



School Based Governance

Is your district governed by the school board or by the superintendent? In many districts decisions are made by the school board with input from a variety of sources including the superintendent. But in some schools they use what is called, [School Based Governance](#). School Based Governance is a system where the superintendent and the school board together develop a set of goals for the district and it's the job of the Superintendent to carry out the means to achieving those goals even if the board disagrees with those means. Under this system it is the superintendent making the major decisions for the district and not the board. For instance, under School Based Governance curriculum is approved by the superintendent and not the school board. Compare these two quotes. The first is from a district with a traditional governing school board, the second is from a district that has a School Based Governance system:

[Policy 1620 from the Battle Ground School District,](#)

*"The successful operation of schools requires a close, effective working relationship between the board and the superintendent. The relationship must be one of trust, good will and candor. As the legally designated governing body, **the Board retains final authority within the district.**"*

[Federal Way School District Policy-Governance,](#)

*"The "Board/Superintendent Relationship" defines the connection between the Board and the Superintendent, directs the Board to acts as a Unit, creates accountability of the Superintendent, **delegation to the Superintendent**, and monitoring Superintendent performance."*

"The "ends" are the results the school board expects, including how much they expect those results to cost. The school board creates policies that define the "ends."

*"**The Board will respect and support any reasonable interpretation of its policies, even though Superintendent choices may not be the choices the Board or its members would have made.**"*

To find out how your district is governed go to your district website and search for your school board policies.

1620 & 1620P- THE BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONSHIP and PROCEDURE

1630- EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

