

Toronto District School Board

Policy P.023 SCS

Title: **PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Adopted: November 25, 1998

Revised: January 26, 2005, **July 13, 2005**

Review:

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

Associate Director

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 organiza-

tion 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. 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.
- 4.7. 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.
- 4.8. 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