



# 2024 Governing Body Elections

## Make your vote count!

According to the South African Schools Act 84 of 1996, governing bodies must be elected every three years. The objective of the governing body is to ensure that properly elected, competent and committed individuals take on governance responsibility for our public schooling system. Elections will take place during **March 2024**. Principals will advise parents on the date of the elections of the school.

### Governing bodies are critical to:

- improving the quality of education in a school;
- giving all stakeholders a say in school governance, and ensuring accountability;
- ensuring that the school serves the best interests of learners, parents and the broader community; and
- ensuring good governance.

### Governing bodies are entrusted to take decisions on a range of important issues, including:

- deciding the admission policy of the school;
- deciding the language policy of the school;
- establishing a policy on religion at the school;
- adopting a code of conduct and constitution;
- establishing the school's constitution and mission statement;
- managing the finances of the school;
- administering and controlling the school's property and budget;
- recommending staff appointments; and
- supporting principals and educators in ensuring quality education.

It is important for all parents to play a role in their child's school. This includes participating in governing body elections, standing for elections or electing members that will ensure good governance, and safeguarding the resources meant for the improvement of quality teaching and learning. It is important to note that members serving on a governing body do so voluntarily.

## Why should parents get involved in the governing body?

As a parent, you have the perfect opportunity to promote possibilities and opportunities for all the learners that are at your child's school, by taking part in the governing body elections. It is the responsibility of every parent to take an interest and have their say in the running of their child's school, to ensure that the school provides the best possible quality of education to all the school's learners.

Experience has shown that schools with high levels of parental involvement are more often than not the best performing schools, both academically and socially. Thus, it is important for all parents to get involved in the running of their child's school and the governing body is the ideal avenue to do so.

Don't stand back! Instead, get involved in your child's schooling and make a difference to the school. It is your duty as a parent or a member of the community to serve in any way you can. Your reward is the improvement of our children's education that will not only give them a better future but will contribute towards the strengthening of South Africa.

### Who oversees the voting process?

- The provincial electoral officer – responsible for ensuring that the election is promoted and complies with provincial procedures;
- The district electoral officer – coordinates the elections in the district; and
- The school electoral officer – prepares the notice and logistics around the election and manages the election at school level.



# The voting process

## Who may vote?

- **Parent members:** No more than two persons, per learner, whose names are recorded in the admissions register as parents, or who can show written proof that they are parents of learners enrolled in the school;
- **Educator members:** All educators employed at the school; and
- **Non-educator members:** All non-educators employed at the school.

## 1 Voters' roll



The voters' roll for each category of elected members to serve on the governing body must be made available and contain the names of eligible parents, educators, members of staff and learners. The voters' roll closes 23 days before the voting day.

## 2 Notice of Election

The school electoral officer must prepare a notice in which the date, time and place of the nomination and election of parent governing body members must be stated. The notice must be given at least 21 days before the nomination validation meeting.

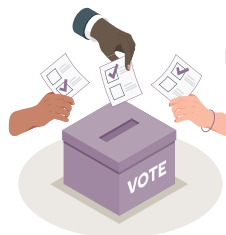


## 3 Nomination process



A parent at a school may only be nominated as a parent candidate by another parent member at their child(ren)'s school.

## 4 Casting of votes



A person with the right to vote must record their vote on a ballot paper in secrecy and deposit the folded ballot paper in a box or other sealed container provided for this purpose. In cases where an e-voting platform is used, all votes will remain confidential.

## 5 After the election

The school electoral officer must notify each elected member in writing of their election to the governing body.



## 6 Election of office bearers



The principal must convene the first meeting of the governing body. At the first governing body meeting, members must elect office bearers including the chairperson, treasurer and secretary.