



## **Shared Decision-Making Roles and Process for Aspen Public Schools Spring 2025**

At Aspen Public Schools, shared decision-making is a core value. We strive to create an environment where families, staff, students, and community partners collaborate as equal voices to improve student outcomes and quality of life for all.

### **Data-Driven Decisions**

Decision-making at Aspen goes beyond reviewing traditional data like state test scores and surveys. We recognize that these scores do not reflect the entire story. “Street” data is important as we make decisions. **Street data** includes conversations with students and families, samples of their projects in class, comment cards from parents, class walkthroughs, community partner input and much more. Aspen considers the whole child, family and community.

### **Community Schools Decision-Making Process**

Advisory Councils provide recommendation, insights and evaluation for the funding provided to Aspen for the Community Schools Implementation Plan and Local Control Accountability Plan (“LCAP”). Members agree to shared expectations, and contribute by reviewing data, sharing feedback, defining student success, and setting priorities. (View “Advisory Council Expectations” in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).)

### **Community School Advisory Council members will:**

- Review school budgets
- Analyze data from various sources to inform decisions
- Meet to assess progress towards goals, evaluate initiatives, and advise on priorities
- Strive for consensus on key priorities and budget items
- Recommend priorities and action steps within the four pillars of Community Schools, in alignment with the Local Control and Accountability Plan (“LCAP”)

### **What is a consensus?**

- We strive for a process in which participants are in support of, agree to, or can live with decisions
- Getting consensus on a decision increases the likelihood that all have been heard and that each viewpoint is understood

- Unlike voting, where some are perceived to “win” and others “lose,” getting consensus provides space for all members to agree and support a decision
- If full consensus cannot be reached within a reasonable time frame, the council may take a traditional vote or move forward based on a majority consensus.

*Advisory Council members will use their thumbs to indicate their support:*

👍 Thumbs-up indicates full support for the option/decision.

👉 Thumb sideways indicates that a participant might not love the option/decision but can live with it and get behind it.

👎 Thumb down indicates that a participant is not ready to agree. **NOTE:** A thumb down does not always mean “No.” It allows participants to share their concerns and continue the conversation *within the timeframe available* to the team, striving for agreement from all.

Guidance for this protocol is found in the [Community Engagement Initiative Toolkit](#)

## **Roles in Shared Decision-Making**

### **Advisory Councils**

Includes Parent Advisory Councils (LCAP), Community Schools Advisory Council, English Learner Council, and other school-wide groups—all moving toward shared decision-making.

### **Community Schools Leadership Team | Community Engagement Initiative**

Provides district-level leadership, offering insights and recommendations on the LCAP and Community Schools budget and other school decisions. May approve spending decisions related to community engagement.

### **School Leaders / CMO Staff**

Attend, lead or co-lead council meetings, provide input, and make funding-related decisions in collaboration with the Community Schools Leadership Team.

### **Community School Coordinator**

Gathers input, finalizes budgets, and makes final decisions on Community Schools funding and hiring when needed.

### **Executive Director / Board**

Oversees the Community Schools Coordinator, approves budget proposals, and submits decisions to the Board, which ensures financial and policy oversight.