

NURTURING COLLABORATION AND EXCELLENCE: HIGHLIGHTING THE VALUE OF SHARED GOVERNANCE IN EDUCATION

by:

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Education is a collaborative effort that includes parents, communities, policymakers, and students themselves, rather than just teachers and schools. The concept of shared governance in education provides a foundation for creating a holistic, inclusive, and successful learning environment.

According to Baker-Brown (2011), shared governance's inclusive nature provides an atmosphere in which stakeholders have more vested interests, which can lead to fewer disputes, better dedication to the institution, and greater job satisfaction.

Likewise, shared governance guarantees that decisions are made cooperatively, with representation from a wide range of stakeholder groups. This inclusive approach not only brings together administrators, academics, staff, and even students, but it also recognizes their individual opinions, knowledge, and insights. Decisions that affect the entire institution are more likely to be well-informed and representative of the community's overall interests.

In reality, transparency is essential to shared governance. Educational institutions foster a trusting and open atmosphere by incorporating stakeholders in decision-making processes. This transparency creates responsibility since all members of the community understand how decisions are made and the reasoning behind them.

Shared governance can also involve student representation, which allows students to actively engage in decision-making processes. This inclusion not only

empowers students, but it also provides important insights into their needs and goals. Student participation in shared governance promotes a more student-centered educational environment.

Notably, the Department of Education (DepEd) believes that shared responsibility among school leaders, teachers, parents, students, local government units (LGUs), and the community at large is critical to providing readily available and high-quality basic education in a secure, wholesome, and supporting learning environment. This resulted in the establishment of the School Governance Council (SGC), which serves as a structure for shared governance and a feedback mechanism for parents, students, teaching and non-teaching staff, community stakeholders, and the school principal to collaborate on continuously improving learning outcomes, as well as respecting, protecting, fulfilling, and promoting the rights of children and learners in the basic education context.

The significance of shared governance in education cannot be emphasized. It serves as the cornerstone for a dynamic, inclusive, and egalitarian educational system. When all stakeholders understand their roles and collaborate, the result is a comprehensive approach to education that prepares children for success in a quickly changing world. As we embrace shared responsibility, we prepare the way for a future in which education becomes a collaborative adventure, with each participant contributing to the progress and well-being of the entire learning community.

References:

Baker-Brown, C. (2011). An analysis of the shared governance practices in the Jamaican community college system: Faculty perspectives. Ed.D. Unpublished dissertation, Morgan State University, United States, Maryland.