

ADVISORY COMMITTEES - SIZE AND COMPOSITION

The number of advisory committee members should reflect the consideration of the tasks assigned to the committee. If the committee is to consider limited, specific, or highly technical tasks, it is generally advantageous to minimize the number of members. On the other hand, if the assigned tasks cover a broad range of issues or address issues of diverse general interest and a knowledge, a larger committee may very well increase both the credibility and diversity of ideas.

The composition of each advisory committee is to be initiated by the person(s) forming the committee. However, School Board policy states that the composition of advisory committees is to be "broadly representative and shall reflect the specific tasks assigned to the committee." Normally there should be a mix of technical and non-technical representation and a reasonable balance between school district employees and other non-employee citizens. Every effort must be made to prevent the domination of advisory committees by vested interest groups or district staff. Although advisory committee members should be interested in the work of the committee, they do not have to be proponents of the system. In fact, a reasonable rational opponent may well be an asset to the committee providing divergent points of view.

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