



Alberta School Councils' Association

Our Vision Path

**with Staff Strategies*

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.

Staff Strategies to achieve Destination, derived from 2018-2019 Conditional Grant

Outcome 1: Parents are engaged and contribute to student success through their involvement in school councils and ASCA.

Deliverable: Alberta Education has the opportunity to share information with, and gather feedback from, school councils through and in partnership with ASCA.

Strategy: ASCA supports Alberta Education initiatives through current and timely communication of information available to school councils.

Strategy: ASCA supports Alberta Education initiatives by facilitating appropriate digital communication between school councils and the Minister, and/or Alberta Education staff upon request.

Outcome 3: Respecting diversity and promoting inclusion, School Councils contribute to safe, caring and healthy learning environments that meet the needs of all students.

Deliverable: ASCA Advocacy Policies emphasize the importance of learning environments being inclusive, safe, caring and meeting the needs of all students.

Strategy: Promote and encourage ASCA member school councils to submit provincial level education related policy resolutions, including those focused on (aspects of) inclusion.

Strategy: Advocacy policies are shared with Alberta Education, partner/stakeholder organizations and the public.

Outcome 4: School Councils understand and value the Professional Practice Standards in supporting teaching and learning relevant to their classroom, school and district contexts.

Deliverable: In all service deliveries, ASCA encourages School Councils to engage in conversations related to the Professional Practice Standards at the local school or district level.

Strategy: Service materials will include reference to the Professional Practice Standards, and Alberta Education and partner/stakeholder preparation for implementation.

Deliverable: ASCA Conference Sessions provide opportunities for School Councils to gain enhanced knowledge and understanding of Professional Practice Standards (PPS).

Strategy: Alberta Education departments and/or external organizations will be invited to submit proposals for presentations related to Professional Practice Standards.

Strategy: Create, distribute and collect Conference session evaluations.

Outcome 5: School Councils contribute to ensuring legislation, regulations and policies align with government direction and are developed in consultation with stakeholders.

Sub-outcome 5A: The voice of parents through school councils, represented by ASCA, is invited, respected and reflected by governors and managers of the education system.

Deliverable: ASCA provides Board member or staff representation on Alberta Education external and/or education/partner stakeholder advisory committees.

Strategy: Continued representation primarily by ED, supplemented by ASCA President and/or Vice-President as needed.

Outcome 5: School Councils contribute to ensuring legislation, regulations and policies align with government direction and are developed in consultation with stakeholders.

Sub-outcome 5B: School Councils knowledgeably influence system excellence at local, district and provincial education levels.

Deliverable: ASCA participates in the System Excellence Advisory Committee as requested to ensure parent perspectives are represented.

Strategy: ASCA provides input based on advocacy policy positions approved by ASCA members and School Council Engagement Task Force responses as provided by members.

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.

Staff Strategies to achieve Destination, derived from 2018-2019 Conditional Grant

Outcome 1: Parents are engaged and contribute to student success through their involvement in school councils and ASCA.

Sub-outcome 1A: School councils are informed, knowledgeable and aware of their legislated role.

Deliverable: Resources are developed, communicated and delivered as appropriate for the purposes of increasing knowledge and understanding of the legislated role of school councils.

Strategy: Create and distribute ASCA School Council Satisfaction Survey to all school councils.

Deliverable: ASCA Website, online resources and digital communications contain information related to the legislated role of school councils.

Strategy: Communications to school councils encourage use of ASCA digital resources.

Outcome 1: Parents are engaged and contribute to student success through their involvement in school councils and ASCA.

Sub-outcome 1B: School councils are informed, knowledgeable and aware of provincial education initiatives impacting students in schools.

Deliverable: ASCA provides opportunities and information enabling school councils to gain knowledge and understanding of Alberta Education initiatives and partner organization/stakeholder education initiatives.

Strategy: ASCA Conference, Website, Digital Communications.

Strategy: Collaborate with Alberta Education and partner/stakeholder organizations to deliver sessions related to Alberta Education.

Strategy: Create, distribute and collect Conference session evaluations.

Strategy: Digital newsletters to school councils as well as President's messages and Board meeting highlights contain reference to Alberta Education initiatives.

Outcome 3: Respecting diversity and promoting inclusion, School Councils contribute to safe, caring and healthy learning environments that meet the needs of all students.

Deliverable: ASCA Website, online resources and digital communications contain information related to respectful and inclusive learning environments.

Strategy: Communications to school councils encourage use of ASCA digital resources.

Deliverable: ASCA Conference Sessions include elements related to diversity, inclusion and/or safe and caring learning environments, providing opportunities for School Councils to gain enhanced knowledge and understanding of inclusive learning environments.

Strategy: Alberta Education departments and external organizations will be invited to submit proposals for presentations related to diversity and inclusion.

Strategy: Create, distribute and collect Conference session evaluations.

Deliverable: ASCA Advocacy Policies emphasize the importance of learning environments being inclusive, safe, caring and meeting the needs of all students.

Strategy: Promote and encourage ASCA member school councils to submit provincial level education related policy resolutions, including those focused on (aspects of) inclusion.

Strategy: Advocacy policies are shared with Alberta Education, partner/stakeholder organizations and the public.

Outcome 4: School Councils understand and value the Professional Practice Standards in supporting teaching and learning relevant to their classroom, school and district contexts.

Deliverable: In all service deliveries, ASCA encourages School Councils to engage in conversations related to the Professional Practice Standards at the local school or district level.

Strategy: Service materials will include reference to the Professional Practice Standards, and Alberta Education and partner/stakeholder preparation for implementation.

Deliverable: ASCA Website, online resources and digital communications contain information related to the Professional Practice Standards.

Strategy: Communications to school councils encourage use of ASCA digital resources.

Deliverable: ASCA Conference Sessions provide opportunities for School Councils to gain enhanced knowledge and understanding of Professional Practice Standards (PPS).

Strategy: Alberta Education departments and/or external organizations will be invited to submit proposals for presentations related to Professional Practice Standards.

Strategy: Create, distribute and collect Conference session evaluations.

Outcome 5: School Councils contribute to ensuring legislation, regulations and policies align with government direction and are developed in consultation with stakeholders.

Sub-Outcome 5B: School Councils knowledgeably influence system excellence at local, district and provincial education levels.

Deliverable: ASCA resources, website, sessions, Conference and AGM reinforce the advisory capacity and value of school councils at local, jurisdictional and provincial levels.

Strategy: ASCA supports school councils in their legislated advisory role.

Strategy: ASCA highlights provincial decisions reflective of school council input.

Deliverable: Partners and stakeholders in Alberta's education system (School and system leaders/governors, pre-service B.Ed. students) have enhanced knowledge and understanding of the legislated role of school councils and the importance of their contributions at local, district and provincial levels.

Strategy: ASCA will provide targeted knowledge and skill development to principal groups, system leaders and/or governors, and other education partners/stakeholders.

Deliverable: Ongoing communication to each group as required.

Strategy: ASCA will tailor specific messaging to these audiences.

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.

Staff Strategies to achieve Destination, derived from 2018-2019 Conditional Grant

Outcome 1: Parents are engaged and contribute to student success through their involvement in school councils and ASCA.

Deliverable: ASCA service delivery options are current, relevant and support school council knowledge and skill development and operations.

Strategy: ASCA resources for school councils are reviewed, adapted and communicated to school councils.

Strategy: ASCA service delivery evaluations are consistently distributed and collected following service delivery.

Outcome 3: Respecting diversity and promoting inclusion, School Councils contribute to safe, caring and healthy learning environments that meet the needs of all students.

Deliverable: ASCA highlights the importance of diversity and inclusion in all service deliveries.

Strategy: Service materials will include reference to the Inclusive Education Framework and provincial legislation relating to diversity and inclusion.

Deliverable: ASCA Advocacy Policies emphasize the importance of learning environments being inclusive, safe, caring and meeting the needs of all students.

Strategy: Promote and encourage ASCA member school councils to submit provincial level education related policy resolutions, including those focused on (aspects of) inclusion.

Strategy: Advocacy policies are shared with Alberta Education, partner/stakeholder organizations and the public.

Strategy: Review and refine ASCA Advocacy Resolution process.

Outcome 4: School Councils understand and value the Professional Practice Standards in supporting teaching and learning relevant to their classroom, school and district contexts.

Deliverable: ASCA Website, online resources and digital communications contain information related to the Professional Practice Standards.

Strategy: Communications to school councils encourage use of ASCA digital resources.

Deliverable: ASCA Conference Sessions provide opportunities for School Councils to gain enhanced knowledge and understanding of Professional Practice Standards (PPS).

Strategy: Alberta Education departments and/or external organizations will be invited to submit proposals for presentations related to Professional Practice Standards.

Strategy: Create, distribute and collect Conference session evaluations.

Outcome 5: School Councils contribute to ensuring legislation, regulations and policies align with government direction and are developed in consultation with stakeholders.

Sub-Outcome 5B: School Councils knowledgeably influence system excellence at local, district and provincial education levels.

Deliverable: ASCA participates in the System Excellence Advisory Committee as requested to ensure parent perspectives are represented.

Strategy: ASCA provides input based on advocacy policy positions approved by ASCA members and School Council Engagement Task Force responses as provided by members.

Deliverable: ASCA resources, website, sessions, Conference and AGM reinforce the advisory capacity and value of school councils at local, jurisdictional and provincial levels.

Strategy: ASCA supports school councils in their legislated advisory role.

Strategy: ASCA highlights provincial decisions reflective of school council input.

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.
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- *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.

Staff Strategies to achieve Destination, derived from 2018-2019 Conditional Grant

Outcome 2: School Councils have enhanced knowledge and understanding about First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives and experiences, treaties, and the history and legacy of residential schools.

Deliverable: ASCA is culturally aware and responsive and undertakes activities aligned with UNDRIP and Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.

Strategy: Encourage staff, Board members and contracted instructors to create and/or participate in learning opportunities, as appropriate.

Deliverable: Varied digital resources designed to support parental understanding on why the education system is building capacity in First Nations, Métis and Inuit education.

Strategy: Ongoing updating of related resources on ASCA website.

Strategy: Inclusion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit TRC actions and/or activities for consideration by school councils in all on-site service deliveries.

Deliverable: ASCA Conference session(s) related to First Nations, Métis and Inuit, TRC Calls to Action and/or Alberta's Joint Commitment to Action.

Strategy: Invite Conference session proposals from Alberta Education, CASS, ASBA, ARPCD and other partner/stakeholder with expertise in this area.

Outcome 2: School Councils have enhanced knowledge and understanding about First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives and experiences, treaties, and the history and legacy of residential schools.

Sub-outcome 2A: Parents of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children in Alberta public schools know about the benefit of school council participation.

Deliverable: ASCA obtains experience and information related to building successful relationships with First Nations, Métis and Inuit parents and families enabling the development of shareable resources and best practices for use by all school councils and communities.

Strategy: Collaboration with two (2) Alberta school districts demonstrating promising practices engaging First Nations, Métis and Inuit parents and families.

Outcome 3: Respecting diversity and promoting inclusion, School Councils contribute to safe, caring and healthy learning environments that meet the needs of all students.

Deliverable: ASCA Conference Sessions include elements related to diversity, inclusion and/or safe and caring learning environments, providing opportunities for School Councils to gain enhanced knowledge and understanding of inclusive learning environments.

Strategy: Alberta Education departments and external organizations will be invited to submit proposals for presentations related to diversity and inclusion.

Strategy: Create, distribute and collect Conference session evaluations.

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.

Staff Strategies to achieve Destination, derived from 2018-2019 Conditional Grant

Outcome 1: Parents are engaged and contribute to student success through their involvement in school councils and ASCA.

Deliverable: ASCA contacts all school authorities mandated to have school councils to offer school council support, knowledge and skill development and to encourage school council membership in ASCA.

Strategy: Invitation letter to all Superintendents, and principals/school council chairs where appropriate.

Outcome 1: Parents are engaged and contribute to student success through their involvement in school councils and ASCA.

Sub-outcome 1B: School councils are informed, knowledgeable and aware of provincial education initiatives impacting students in schools.

Deliverable: ASCA provides opportunities and information enabling school councils to gain knowledge and understanding of Alberta Education initiatives and partner organization/stakeholder education initiatives.

Strategy: Collaborate with Alberta Education and partner/stakeholder organizations to deliver sessions related to Alberta Education.

Outcome 2: School Councils have enhanced knowledge and understanding about First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives and experiences, treaties, and the history and legacy of residential schools.

Deliverable: ASCA Conference session(s) related to First Nations, Métis and Inuit, TRC Calls to Action and/or Alberta's Joint Commitment to Action.

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Outcome 3: Respecting diversity and promoting inclusion, School Councils contribute to safe, caring and healthy learning environments that meet the needs of all students.

Deliverable: ASCA highlights the importance of diversity and inclusion in all service deliveries.

Strategy: Service materials will include reference to the Inclusive Education Framework and provincial legislation relating to diversity and inclusion.

Deliverable: ASCA Conference Sessions include elements related to diversity, inclusion and/or safe and caring learning environments, providing opportunities for School Councils to gain enhanced knowledge and understanding of inclusive learning environments.

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Sub-outcome 5A: The voice of parents through school councils, represented by ASCA, is invited, respected and reflected by governors and managers of the education system.

Deliverable: ASCA provides Board member or staff representation on Alberta Education external and/or education/partner stakeholder advisory committees.

Strategy: Continued representation primarily by ED, supplemented by ASCA President and/or Vice-President as needed.

Outcome 5: School Councils contribute to ensuring legislation, regulations and policies align with government direction and are developed in consultation with stakeholders.

Sub-Outcome 5B: School Councils knowledgeably influence system excellence at local, district and provincial education levels.

Deliverable: ASCA participates in the System Excellence Advisory Committee as requested to ensure parent perspectives are represented.

Strategy: ASCA provides input based on advocacy policy positions approved by ASCA members and School Council Engagement Task Force responses as provided by members.

Deliverable: Partners and stakeholders in Alberta's education system (School and system leaders/governors, pre-service B.Ed. students) have enhanced knowledge and understanding of the legislated role of school councils and the importance of their contributions at local, district and provincial levels.

Strategy: ASCA will provide targeted knowledge and skill development to principal groups, system leaders and/or governors, and other education partners/stakeholders.

Deliverable: Ongoing communication to each group as required.

Strategy: ASCA will tailor specific messaging to these audiences.