



Slide 1

SCHOOL COUNCILS:  
WHAT EVERY PRINCIPAL NEEDS TO KNOW



Alberta School Councils' Association  
Promoting parent engagement in public education



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Slide 2

ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION



Working for excellence in public education and student learning success

Provincial Association made up of member school councils across Alberta

Promote meaningful and positive engagement of parents in our education system through school council



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Slide 3


**Objectives**




**TODAY'S OBJECTIVES:**

To gain a basic understanding of:

- What is the purpose of School Councils
- What is the work of School Council
- What is the Principal's role with a School Council
- How a School Council differs from a Fundraising Association

Handouts 

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/school-councils/webinars>



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**THE PURPOSE OF SCHOOL COUNCIL IS...**

A means for parents and community members to work together with the principal and the school community to **Support and enhance student learning.**



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**LEGISLATION**



- Education Act, Section 55
- School Councils Regulation
- School Division Policy & Regulation
- School Council Operating Procedures, Policies & Practices

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**LEGISLATION: MEMBERSHIP**

- Education Act: 55(2) The majority of the members of a school council must be parents of students enrolled in the school.
- School Council Regulation: 7(1) A school council must include the following members:
  - (a) the **principal** of the school;



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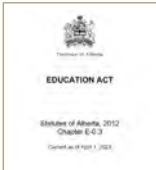
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LEGISLATION: PURPOSE



- 55(4) A school council may, at its discretion,
  - (a) **advise the principal and the board** respecting any matter relating to the school,
  - (b) perform any duty or function delegated to it by the board in accordance with the delegation,
  - (c) **consult with the principal so that the principal** may ensure that students in the school have the opportunity to meet the standards of education set by the Minister,
  - (d) **consult with the principal** so that the principal may ensure that the fiscal management of the school is in accordance with the requirements of the board and the superintendent, and
  - (e) do anything it is authorized under the regulations to do.

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LEGISLATION

- Education Act, Section 55
- School Councils Regulation
- School Division Policy & Regulation
- School Council Operating Procedures

Mission	Membership	Executive
Authority	Objectives	Governance
Dispute Resolution	Meetings & Voting	Committees
Code of Ethics	Privacy	Policies & Procedures

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THE ROLE IS PROVIDING ADVICE



**Role: to advise the principal and the board respecting any matter relating to the school.**

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ADVISE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE SCHOOL, SUCH AS...

- **Professional Practice Standards**
  - **Alberta Education Initiatives**
    - impact at local, division level
    - voice at provincial level through ASCA
  - **Respecting Diversity and Promoting Inclusion**
  - **Advancing Reconciliation**
- **Development of School Policies**
  - **Annual Results Reports**
  - **Development of School Budget:**  
ABED \$    Division \$    School \$
  - **Education Plans**
  - **Assurance Framework**

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PLANNING-REPORTING CYCLES

**Schools are expected to:**

- Update their education plan and prepare their AERR annually
- Involve their school council in updating the plan and preparing the AERR
- Post their plan and AERR on the school's or division's website



AERR – Annual Education Results Report

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ALBERTA EDUCATION ASSURANCE MEASURES

Assurance Domain	AEAM <small>(Alberta Education Assurance Measures)</small>	Local Component
<b>Governance</b>  Processes that determine strategic direction, establish policy and manage fiscal resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey measures of Parent Involvement</li> <li>School authorities report the amount budgeted for past school year, the amount spent and the variance between these amounts for operational expense categories.</li> </ul>	Local measures/data and information demonstrating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective resource management, including collaboration with other school authorities, municipalities and community agencies</li> <li>Stakeholder engagement to develop priorities and share progress and results</li> </ul>

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**SO...WHAT IS THE WORK OF SCHOOL COUNCIL?**

**Work:**  
Action or activity involving physical or mental effort and undertaken to achieve a result.

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**THE WORK IS COMMUNICATING**

- > 100% REACH
- > TIMELY
- > PARENT-PREFERRED WAYS
- > MESSAGE TRANSLATION
- > ONE-STOP HUB
- > TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION
- > EMPOWER FAMILIES

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**THE WORK IS LISTENING**

- > Be attentive.
- > Ask open-ended questions.
- > Ask probing questions.
- > Request clarification.
- > Paraphrase.
- > Be attuned to and reflect feelings.
- > Summarize.

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THE WORK IS **ENGAGEMENT**

**EN·GAGE** verb\in-ˈgāj, en-  
en-ˈgagədən-ˈgag-ɪŋ

A: to hold the attention of  
B: to induce to participate  
(Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

*"In the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."  
— Jane D. Hull*



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THE WORK IS **REPRESENTING**

**REPRESENTATION - GET YOUR VOICE HEARD!**



What is the meaning of being represented?  
**To speak, act, or be present officially for another person or people.**

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**ENHANCEMENT WORK**



**THE PERFECT FUND RAISER!**



**Don't Leave the Kids! They are Field Trip Chaperones.**



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**THE PRINCIPAL'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING SCHOOL COUNCIL'S WORK**

**Leadership Quality Standard**



**Fostering Effective Relationships:**  
1d. Creating opportunities for parents/guardians, as partners in education, to take an active role in their children's education;

**Modeling Commitment to Professional Learning:**  
2d. Engaging members of the school community to build a shared understanding of current trends and priorities in the education system;

**Embodying Visionary Leadership:**  
3b. Recognizing the school community's values and aspirations and demonstrating an appreciation for diversity;  
3d. Supporting school community members, including school councils, in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities;

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**THE PRINCIPAL'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING SCHOOL COUNCIL'S WORK**

**Leadership Quality Standard**



**Leading a Learning Community:**  
4f. Establishing opportunities and expectations for the positive involvement of parents/guardians in supporting student learning;

**Developing Leadership Capacity:**  
7c. Promoting the engagement of parents in school council(s) and facilitating the constructive involvement of school council(s) in school life;

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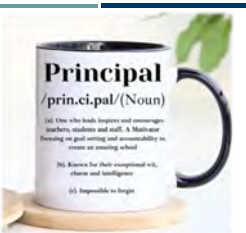
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The Principal is the final decision maker when it comes to actions directly affecting the school building, staff or students.



**Principal**  
/prin.ci.pal/(Noun)

1d. One who leads, inspires and encourages teachers, students and staff; 2. Motivate. Encouraging or goading and accountability to ensure an ongoing school

3d. Knows for their exceptional wit, charm and intelligence

4f. Impossible to begin

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ALIKE BUT NOT THE SAME...	
School Councils	Fundraising Associations
<b>Purpose</b> As stipulated by Legislation Advise the Principal and the Board	<b>Purpose</b> As stated in Objects of Incorporation To fundraise for the School
<b>Structure &amp; Membership</b> Must have a Chairperson Majority must be Parents	<b>Structure &amp; Membership</b> Board of Directors Membership by admission
<b>Decision Making</b> May have Operating Procedures	<b>Decision Making</b> As stated in Corporate Bylaws

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TO CONCLUDE:

- The purpose of School Council is to support and enhance student learning
- The role of School Council is to advise the Principal and the Board
- The work of School Council is to engage the school community
- Communication is vital to successful stakeholder engagement and partnership

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Q & A

That's A Great Question!



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**NEXT STEPS**

- Implement what you've learned today
- Schedule/register for your next ASCA Learning Opportunity
- Invite more people (parents, grandparents, teachers, EAs, students, community members) to learn alongside you, and to support your students' learning success

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**CONTACT US**

780.454.9867 or 1.800.661.3470

parents@albertaschoolcouncils.ca

Twitter @ABSchoolCouncil

[www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca](http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca) (SCETF, email list, resources, templates)

Facebook/pages/Alberta-School-Councils-Association

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