

Policy Council and Governance Guidance

Purpose

This document helps site teams understand Policy Council, shared governance and governing bodies.

Guidance

OESD 114 Early Learning has established a formal structure of shared governance as required by federal and state standards. Shared governance ensures that families, staff and community are actively involved in guiding and decision making for our Early Learning Program. Planning, implementation and oversight of our Early Learning Program is given to three formal groups:

- Policy Council – parent representatives from centers
- Governing Board – OESD 114 Board of Directors
- Early Learning administrative team and center staff

Policy Council

Family involvement and leadership are critical to the success of our Early Learning Program. Policy Council Representatives, are elected by the center or site parent groups. They work collaboratively with Early Learning administrators and the OESD 114 Board to make the decisions that directly impact our children and families. Policy Council members participate in all aspects of program planning and development, and must approve all personnel and budget recommendations. Policy Council members include:

- Parents or caregivers of currently enrolled children
- Parents who have had a child in the program in previous years
- Community agency representatives drawn from organizations that provide services, support, and/or resources to the families we serve

Governing Board

OESD 114 Board of Directors, also called the “Board” and the “governing body,” has primary legal and fiduciary responsibility for our Early Learning Program. It ensures that the program fulfills the obligations and requirements set forth in federal and state law, and in contracts. The OESD 114 Board of Directors works in partnership with the Policy Council and with the OESD 114 Early Learning administrative team in fulfilling its role and responsibilities.

Early Learning Administration

The OESD 114 Early Learning Program is directed and managed by the administrative team at OESD 114. The OESD 114 Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Early Learning leadership team, and staff at OESD 114 oversee all program operations and ensure compliance with Performance Standards, contracts, and state and federal laws. The Early Learning leadership team works in close collaboration with Policy Council and the Governing Board.