

---

# Parent participation

Parents are vital partners in their children's education. Study after study show that parental involvement is a major factor in a child's academic success. Volunteering is an exciting option for those parents who want to be more directly involved in their children's education. Some of the other ways to become more involved with your child's education are:

- School Planning Councils
- Parent Advisory Councils
- District Parent Advisory Councils

## School Planning Councils

The school planning council is an advisory body. The major responsibility of a school planning council is to consult the school community in developing, monitoring and reviewing *school plans* for student achievement. School planning councils are advisory bodies made up of:

- three parents
- one teacher
- the school principal
- one student from Grade 10, 11 or 12 where applicable

School plans focus on setting out strategies to improve students' intellectual development, but they also deal with other areas of student achievement, such as human and social development, and career development.

Parent representatives on school planning councils are elected by secret ballot each year by their parent advisory council. You must be nominated by a voting member of your parent advisory council to be eligible for election to the school planning council. If you wish to be nominated, contact your parent advisory council and tell them you would like to submit your name for consideration.

## Parent Advisory Councils (PACs)

The PAC is the legislated parent voice at the school level advising on any matter relevant to the school. The PAC represents the collective view of parents of children in the school. PACs also work with school principals to promote effective two-way communication between the school, the parent community and School Planning Councils.

All parents and guardians of children in a school are automatically members of that school's PAC and entitled to attend and vote at general meetings. Contact your school to find out more about the Parent Advisory Council.

## District Parent Advisory Councils (DPACs)

The DPAC is the legislated parent voice at the school district level, representing the collective views of PACs in a school district. A DPAC advises the school board on any matter relating to education in the school district. DPACs advocate for parental involvement in the education system and give input into the development of education policy and curricula.