


POLICY VS PRACTICE



WHY DOES THIS MATTER?



To be an effective advocate, you have to know not just what you're advocating **for**, you have to know who to advocate **to**.

Who has the power to make the change- the **school board** or the **administration**?



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POLICY & PRACTICE OR PROCEDURE?

A **policy** is a principle or action that has been codified and adopted by the **school board** via a vote.

Then, the **administration** takes that policy and writes how it will be implemented- that's the **practice** or **procedures**.



LET'S LOOK AT AN EXAMPLE

STEP 1:

The **board** adopts a **policy** about student attendance. It will be- or should be- high level. The Cincinnati Public Schools policy says:

“...the purpose of the policy is to outline acceptable purposes for which a student may be excused from school to allow for the appropriate recording of student attendance and the ability of the District to determine students who are truant.”



LET'S LOOK AT AN EXAMPLE

STEP 2:

The **administration** implements the policy by creating the procedures. There are often a lot of procedures for every policy!

For the attendance policy, the procedures include:


- Communicating to families about what to do if their child has to miss school;
- Setting procedures for school staff to know how and when to mark a student absent;
- Determining the procedure for reporting to the correct authorities if a student is truant.



SUM IT UP!

Your **school board** is responsible for **policy**.

The **administration** is responsible for **practice** or **procedures**.



To be an effective advocate, you have to know who owns what in the decision-making structure of a school district.

If you have an idea or a problem or suggestion, knowing if it is a policy or a procedure will ensure that you go to the right people in your school district who can work with you to make that change.

