

School Council and Parent Engagement

Building family and community partnerships in support of student achievement and well-being.



School Council Roles & Mandate

Regulatory Mandate

School councils act as vital advisory bodies to schools and school boards under **Ontario Regulation 612** and **YRDSB Policy 262**.

Their primary mandate is to support student achievement and well-being while increasing accountability to parents within the school system.

Through structured advisory processes, councils establish strong links between school leadership and the broader local community.

Engagement & Advisory Role

School councils achieve their mandate by actively engaging with families on relevant topics and making informed recommendations to the principal and school board.

Parent Majority Voice

The majority of council members must be parents or guardians, ensuring that the community's voice remains central to shaping a positive learning environment.

Essential Resources

parental involvement in support of
student achievement and
well-being



YRDSB School Council Handbook

Provides practical guidance on daily operations, elections, and engagement strategies.

- Outlines roles and responsibilities for members.
- Offers operational templates (agendas, minutes, constitutions).
- Guides fundraising and financial record-keeping.

[Access School Council Handbook](#)

SCHOOL COUNCILS AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEES

Consolidation Period: From April 4, 2022 to the [e-Laws currency date](#).

Last amendment: 281/22.

Legislative History: 330/10, 674/20, 281/22.

This is the English version of a bilingual regulation.

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Ontario Regulation 612/00

Establishes the provincial statutory mandate and legal authority for all school councils.

- Sets mandatory composition and parent majority rules.
- Defines minimum meeting requirements and voting rights.
- Establishes advisory authority to school boards.

[View Ontario Regulation 612/00](#)

Authentic Family Engagement & Student Success



Illustration of parents collaborating around a table at a school council meeting.
Image generated by Gemini

Co-Creating Student Success

Parents are their children's first teachers and play a critical role in ongoing achievement. When families and schools work together, overall student outcomes improve.

Authentic family engagement moves beyond simply informing parents—it requires actively collaborating to co-develop and co-plan for student success.

Inclusive Communities & Equity

By building trusting relationships and creating safe, inclusive spaces, school councils help coordinate community resources and integrate diverse lived experiences.

This collaborative partnership is essential for advancing equitable outcomes and enhancing overall student well-being across our schools.

The Role of the Council Chair

Key Responsibilities

The Chair (or Co-Chairs) must be parent members who guide operations and facilitate effective meetings:

- **Agenda & Meeting Prep:** Prepares meeting agendas in consultation with the principal, chairs the meetings, and ensures minutes are accurately recorded.
- **Primary Liaison:** Acts as the primary liaison between the school council and the principal, fostering focused, respectful, and inclusive discussions.
- **Committee Involvement:** Sits on all school council committees to ensure alignment across all activities.
- **Community Outreach:** Plays a key role in communicating council activities to the broader school community.



Principal Responsibilities

Key Duties & Facilitation

- **School & Council Link:** Attends all meetings to facilitate active collaboration and serve as a crucial liaison.
- **Seeking Input:** Actively solicits council feedback on key topics, policies, and guidelines impacting student achievement.
- **Action on Advice:** Carefully considers council recommendations and consistently reports back on actions taken where appropriate.
- **Information Access:** Provides critical resources, including the School Improvement Plan and board policies, for informed decision-making.
- **Leads** daily operations, staff supervision, pedagogical decisions, implementation of board policy, and student safety.
- **Holds** the **final decision-making authority** on operational and financial matters.



Illustration of a School with students walking outfront.
Image created by Gemini

School Improvement Plan (SIP) Alignment

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Board Priorities & Principal Leadership

The School Improvement Plan identifies specific needs, practices, and targets aligned directly with broader board priorities.

The school principal actively shares data and collects feedback from the council to inform the SIP's initial development and ongoing review.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Parent Partnership & Impact

Parents act as vital partners in this process, providing input that reflects the diverse needs of the student body.

By collaborating on these goals, the school council helps co-create solutions, ensuring that the school's strategies effectively support student achievement, mental health, and an inclusive school climate.

Ongoing Involvement & Next Steps

Participation Channels

We encourage all families to maintain ongoing involvement in our school community.

Ways to Engage:

- Council meetings
- Special committees
- Volunteer roles

Every parent and caregiver has valuable skills and perspectives to contribute.

Looking Ahead

Our key areas of focus and ongoing initiatives for the upcoming term:

- Reviewing school data to guide decisions
- Identifying specific community needs
- Collaborating on initiatives that foster a welcoming, inclusive environment

Join Us

We invite you to attend our upcoming meetings and share your valuable ideas.

Partner With Us:

Together, we can ensure a successful, supportive, and enriching school year for every student.

We look forward to working alongside you!

Share your reflection

PAST YEAR REFLECTION

Council & PEAC Contributions

- Take a moment and reflect on key achievements, growth, and individual contributions across School Council and PEAC over the past year.
- Please share one inspirational experience you have had while in your role. What have you learnt and what are you grateful to have experienced?

LOOKING FORWARD

Thank You for Your Partnership

Together, We Thrive

We look forward to working alongside you this school year!