

1. Rationale

In September 2010, the Ministry of Education published the policy document [Parents in Partnership: A Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario Schools](#) and enacted revisions to Regulation 330/10, School Councils - Ontario through Regulation 612/00, School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees.

2. Policy

It is the policy of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) to work collaboratively with the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) to increase parent/guardian engagement in their children's education, to improve student achievement and well-being, and increase confidence in public education. By working together, we all contribute to the improvement of SCDSB schools and to the success of the students.

3. Definition

The Ontario Parent Involvement Policy outlines the requirements for the establishment of board-level PICs to work collaboratively with the school board and ensure direct communication between parents/guardians, the director of education and trustees. This investment supports the school board in establishing and working collaboratively with a PIC through the development of strategies for enhancing parent/guardian engagement and outreach, particularly through district meetings and inter-school communications. It is the expectation of the Ministry that the committee be chaired by a parent/guardian and that the membership will include a majority of parents/guardians, as well as trustee representatives and the director of education. In the longer term, parent/guardian representatives will be selected by their peers. (Ministry of Education memorandum March 3, 2006, pages 2-3).

4. Guidelines

- 4.1 The purpose of a PIC is to support, encourage and enhance parent/guardian engagement at the board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being.
- 4.2 The PIC shall achieve its purpose by:
 - 4.2.1 providing information and advice on parent/guardian engagement to the board;
 - 4.2.2 communicating with and supporting school councils; and,
 - 4.2.3 undertaking activities to help parents/guardians support their children's learning at home and at school.
- 4.3 The PIC shall:
 - 4.3.1 develop and advise the board and board's director, or designate, on ways to use strategies and initiatives to effectively communicate and engage parents/guardians in improving student achievement and well-being;

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- 4.3.2 communicate information from the Ministry to school councils and parents/guardians of students; and,
- 4.3.3 work with school councils, through the director of education, or designate, to:
 - 4.3.3.1 share effective practices to help engage parents/guardians;
 - 4.3.3.2 identify and reduce barriers to parent/guardian engagement;
 - 4.3.3.3 help ensure schools create a welcoming environment for parents/guardians of its students; and,
 - 4.3.3.4 determine, in consultation with the director of education, or designate, how funding, if any, provided under the *Education Act* for parent/ guardian involvement, is to be used.
- 4.4 The PIC will meet during the year as determined by the chair, in consultation with the director of education, or designate.
- 4.5 The structure of the PIC is as follows:
 - 4.5.1 The PIC *shall* include:
 - 4.5.1.1 a total of twelve parents/guardians representing all administrative areas (voting);
 - 4.5.1.2 the director of education, or designate, of the board (non-voting);
 - 4.5.1.3 at least one member of the board, appointed by the board (non-voting); and,
 - 4.5.1.4 up to three community members (shall not be members or employees of the board) as determined by the board (voting).
 - 4.5.2 A board *may appoint* one or more of the following individuals to the committee:
 - 4.5.2.1 one principal or vice-principal of an elementary school of the board (non-voting);
 - 4.5.2.2 one principal or vice-principal of a secondary school of the board (non-voting);
 - 4.5.2.3 one teacher employed, other than a principal or vice-principal, in an elementary school of the board (non-voting);
 - 4.5.2.4 one teacher employed, other than a principal or vice-principal, in a secondary school of the board (non-voting); and,
 - 4.5.2.5 one person employed by the board, other than a principal, vice-principal or teacher (non-voting).
- 4.6 A majority of the PIC will be parents/guardians.
- 4.7 Where there is insufficient representation from an area, the position may be filled by a parent/guardian from another area at the discretion of the director of education, or designate.
- 4.8 A person is qualified to be appointed or elected to the PIC if they are a parent/guardian of a student who is enrolled in a school of the SCDSB.

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5. Elected Officials

The positions of chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be elected at the first PIC meeting of the school year.

6. Administrative Procedures

The Director of Education is authorized to provide the administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

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