

# Why School Councils Matter

## QUICK GUIDE FOR PARENTS 2022

Ontario Regulation 612, the provincial law for School Councils, requires every school to have a School Council. School Councils are in place for parents to work with their Principals to help improve student achievement. Members of the council include parents, school staff, and community members.

### HOW DO PARENTS BENEFIT FROM SCHOOL COUNCILS?

- School Councils support student success
- School Councils hold the education system accountable to parents, working with Principals and even make recommendations to School Boards!
- School Councils give parents and caregivers a voice and build relationships with school staff.
- Through School Councils, parents and caregivers access vital school data and committees

### ACCESS TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

- TDSB Student & Parent Census survey results
- EQAO results for your school
- TDSB policy consultations

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT

- School Improvement Plan (SIP) – contribute to goals around School Belonging/Well-Being, Achievement, Indigenous Education & Sovereignty
- Caring & Safe Schools committee
- Staffing committee (elementary)
- Annual School Operating Budget

### COMMUNICATION

- Partnership with your Principal
- Build relationships with staff, other parents, caregivers, your community
- Realize the parent/caregiver voice
- Connect with TDSB secure email account
- Accountable to your school community

### IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- Develop School Statement of Needs (SSON)
- Give feedback on Staffing Models and plans
- Work on your school's Safety Plan
- Create school Mental Health activities

### LEARN MORE ABOUT SCHOOL COUNCILS

- [Ontario. Regulation 612](#)
- [Ministry of Education's School Council Guide](#)
- [PIAC School Council Toolkit](#)
- [PIAC's School Council Basics](#)
- [TDSB School Council Election Guide](#)
- [CODE Parent Toolkits](#)
- [TDSB Parent & Community Engagement Office \(PCEO\)](#)
- [Superintendents and Trustees](#)

To learn more about PIAC, visit: [www.torontopiac.com](http://www.torontopiac.com)

## SCHOOL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT STAGES

### STAGE 1 – Informing

- Reliant on Principal leadership
- Members learning roles & responsibilities
- Learning to work together as a team
- Establishing relationships with staff & Principal to involve broader community



### STAGE 2 – Involving

- Active executive leadership
- Clear on roles & responsibilities
- Developing understanding of council accountability (reporting)
- Using communications tools to reach parents & community
- Experiencing success in involving stakeholders



### STAGE 3 – Engaging

- Interdependent leadership between Chair(s) & Principal
- Effective support of student learning & well being
- Accountability in place: Annual Reports, SSON, Fundraising Plan, accounting
- Knowledgeable of social, health conditions and needs of families