

A School Representative Body (SRB)

The *Education Act 2015 (NT)* Part 6 Parent and community involvement in Government schools, recognises the importance of parents and communities in the governance of schools.

A School Representative Body (School Council or School Board) enables parents to provide relevant input into student outcomes and the long-term strategic vision of the school.

A School Representative Body and the school Principal work in partnership to provide good governance, facilitate communication and ensure effective networking with their school community.

An informed and effective School Representative Body ensures schools establish and maintain genuine engagement and meaningful partnerships through best practice governance and decision making.

Establishing good governance processes achieves a balance between formal meeting procedures and a friendly atmosphere of inclusion, cooperation and participation. To function effectively there must be a good working relationship between the Principal and its members based on mutual respect and a shared vision for the school.

What do members do?

- Develop the broad strategic direction and vision for the school through the school's strategic planning process
- Provide input into the development and implementation of SRB policies
- Lead community conversation about key challenges in education
- Ensure the school is responsive to local community needs
- Provide strategic oversight, approve distribution and monitor the performance of the annual budget
- Assess and advise on the physical needs of the school
- Oversee work on buildings and grounds
- Approve community use of school facilities outside of school hours
- Identify fundraising priorities, activities and spend funds accordingly
- Determine school fees and seek voluntary contributions from parents
- Employ School Representative Body staff in accordance with relevant awards and the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth).

School Governance

A School Representative Body is actively involved in the governance of the school.

A School Representative Body should meet once per month during the school year and must meet not less than eight times in a calendar year. This number includes the Annual General Meeting.

Although each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, members may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that may be unfamiliar to them.

The role of a School Representative Body **does not** include making decisions about the specifics of Department of Education staffing or operational matters.

As an elected member and Office Bearer of the School Representative Body, the Chair will need to develop a good working relationship with other members to ensure effective and efficient governance.

