

<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.

**SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS 4300**

**SCHOOL COUNCILS 4310**

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Page 2

- 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.

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS 4300

SCHOOL COUNCILS 4310

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Page 3

**5. Administrative Procedures**

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

APPROVED JANUARY 31, 1996  
REVIEWED SEPTEMBER 2003  
REVISED JUNE 20, 2012  
REVIEWED DECEMBER 16, 2015  
REVISED JANUARY 30, 2019

[APM A2600](#)

[APM A2610](#)

[APM A7200](#)