



Who sits around the board table?

State Integrated School Board Professional Development and Learning Series

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The Role of the Board in a State Integrated School

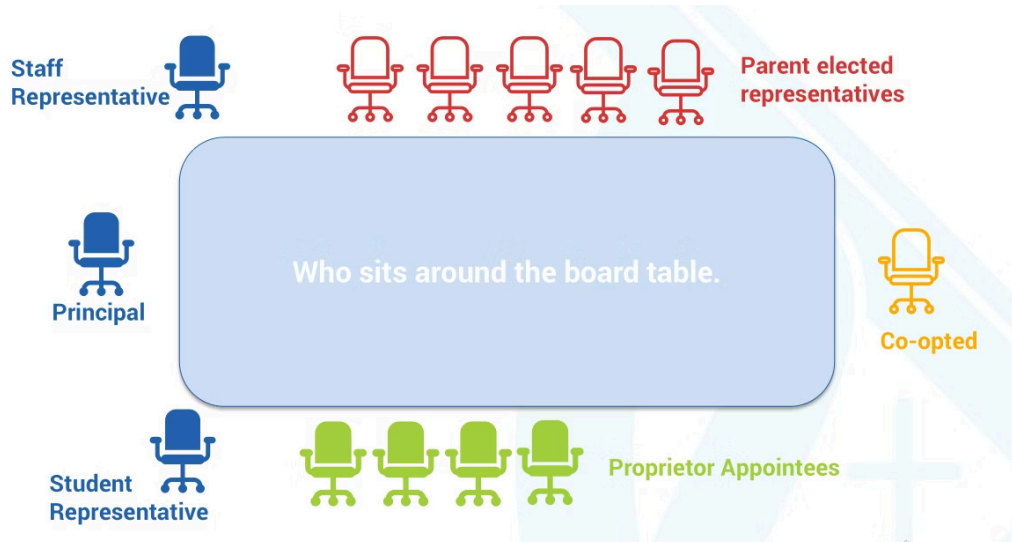


State integrated schools occupy a unique place within New Zealand's education system. Although they operate within the state network and follow the national curriculum, they are also required to uphold and protect the **special character** defined in their Integration Agreement. This dual responsibility shapes the role of the Board in ways that differ from a state school.

In a state school, the Board's focus is primarily on governance, student achievement, and stewardship of school resources. In a state integrated school, the Board must do all of this **while working in partnership with the Proprietor** to ensure that the school's special character is visible in teaching, culture, and daily practice. This means the Board has additional obligations, distinct decision-making parameters, and a shared governance model that protects the philosophy or faith on which the school was founded.

This combination of state expectations and special character responsibilities makes Board governance in an integrated school both distinctive and deeply purposeful.

Board Composition



It is important to know who sits around the board table as the make up of the board in a state integrated school is different from a state school.

A board is a crown entity and body corporate.

A key point to note is that there must be **fewer appointed** board members than parent elected board members.

The presiding member (board chair) can be either an elected or appointed board member.

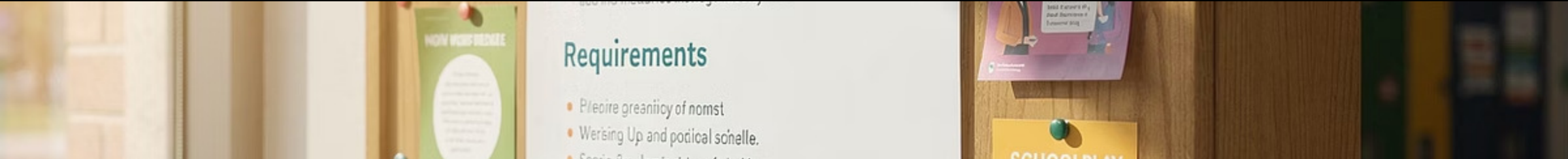
Principal The principal is the board's chief advisor and the professional leader of the school. The day to day management of the school is delegated to the principal within a clear policy.

Staff representative -elected by the staff every 3 years.

Student representative -elected by the students every year. Schools with students enrolled full-time above year 9 have student representatives.

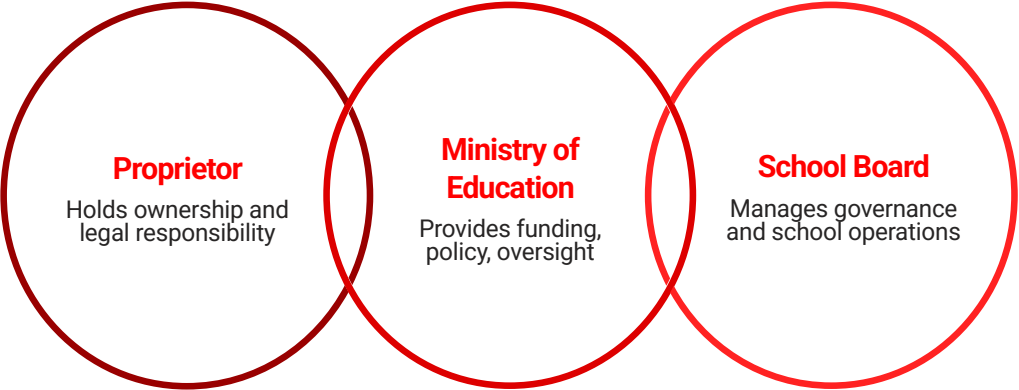
The board also consists of between three and seven parent representatives and up to four Proprietor Appointees. Boards can also co-opt members, however due to the requirement to have fewer appointed members than elected, state integrated schools can only co-opt a board member if the proprietor agrees to reduce the numbers of appointees.

Proprietor's Appointees are full members of the board with all the same rights and obligations of other board members. These appointees assist in preserving the special character and property of the school and are required to report to the Proprietor.



Partners and Support

Key Partnerships



State Integrated Schools are communities of partnership. The partners are the Proprietor of the school, the Ministry of Education, and the School Board. Each partner has a legal responsibility to maintain the school's special character.

Support Network

It is important to know who is there to support and guide you in your role as a school board member. Your primary contacts are:



[New Zealand School Boards Association](#)



[Ministry of Education](#)



[APIS](#) - For free advice and support, training, and workshops.