

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL and SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Each elementary school has an established School Council, which is a representative, school-building-based, committee composed of the principal, teachers, parents and community members. Faculty and parent members are elected for terms of one to three years. Community members volunteer to serve on the committee or are recruited by the principal. Councils generally meet once a month during the school year.

### **Areas of Responsibility**

The Massachusetts Education Reform Act outlines four major areas of responsibility for School Councils. Councils assist principals in:

- Adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards
- Identifying the educational needs of students attending school
- Reviewing the annual school building budget
- Formulating an annual school improvement plan

### **School Improvement Plan**

The School Improvement Plan is submitted annually to the School Committee and outlines the goals, action plan and assessment of accomplishments for the previous school year. School Improvement Plans can include:

- The impact of class size on performance
- Student-teacher ratios
- Ratios of students to other supportive adults staff
- A professional development plan for faculty and staff
- Enhanced parent involvement
- School safety and discipline
- A school environment characterized by tolerance and respect for all groups
- Extra-curricular activities
- Means for meeting the diverse needs of as many children as possible within the regular education program
- Any further subjects the principal, in consultation with the school council, shall consider appropriate