

## Information Sheet No.41

# School Based Management

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In the 1970s, the ACT pioneered the idea of school based management. Legislation of the ACT Schools Authority placed a strong emphasis on the role of local school boards with responsibility for school curriculum, annual budgets and the setting of long term goals for its school.

School Based Management (SBM) means that decision-making and resource management for schools occur at the school level rather than such decisions being made by the Department of Education for the school system as a whole. SBM provides local flexibility and control to enable schools to adapt to change and to respond more readily to the needs of students in their school.

The objectives of SBM are:

- that it should improve educational outcomes for students through increasing the range of decision-making and resource management as schools are able to make and retain savings which can be redirected towards educational priorities established by each school community;
- that there should be an efficient delivery of services to the community with a minimum of administrative overheads and an emphasis on community control and
- that decision-making be local except where economies of scale indicate that functions are better handled centrally.

### **The Role of the School Board in SBM**

The school board's role is governance through its policy development and education planning function. It establishes the framework within which the principal manages the resources of the school.

### **The Role of the Principal in SBM**

The principal is responsible to the Chief Executive as outlined in the Duty Statement for the management of the school and its education program. The principal is also the school board's chief professional adviser. The principal implements board policies and is responsible for the quality of educational programs and the efficient management of resources and the day-to-day operations of the school.

### **The role of the Department in SBM**

The ACT Department of Education and Training still maintains control over policies, curriculum frameworks, personnel functions and major cyclic and emergency maintenance. ★