



Alberta School Councils' Association

Our Vision Path

2019-2022



Mission

To engage and empower Alberta school councils while advocating for the parent voice in the education system.

Vision

A respected and empowered school council in every Alberta school.

Belief

Parents are recognized and respected as knowledgeable, supportive contributors to their children's education, and are provided a variety of opportunities to be authentically engaged in all levels of the education system.

Background

In November of 2018, as stewards of the organization, the Alberta School Councils' Association Board of Directors engaged in a reflective process that led to the following agreed upon statements that reflect the Association's current and future priorities.

As an independent not for profit organization focused on supporting parental engagement through school councils, and focused on representing the collective voice of parents from school councils to the provincial education Ministry, and with appreciation for the opportunity to be recognized as a provincial partner in K-12 education through ongoing grant funding from Alberta Education, the ASCA Board is pleased to have been able to identify alignment in many areas of its own organizational goals with the goals of other provincial level education partners, solidifying the opportunity to make the K-12 system stronger for all learners in Alberta.

Overarching Philosophy

Alberta School Councils' Association focuses its time and energy in ways that attract and retain sufficient human, social and financial resources to ensure its long term sustainability.

Destination: The Ministry of Education and partners in the education system seek the Alberta School Councils' Association provincial perspective prior to implementation of new education directions and policy.

Priorities for 2019-2022

The ASCA Board will

- *Genuinely assemble and communicate the broad perspectives of parents through our Member School Councils.*
 - **Action:** Through the use of advocacy policy positions.
 - **Action:** Through input from the School Council Engagement Task Force.
 - **Action:** Through dialogue at partner meetings; at meetings with the Minister and ministry staff; at Board appropriate external advisory committee opportunities.
- *Provide member based input to current and emerging Alberta Education initiatives and/or legislation as required/requested.*
 - **Action:** Monitor the status of legislation that impacts education and provide feedback to ministry(s) as required/requested.
 - **Action:** Monitor the status of the draft regulations relevant to school councils.
- *Communicate effectively with elected officials and the education community at the provincial and school district levels of governance.*
 - **Action:** Stay current with developments taking place at Ministerial, District and local levels.
 - **Action:** Be knowledgeable about Alberta's education system and political environment.
 - **Action:** Provide opportunities for school councils to enhance their capacity for engagement.
- *Elevate the understanding and value of the Association with the Ministry of Education and partners in the education system.*
 - **Action:** Develop relationships and share appropriate organizational information according to the work outlined by the *relevant* Committees of the Board and the New2U school council initiative.

Destination: School councils in rural, urban and metro communities are recognized by education stakeholders and community as essential organizational elements in every school that are knowledgeable, valuable, contributors to the education system through the Alberta School Councils' Association.

Priorities for 2019-2022

The ASCA Board will

- *Empower school councils to recognize the importance of their advisory role in the K-12 education system.*
 - **Action:** Continue to offer a subsidized annual conference focused on knowledge and skill development for parents involved with their school councils.
 - **Action:** Continue to offer registered attendance opportunities to school board trustees, school administrators, school system leaders, and education ministry staff.
 - **Action:** Provide access to information for school councils about provincial level initiatives to increase system knowledge of parents.
 - **Action:** Accept input and perspectives from parents through school councils on provincial level initiatives.

- *Recognize parents' contributions on school councils.*
 - **Action:** Offer a provincial level recognition and awards program.
 - **Action:** Encourage Alberta school councils to be as diverse as the students they serve.

- *Support the development of district-wide umbrella groups allowing for school councils to contribute directly at a district level.*
 - **Action:** Promote knowledge and skill development opportunities to system leaders.

- *Encourage system leaders to acknowledge the value of effective school councils.*
 - **Action:** Promote the importance of school council development opportunities to partner organizations as part of an overall engagement strategy.

Destination: ASCA Member School Councils are aware of, and contribute to, the influence the Alberta School Councils' Association casts on their behalf.

Priorities for 2019-2022

The ASCA Board will

- *Commit to being up to date with respect to ongoing education initiatives and directions being contemplated by Alberta Education and other provincial association partners.*
 - **Action:** In the Alberta context, support the Call to Action from the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* that speaks to Education of First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners and their families.
 - **Action:** Maintain Board meeting discussion on emerging education issues and current initiatives progress.
- *Provide Member School Councils the most up to date provincial developments available with respect to initiatives and directions being undertaken by Alberta Education and other provincial association partners.*
 - **Action:** Provide updates from the President.
 - **Action:** In collaboration with Alberta Education, organize meets and greet with ASCA Board representatives and school council parent representatives.
- *Inform members of any advocacy policy positions taken between Annual General Meetings.*
 - **Action:** Provide periodic updates as necessary on emergent education issues.
 - **Action:** Present to the assembly of delegates at the Annual General Meeting.
 - **Action:** Seek input from parents through member school councils regarding provincial initiative developments and progress.
- *Provide forums for members to express their perspectives on province-wide K-12 education issues.*
 - **Action:** Respect and advance the will of the membership on K-12 education issues identified by delegates at an Annual General meeting.
 - **Action:** Represent the will of the membership on K-12 education issues identified through the School Council Engagement Task Force.
- *Support school councils continuing to be reflected as an essential organizational element in education legislation.*
 - **Action:** Advocate to the Minister of Education and all related parties on the value of school councils as advisory to the K-12 education system at every level.
 - **Action:** Advocate to the Minister of Education the need to clarify problematic areas of the school council regulation.
 - **Action:** Encourage system leaders to work with provincial office on clear district policies for school councils.

Destination: Alberta School Councils will promote and encourage knowledge and understanding of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in education.

Priorities for 2019-2022

The ASCA Board will

- *Commit to responding to the Calls for Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendation 10: v, vi)*
 - We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:
 - v. Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems.
 - vi. Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children.
 - **Action:** Provide members with resources related to the development of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit focus in K-12 curriculum.
 - **Action:** Encourage Alberta school councils to be as diverse as the students they serve.
 - **Action:** Encourage school council based activities that promote understanding of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture.

- *Encourage school councils to be ambassadors of, and bridges to, the diverse cultures of their school communities.*
 - **Action:** Model broad and varied methods of providing information to, and gathering feedback from, Alberta school councils.

Destination: Partnerships, relationships, and strategic alliances strengthen the efforts and influence of Alberta school councils and the Alberta School Councils' Association.

Priorities for 2019-2022

The ASCA Board will:

- *Pursue, build and nurture relationships with diverse populations and organizations seeking to enhance parent and school council engagement in student learning.*
 - **Action:** Increase director capacity to confidently represent ASCA.
 - **Action:** Increase director representation in provincial engagement opportunities.
 - **Action:** Initiate conversations with the Ministry and partners in the education system.