

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



What is a School Body?

A school body is the formal governance group for a Northern Territory Government school. Under the Education Act 2015, this means a School Council, School Board, Joint School Representative Body, or a School Management Council.

What is a School Representative Body (SRB)?

An SRB is the formal governance group for a school, made up of elected members from parents, school staff, students (in secondary schools), and sometimes invited community members. It operates under the Education Act as its own legal entity and must use the Department's model constitution. An SRB may be a School Council, School Board or Joint SRB.

What is a School Council?

A School Council is the most common type of SRB in NT Government schools. It works with the Principal and staff to set the school's vision, determine priorities, ensure the school is responsive to community needs, and manage both strategic and financial functions.

What is a School Board?

A School Board is the same as a School Council, with identical functions under the Education Act. A Board exists only in schools designated as Independent Public Schools (IPS). Boards have the same governance and financial responsibilities as Councils but operate within the IPS framework.

What is the difference between a School Council and a School Board?

Both have the same authority under the Education Act, but a Board only exists in an IPS.

What is the purpose of a Council and Board?

A Council or Board exists to give parents and the community a formal voice in school governance, to strengthen partnerships between the school and community, and to help guide decisions that support the best educational outcomes for students.

Do all schools have a Council or Board?

No. Where a School Representative Body (SRB) does not exist, a School Management Council (SMC) must be in place to manage the school's finances. In these cases, the Principal may also establish a parent consultative group to ensure the community can provide input on school matters.

What is a School Management Council (SMC)?

An SMC is not a School Representative Body. It is established when an SRB does not exist and is created to carry out the school's financial responsibilities. It usually consists of the Principal (and any other members appointed by the Minister). In these cases, a parent consultative group may also be set up to ensure parents have input into school decisions.

Who is responsible for establishing a Council or Board?

The Principal is responsible (annually) for initiating the process to establish a Council if one does not exist.