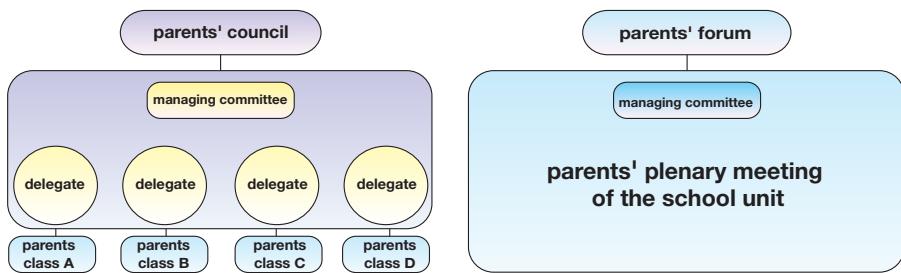


## Legal basis, organizational forms, and schedule

- » The legal basis for the institutionalized or general participation of parents is provided by the new law on the elementary school (Volksschulgesetz, VSG, art. 55), the decree on headed schools (organization statute, art. 24, para. 3), and the parents regulation of the city of Zurich (regulation on the general participation of parents at the elementary schools of the city of Zurich).
- » With regard to parents' participation, school and parents opt for one of two organizational forms.



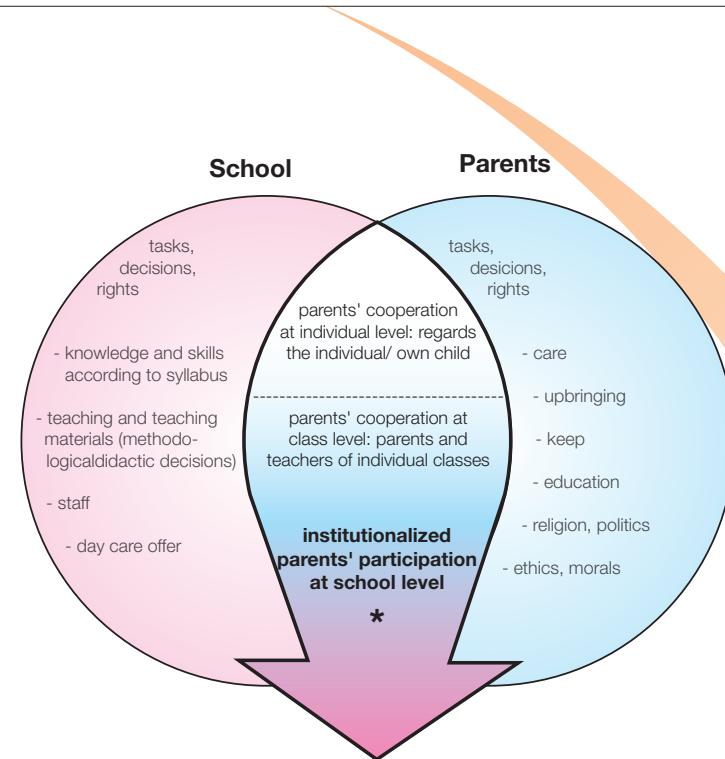
At the secondary school level, parents may additionally organize in age-group-related parents' groups.

- » At many schools, an institutionalized cooperation with the parents already exists. By the start of the school year 2009/2010, each school together with committed parents will have established a parents' participation body.
- » Cooperation in the parents' body of a school occurs on a voluntary and honorary basis.
- » The school provides its parents' body with rooms in the school and, if need be, with further infrastructure as well as with some money for expenses incurred.

## institutionalized/general participation of parents

## Goals, fields, and contents of parents' participation

- » The concept of institutionalized parents' participation at a school is meant to increasingly involve parents. They are to be given the opportunity to have their say and cooperate at the school their child attends. In addition to the school itself, parents as a group take on responsibility for the school community. They support and strengthen their school. On the other hand, they, too, are strengthened by an exchange of information and reflections and by cooperation with the school. Both – strong schools and strong parents – contribute a lot to the children's school success.
- » Key concern of cooperation is the child's well-being. Education, learning, and health promotion mean different respective tasks for schools or for parents. One matter of importance in parents' participation is the periodical and institutionalized exchange of information and reflections. Where tasks of parents and of the school overlap, issues can be treated in a partnership approach.
- » Interests and resources of the committed parents determine the fields in which respective parents' bodies support the professional work of the school. Besides, parents' cooperation is oriented by the annual goals of the school.
- » Subjects like decisions on methods/didactics or on personnel, teaching materials, time tables, staff assessment, and school supervision are excluded from institutionalized cooperation. Nor is it the task of parents' bodies to advocate individual interests.
- » Exchange between school and home at an individual as well as at class level provides the necessary basis for a successful parents' participation at school level.



### \* partnership cooperation:

- parents' help (safe way to school, day care, break-time kiosk, website, homework support ...)
- health promotion (nutrition, healthy «Znuni», addiction prevention, violence prevention, sexual education ...)
- pupils choice of future occupations
- promotion of parents' training (school and education issues, children's rights, values and social learning ...)
- integration of families with foreign languages
- school events and projects (involvement, support, cooperation)
- school development (hearings regarding general orientation and programme of the school, design and decoration of school building and school yard ...)
- quality development of the school (parents' involvement in feedback process)