

SHARED DECISION-MAKING AND SEPARATION OF POWERS
UNDER THE
SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAM COORDINATION ACT (SBCP)

The School-Based Program Coordination Act created a system for the improvement of instruction that employs shared decision-making and separation of powers. This concept is characteristic of democratic governance, often manifested in separate legislative, administrative and judicial entities. In similar fashion, SBCP separates the functions of school plan development, policy development and plan approval, and administration.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

Under SBCP, it is the function of an elected school site council to develop the school plan (EC52853). The council may appoint committees or individuals to prepare proposals, may accept unsolicited proposals, or may prepare the entire plan themselves, using the input of all parties. A school plan must be recommended by the council in order for the district governing board to approve it (EC52855).

DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

The district governing board must ensure that staff, parents and, in secondary schools, pupils receive information covering the provisions of SBCP. The board must adopt policies to establish councils which consider whether to participate in SBCP (EC52852.5). The board reviews school plans recommended by councils, and approves or disapproves them. If a plan is not approved, specific reasons for the action must be communicated to the council. Modifications to a plan must be developed, recommended and reviewed in the same manner (EC52855).

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

The district and school management team is responsible for administering the plan, and may appoint groups such as school leadership teams to assist in implementing the approved plan. Such groups may also participate in the planning process by making recommendations to the council.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The board, administration and school site council are accountable for proper and timely performance of their responsibilities. Should an impasse occur, the following actions are available to ensure accountability:

- A council may appeal to the local governing board to resolve issues of plan implementation.
- The administration may recommend the board not approve a plan believed flawed.
- An individual may file a formal complaint under the district's Uniform Complaint Process.