

A Closer Look: The Mandate of a PIC

This section of the handbook describes the mandate and organization of a PIC, as set out in Ontario Regulation 612/00.

PIC Mandate

The mandate of the PIC is to:

- ◆ support, encourage, and enhance meaningful parent engagement at the board level to improve student achievement and well-being;
- ◆ provide information and advice to the board on parent engagement;
- ◆ communicate with and support school councils;
- ◆ undertake activities to help parents support their children's learning at home and at school.



YOU SHOULD KNOW

In the regulation, and throughout this handbook, "will", "shall", and "must" refer to regulatory requirements. "Should" is used in this handbook to signify suggestions for effective practice.

Responsibilities of the PIC

Ontario Regulation 612/00 requires every school board in Ontario to establish a PIC with a direct link between parents and the director of education and the board of trustees. The PIC's responsibilities are:

- ◆ to develop strategies and initiatives that the board and the board's director could use to communicate effectively with parents and to engage parents in support of their children's learning at home and at school, and to advise on the use of these strategies;

- ♦ to communicate information from the ministry to school councils and parents;
- ♦ to determine, in consultation with the director of education, how ministry funding, if any, for parent engagement initiatives is to be allocated;
- ♦ to work with school councils:
 - to share effective practices to help engage parents in their children's learning, identify and reduce barriers to parent engagement, and help ensure that schools are welcoming to parents;
 - to support initiatives that help build knowledge and skills that will assist the PIC and school councils of the board with their work.



PRACTICES

Many PICs hold annual conferences for school councils and parents, featuring inspirational speakers, workshops, and displays presented by parents, board personnel, and community associations. Some also produce newsletters with helpful tips for parents on how to become involved in their children's learning at home and at school.



YOU SHOULD KNOW

Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grants are available to school councils and PICs to support local initiatives to increase parent involvement. More information, along with PRO grant success stories, can be found on the ministry website, at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.html.

PIC Membership

The PIC is a parent-led committee. The chair or co-chairs are parents, and the majority of members are parents. To provide a direct link to the director of education and the board, the director and a trustee are also members of the PIC. PICs decide whether to include other members, such as a principal, a teacher, and/or support staff, and also determine the number of community members to be included (up to three), to suit local needs.

Director of Education: The director of education is a member of the PIC. The director may delegate any of his or her powers or duties as a member of the PIC to a supervisory officer of the board and may designate a supervisory officer to attend a PIC meeting in his or her place. The director is a non-voting member.

Trustee Member: A trustee is a member of the PIC. The trustee may delegate any of his or her powers or duties as a member of the PIC to another member of the board and may designate a fellow trustee to attend a PIC meeting in his or her place. The trustee is a non-voting member.