

Q1	What is an SLT and why is it important?
A1	The School Leadership Team (SLT), composed of parents, staff and administrators, is responsible for developing school-based educational policies, and ensuring that resources and budget are aligned to implement those policies. The SLT is responsible for developing their school’s Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP). SLTs play a significant role in creating a structure for school-based decision making, and shaping the path to a collaborative school culture. New York State Education Law Section 2590-h requires every New York City public school to have a School Leadership Team.
Q2	What is CR A-655?
A2	Chancellor’s Regulation A-655 or CR A-655 is the document issued by the Chancellor of New York City Department of Education that ensures the formation of a School Leadership Team (SLT) in every public school, and a District Leadership Team (DLT) in every community school district. It also includes the central plan for school-based planning and shared decision making.
Q3	Who are the members on my school’s SLT?
A3	There are three mandatory members of the SLT: the Principal, the UFT Chapter Chair and the PA/PTA President. Additional members of the team (parents and staff) are elected by their own constituencies.
Q4	How are team members chosen to serve on the SLT at my school?
A4	Parents and staff are elected by their own constituent groups in a fair and unbiased manner determined by each constituent group. Elections must be advertised widely with reasonable advanced notice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLT elections must be open to all members of the constituent group of the school community (e.g., PA/PTA, CSA, UFT and DC-37). • Parent member elections for the SLT take place any time after the election of officers to the PA/PTA. (See CR A-660 I, F).
Q5	How many members can be on an SLT?
A5	An SLT may have between 10 and 17 members, with an equal number of parents and staff members.
Q6	Who is eligible to be elected to the SLT?
A6	The major stakeholders of parents, staff and administrators comprise the makeup of an SLT. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents from the school are eligible to be elected to the SLT by the members of the PA/PTA. • A parent is defined as a parent (by birth or step-parent), legally appointed guardian, foster parent or person in parental relation to a child. • A person in parental relation refers to a person who has assumed the care of a child because the child’s parents or guardians are not available, whether due to, among other things, death, imprisonment, mental illness, abandonment of a child, or living outside of the state. • The SLT may also invite a community based organization to become a member of the team, and may also include high school students. A minimum of two students on the SLT. The exact composition of the team must be set in the team’s bylaws.
Q7	What is the term length for members on the SLT?
A7	The length of term and the duration of a term will vary from one SLT to the next. The term length for elected members must be specified in your school’s SLT bylaws, Mandatory members serve on the team for the duration of their term of office (i.e. PA/PTA president serves a 1 year term of office). Most SLTs opt for two-year terms. The term length set in the bylaws does not apply to the mandatory SLT members.
Q8	Can a parent serve on more than one SLT?
A8	Yes. A parent who has children attending more than one school may be elected to serve on each school’s SLT.
Q9	How often does SLT meet?
A9	The SLT should meet at least once a month during the school year. The team may find that monthly meetings provide sufficient opportunity to achieve its goals. However, many SLTs find it necessary to schedule more frequent meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SLT bylaws should specify the day and time of the monthly meeting (e.g., “The SLT shall meet on the first Thursday of every month from 4:00pm – 6:00pm”). • The SLT should make every effort to adhere to the bylaws when scheduling meetings.
Q10	Who can attend an SLT meeting?
A10	Members of the school community as well as the general public and the press may attend SLT meetings to observe and listen to the proceedings. SLTs may choose to allow these attendees to speak, but if they do, they must create rules to ensure fairness, such as setting time limits on speaking time. These rules should be explained in the SLT’s by-laws