

STANDARD 5 CHECKLIST

How Well is Your School Sharing Power and Practicing Democracy?

Consulting Families About Decisions

1. The school has a governance council that has a voice in all major decisions and that includes parent representatives elected by a broad base of parents.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

2. Parents and community members sit on the principal selection committee.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

3. The school does an annual survey of parents to get their ideas about programs and policies. The survey is co-designed and tallied by parents.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

Building a Strong, Broad-based Parent Organization

1. The parent group is focused on improving achievement for all students.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

2. Surveys and focus groups are some of the ways that the parent association reaches out to families, builds its membership and draws out their ideas and concerns.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

3. The PTA or parent organization invites the principal to report on student academic performance, review the school's scores on the state test, and describe how the school plans to improve.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

Developing Social and Political Connections

1. Families can learn how to vote and get a voter registration form in the school office.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

2. The school or parent group invites candidates for office to speak at the school and actively encourages and prepares parents to bring up their issues and concerns.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

3. Parent leadership and other training is offered, either by the school or by community groups in collaboration with the school.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

Which area(s) are you doing well in? Which ones will need more work?

In what ways does your school share power with parents and build their social and political connections?

What are your concerns?

Reflection: What steps could you take to make your school a laboratory of democracy?

Now: _____

Over the long term:

