

# Toronto District School Board

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Policy P023

Title: **PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Adopted: November 25, 1998

Revised: January 26, 2005, July 13, 2005, **February 3, 2010**

Review: **February 3, 2010**

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## 1.0 OBJECTIVE

To establish a framework for building and supporting parent and community involvement in the Toronto District School Board

## 2.0 DEFINITIONS

*Parent* Includes parent, guardian or any other caregiver legally recognized as acting in place of the parent.

## 3.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The Director of Education holds primary responsibility for this Policy.

Within the Director's Office, the executive oversight and responsibility for the implementation, coordination and day-to-day management of the Policy is assigned to the Associate Director, Equity, Well-Being and School Improvement.

## 4.0 POLICY

- 4.1. The TDSB believes that education is a shared responsibility among parents, the community, students, staff and the Board. By working together we all contribute to the improvement of our schools and to the success of our students. The Board shall provide parents with the information they need to support their children's education and shall involve them in decisions, which affect their children and their schools. The Board is committed to ensuring that all parents and members of our diverse communities have opportunities to participate in the school system, and shall provide the support necessary to achieve that goal.
- 4.2. A variety of communication procedures shall be developed and maintained at the school and system levels to ensure access to educational information needed by diverse parents and communities, and to facilitate two-way communication between parents and schools, and among parent groups.
- 4.3. Support for community outreach programs shall be provided to school communities, which experience significant challenges in promoting and sustaining the involvement of parents in their children's education and in their schools.

- 4.4. In accordance with O. Reg. 612/00 of the Education Act, every school shall establish a school council that shall be recognized as the official school community organization representing the interests of the parents and students of the school, and that shall be provided with the information and support necessary for fulfilling its role.
- 4.5. Opportunities shall be made available to school council chairs and other local parent leaders to assist them in developing their school community leadership skills and to school administrators to assist them in enhancing their skills in building positive school community relations.
- 4.6. All funds allocated by the Board or provided by the Ministry of Education for school-based parent involvement shall be made available to school councils for the council's decision with regard to how the funds will be spent;
- 4.7. Parent forums at a ward, quadrant or regional level shall be supported in order to promote parent consultation and input on matters related to policy, program or operations of the school system.
- 4.8. Community advisory committees shall be established where necessary to provide the Board with ongoing community advice on specified areas of Board policy or program, as well as on educational issues of broad community interest; in addition, ad hoc advisory committees, task forces, or working groups with community representation shall be established where required, on the understanding that the input from all such advisory groups does not preclude the input of other stakeholders across the system.
- 4.9. Working relationships shall be supported with Community Liaison Groups who wish to work with the Board to address educational issues of concern to these groups, and who are formed in accordance with the criteria and procedures established for these groups.

## **5.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES**

The Director is authorized to issue operational procedures to implement this policy.

## **6.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

Operational Procedure PR.558 SCS: Parent and Community Involvement

O. Reg. 612/00, School Councils