

**Head Start Program
Education Service Center, Region 20**

**Shared Governance Plan:
Shared Decision Making & Policy Council Composition**

The roles and responsibilities of the governing bodies are clearly defined in the By-Laws under which all three groups operate. The governing groups share similar functions yet are different in their nature as mandated by the Head Start Performance Standards. The common goal of each group is to make quality decisions on behalf of the Head Start children and families. These decisions are based on information shared across the various groups.

Parent Committees

Each site has its' own Parent Committee made up of Head Start parents and community members. The issues discussed at Parent Committee meetings are generally local in nature and based on the needs of the individual community. Parent Committees are kept informed about program-wide issues through Policy Council reports that are read at each Parent Committee meeting. Policy Council meeting minutes are provided to each site to be shared with Parent Committee members.

Policy Council

Each school district has two Parent Representatives, a Community Representative and an Alternates that are members of the Policy Council. These positions are elected by their peers at their local school district. The issues discussed at Policy Council meetings are generally program-wide matters. The Policy Council is kept informed about local site issues and activities through monthly Site Reports that are read at the Policy Council meeting. Education Service Center, Region 20 (ESC-20) Board of Directors meeting minutes/notes are routinely made available at Policy Council meetings.

ESC-20 Board of Directors

The ESC-20 Board of Directors has identified a Board member as the Head Start Program contact. He/She is invited to the monthly Policy Council meetings as are all ESC-20 Board of Directors members. He/She attends meetings as his/her calendar of commitments allows. He/She is kept abreast of all program activities through his attendance of Policy Council meetings. He/She shares critical program information with the ESC-20 Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled meetings.