is not

❏ Is not a governing board

❏ Does not hire and fire the principal

❏ Does not control school finances

❏ Does not evaluate teachers or other staff

❏ Is not a forum for promoting personal agendas

❏ Is not a body whose members "represent" constituencies

❏ Is not a "rubber stamp" approval body

WE ARE LEADERS AND LEARNERS
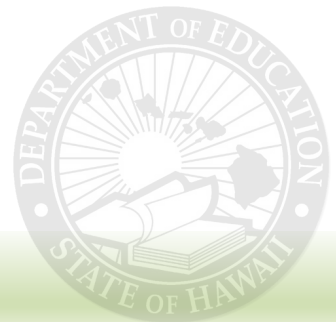
Waivers and Exceptions

Waivers are to BOE policies, DOE procedures, rules or regulations, and to other state agency policies.
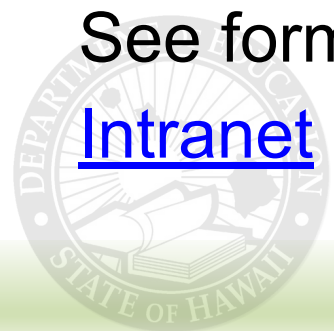**Exceptions** are to Collective Bargaining Agreements.

● All SCC Waivers/Exceptions requests for non-instructional days that impact the school calendar and other requests that require timely action/follow-up: **Due January 25, 2020**

● All other SCC Waivers/Exception requests: **Due March 2020**

See forms, instructions, and examples on the [DOE Intranet](#)

Principal Responsibilities (Act 51)

- The principal shall have the authority to set aside any decision made by the SCC if the principal determines it to be in the best interests of the school if the principal notifies the SCC.

- If the SCC opposes the principal's decision, an appeal shall first be brought to the CAS for resolution and, if necessary, to the superintendent and, finally, to the board of education.
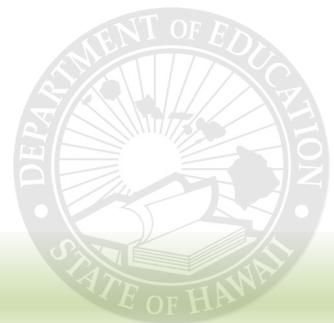
Other Responsibilities (Act 51)

Complex area superintendents:

- May require revisions to a school's AFP if it's in violation of law or conflicts with statewide educational policies and standards, or are otherwise in the best interests of the school

- Complex area superintendents shall assist their SCCs and principals to get department support and services and ensure progress and success of AFPs

Superintendent:

- May recommend to the board of education dissolution of an SCC if actions constitute negligence or misconduct

- May recommend to the board the removal of any SCC member.

- Shall appoint or facilitate the creation of an interim SCC when there is no SCC.
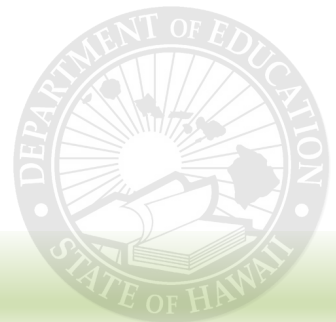
WE ARE LEADERS AND LEARNERS
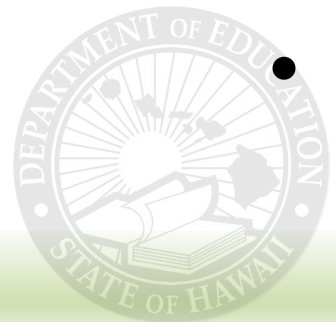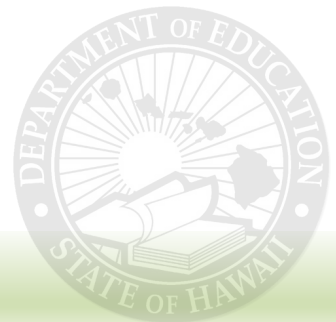
New SCC Handbook and Self-Assessments

The SCC Handbook has been shortened and revised to address issues, concerns, and new policy changes.

The new Self-Assessments feature:
- Easier log-in through Survey Monkey
- Pre-Assessment survey (informal)

- Self-Assessment Survey by end of SY 2019-20

Common Issues for SCCs

Community Awareness of SCC Role

How can we successfully recruit, nominate, and elect people to serve on the SCC if the community doesn't know what the SCC does?

Include Family Engagement strategies in monthly newsletter

- Be sure the first contact with parents is a **positive** one.
- **Communicate** with parents straightforwardly and simply, avoiding educational "jargon."
- Ensure that all parents have regular **access to** clear, concise, and easily readable **information** about their children's school and classroom.
- **Ask** parents to share their concerns and opinions about school, and then address those concerns.
- **Accommodate** parents' work schedules.
- Accommodate **language and cultural** differences.
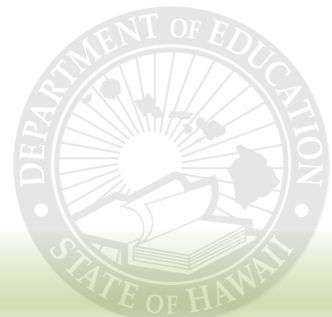
School Community Engagement Webpage

What to post:

- **Academic and Financial Plan**
- **School Calendar**
- **School Bell Schedule**
- **School SCC roster, agenda, and minutes**
- Other suggested programs to include
  - Community Children's Council
  - PTSA/PTSO/PCNC/Military Liaison
  - Out-of-school-time programs
  - Community Events
  -

This was required at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year

Sample Comm Eng webpage   See Example School Site

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

"The more the relationship between families and the school is a real partnership, the more student achievement increases" (Henderson & Mapp, 2002).

"The evidence is consistent, positive, and convincing: families have a major influence on their children's achievement. When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more: (Henderson & Mapp, 2002). .

WE ARE LEADERS AND LEARNERS

Linking Family Engagement to Learning
Impact of Family Engagement

What we know about students with engaged families

➢ Earn higher grades and test scores
➢ Enroll in higher level academic programs
➢ Are promoted on time and earn more credits
➢ Adapt better to school and attend more regularly
➢ Have better social skills and behaviors
➢ Graduate and go on to post-secondary opportunities

WE ARE LEADERS AND LEARNERS
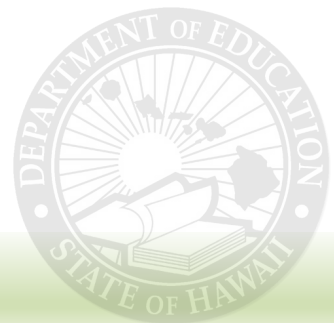
Resources on Family and Community Engagement

[Activating Educators Focus on Family Engagement as Central to Teaching](#)

[Strategies to improve communication with families](#)
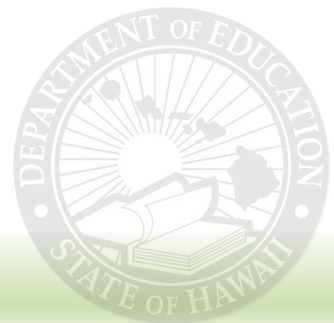
[The importance of family engagement](#)

[Getting to know your students and their families](#)

Family and Community Engagement Resources

[Dr. Karen Mapp - Dual Capacity Framework](#)

[Powerful Partnerships](#)

[Family-School-Community Partnerships](#)

Mahalo!