

Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Focus Areas (Core Business)

REPRESENTATION

Bring a “parents’ perspective” through school councils on education issues to government and other education organizations.

The Education Act acknowledges School Councils as the only legislated vehicle that parents have to contribute their voice on current and emerging issues. The Association is the central entity that supports parents in their legislated role by bringing the parent perspective forward into a collective provincial voice on issues in education.

ASCA has advocacy policy positions that are derived from resolutions brought forward, and passed, by ASCA Member School Councils, representing the ‘provincial’ parent perspective. These policies are brought forward to the Annual General Meeting as resolutions which are debated and voted on by member delegates. Policy statements include, but are not limited to, issues on funding, assessment, inclusion, capital, accountability, safe and caring learning environments, career pathways, technology, transportation, early childhood education, Teacher and Leader Quality Standards, and student wellbeing.

ASCA is fully engaged in Alberta Education External Advisory Committees and education partner organization task forces. The information, feedback and insight that the Association provides at these tables comes from school council member feedback and the ASCA Board of Directors.

DEVELOPMENT

Build capacity in parents and principals on school councils, along with other members of education communities, by providing skill development, resources, advice and tools to enable them to understand and enact their legislated roles and responsibilities in Alberta’s schools.

ASCA offers supports and resources for the entire school community to increase school council effectiveness. Services include materials/workshops on effective operations and governance, school council as a legislated advisory body and fostering strong working relationships with the school principal, district and school board.

All workshops and training sessions are assessed in order to provide current and relevant education to participants. Site services to school councils and other audiences directly affiliated with public schools are provided at no cost to the host or participants as a result of the conditional grant funding received from Alberta Education.

COMMUNICATION

Promote and support greater parental engagement, through school councils, within Alberta’s education system.

ASCA has a strong, effective, credible communication strategy with varied means of delivery. ASCA is committed to keeping parents informed on education issues and providing perspective back to government. In addition, the volunteer Board of Directors, led by an elected President, provides formal feedback to the Minister on school council perspectives. ASCA is also active on social media promoting activities and events in education.

ASCA’s goal is to ensure parents on school councils have the necessary information to be fully engaged and meaningfully involved in their school communities.

Through a variety of communications, ASCA assists parents, principals and other participants on school councils to increase their knowledge and capacity in public education so they can be fully engaged in meaningful dialogue with administration and district leaders.

