

<b>SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS</b>	<b>4300</b>
<b>SCHOOL COUNCILS</b>	<b>4310</b>

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## **1. Rationale**

In accordance with the *Education Act* and Ontario Regulation 612/00, each school of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has a school council. The purpose of the school council is to improve student achievement and well-being and enhance the accountability of the education system by making recommendations to the school and the board. This is achieved through the on-going and valued parent/guardian, school staff, and community participation and communication for a shared sense of accountability for public education.

## **2. Policy**

It is the policy of the SCDSB to enable school councils to be engaged community partners, in an advisory capacity, for the improvement of student achievement and well-being in safe and nurturing learning environments within the local school, board and throughout Ontario.

## **3. Definitions**

3.1 School Council is an advisory body that makes recommendations to the school principal and/or the board on matters as stated in the *Education Act*, applicable legislation, and board policy.

3.2 Advisory Body is a group established to provide advice and recommendations. An advisory body does not have final decision-making power. (*Ministry of Education, School Councils: A Guide for Members, 2001.*)

3.3 School Community includes but is not limited to parents/guardians, school administrators, teaching staff, support staff, students, and members of the local community.

## **4. Guidelines**

4.1 Ministry of Education:

4.1.1 establishes regulations regarding school councils; and,

4.1.2 reports annually to members of school councils on education in the province.

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- 4.2 Board of Trustees:
  - 4.2.1 establish board policy regarding school councils;
  - 4.2.2 consult with school councils to ensure that parents/guardians, through their school councils, are able to influence decisions affecting their children's education and responds to their recommendations; and,
  - 4.2.3 facilitate the communication and networking opportunities among school councils through a series of meetings for school council members organized by the Parent Involvement Committee.
  
- 4.3 Director of Education:
  - 4.3.1 ensures the School Council Policy 4310 is implemented;
  - 4.3.2 consults with school councils on board planning processes and implementation plans that relate to student achievement, well-being, and the accountability of the education system to parents/guardians; and,
  - 4.3.3 responds to their recommendations.
  
- 4.4 Principals:
  - 4.4.1 familiarize the school council with the *Education Act*, Ontario Regulation 612/00 and related guidelines;
  - 4.4.2 collaborate with their school council to make the education system more accountable to the school community;
  - 4.4.3 promote, support, and guide the school council, in their advisory role, to be an effective voice for parents/guardians;
  - 4.4.4 encourage the school council to be as representative of the school community as is reasonable; and,
  - 4.4.5 receive and respond to school council recommendations.
  
- 4.5 School Councils:
  - 4.5.1 act within the scope of their duties as stated in legislation and board policy;
  - 4.5.2 promote and improve student learning, in an advisory capacity, through active participation and communication;
  - 4.5.3 involve and represent the school community by consulting with all parents/guardians of the school's students;
  - 4.5.4 make recommendations related to the school to the school principal; and,
  - 4.5.5 make recommendations that are broader in scope than the local school to the school principal for direction or as appropriate to a board official or board committee.

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**5. Administrative Procedures**

The Director of Education is authorized to provide the administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

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