

Risk oversight

Essentially, risk is any word, action or event that may hinder or impede the school from achieving its objectives (ISV, 2016)

The oversight of risks associated with operating the school is a core governing responsibility and function of the school council. It is recommended therefore that school councils, in collaboration with their respective principals, consider and approve an enterprise risk framework – that is, a framework for ensuring thorough oversight and management of risks associated with the operations of the school.

Such a framework would normally encompass six particular elements – a risk appetite statement, a risk policy, a risk management plan, a risk register, a delegations manual, and, a code of conduct. Each of these elements within the risk framework serves to minimise exposure to risks within the school that may potentially cause harm to persons or loss to the school.

Further details on the six elements of the enterprise risk framework include:

1. Risk appetite statement

- a statement that articulates what the school council will not tolerate, eg, level of debt, international study trips, anything contra to school values

2. Risk policy

- a succinct guiding policy statement expressing the school's commitment to the oversight and management of risk

3. Risk management plan

- a summary of how risk will be managed within the school, how the community will be involved, and, how risk matters will be reported

4. Risk register

- a detailed document naming the categories within the risk library, risk analysis, risk treatment, and risk assessment

5. Delegations manual

- a compilation of all constitutions, bylaws, and position descriptions explicitly stating the responsibilities of a position or entity

6. Code of conduct

- document to guide the behaviours of the school council