

School council: membership skills and attributes

Attracting and recruiting school council members is based on a primary question: what skills does our school council need in order to effectively carry out our governing processes so as to ensure we successfully complete our strategic priorities?

Essentially there are two types of skills deemed important for governing a school: **hard skills** and **soft skills**.

Hard skills consist of specific professional knowledge, experience, or expertise relevant to the operations of a school. Not all hard skills are vital to be represented on a school council at all times, as long as the school council has the capacity to co-opt knowledge and expertise on a consultancy basis. Hard skills may include:

- legal
- educational
- social
- industrial
- financial
- technological
- managerial
- building
- media

Soft skills are those behaviours and attributes seen as vital for a school council to enable it to function in an effective and efficient manner in both the conformance (compliance), and performance, elements of school governing responsibilities. Soft skills are measured by the people factor. Soft skills may include:

- analytical
- strategic
- lateral
- communicator
- team player
- honest
- respectful
- diligent
- transparent
- confident
- committed
- courageous