

Know Your Rights!

THE REAL FACTS ON THE SSC & SPSA

Composition of the SSC

- ✓ Teachers selected by teachers
- ✓ Other school personnel selected by other school personnel
- ✓ Parents or community members selected by parents
- ✓ Students selected by students (secondary only)
- ✓ Must be an equal number of members between the two groups: (a) principal, teachers and other personnel and (b) parents and, if applicable, students
- ✓ Classroom teachers must be majority of group (a) *[see above]*

Role of the Principal

- ✓ Voting member of the council
- ✓ No administrative authority over the SSC
- ✓ Cannot veto a decision by the SSC
- ✓ Cannot make changes to Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) or budget without SSC approval

SSC Rules of Order

- ✓ Meetings must be open to the public
- ✓ Public may address the SSC on any item under the purview of the SSC
- ✓ Notice of an SSC meeting (including date, time location and agenda) must be posted at the school site at least 72 hours before the meeting

Why should union members be concerned if the principal makes changes to the SPSA (Single Plan for Student Achievement) without the approval of the SSC?

Such unilateral changes violate California law. If that weren't reason enough, union members should be especially wary of unilateral changes by a principal to the SPSA that set oftentimes unrealistic achievement goals for students. SDUSD leaders are increasingly attempting to link the pay of teachers and other certificated staff to student performance. SPSA achievement goals that are set solely by the principal may be a move in this direction by SDUSD leaders.

What should I do if the principal violates the rules of the SSC?

The SSC is mandated by California law, so violations of the SSC rules should be directed to the state. You can make a complaint under California Department of Education's (DOE) Uniform Complaint Procedure. Call the DOE for more information at (916) 319-0929. By making a complaint, the teachers at one SDUSD school successfully compelled the principal to rescind a widely unpopular SPSA that was implemented without the approval of the SSC. Send a copy of your complaint form to the SDEA office (Attn: SSC/SPSA Complaints) so that union members can learn how widespread the problem is.

Sources: "A Guide and Template for the Single Plan for Student Achievement" (California Department of Education).
See <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nclb/sr/le/singleplan.asp>

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