

## TDSB School Council Survey 2015-2016

*We appreciate your help in completing this survey of School Council operations and effectiveness. Our purpose is to better support your work!*

*This survey is designed for on-line completion in one session only.*

*The due date for receipt of your response is Tuesday May 31, 2016*

(Note: If you choose to print a hard copy of the survey first for reference or preliminary completion, you will need to transfer your responses to the on-line form later and submit it electronically by the due date above.)

1. Describe your school by type and grade range:

### Type

- a)  Regular Day School  
 Alternative School  
 Other

Additional descriptor if desired (e.g. French Immersion, Specialty program)

### Grade range

- b)  Elementary (K-5, K-6)  
 Elementary/Middle (K-8)  
 Middle (6-8)/Junior High (7-9)  
 Secondary  
 Other

2. a) What is the approximate enrolment of your school?

- <250  
 250-500  
 500-750  
 750-1000  
 >1000

b) Please select your school from the drop down list:

Other please specify:

3. What types of parent groups are currently operating in your school? (check all that apply)

School Council - General Council representing the whole school

Additional School Council(s) representing distinct parent groups Specify:

Home & School Association

Other Specify:

Additional space is provided below for descriptive comments or explanations to distinguish between the various parent groups if applicable:

## School Council Roles & Functions

***“The purpose of school councils is, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.”***

*(Ontario Ministry of Education, Regulation 612/00)*

4. How well does the statement above reflect the role your School Council plays in this school community?

- Mostly True    
  Somewhat True    
  Somewhat Untrue    
  Mostly Untrue    
  Not Sure

In the table below about School Council roles and functions, there are sub-questions for each item:

**(a)** Are you **aware** that this is a function of School Council? *(Yes/No)*

**(b)** How **frequently** does this School Council engage in these functions or activities? *(Often/ Sometimes/ Rarely/ Never)*

**(c)** What level of **importance** should be placed on these functions by the School Council? *(High/ Medium/ Low)*

	Are you <b>aware</b> of this role?		How <b>frequently</b> does the School Council engage in this?				What level of <b>importance</b> should be placed on this?		
	<b>(a) Aware</b>		<b>(b) Frequency</b>				<b>(c) Importance</b>		
	Yes	No	Often	Some-times	Rarely	Never	High	Medium	Low
a) Advise/ make recommendations to the School Principal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Advise/ make recommendations to the School Board	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Participate in developing the School Improvement Plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Participate in developing the School Budget	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) Participate in developing the non-Board Financial Plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) Advise about school policies and practices (e.g., dress code, safety, homework, attendance)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g) Organize school-wide fundraising activities and social activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h) Host presentations, information nights, workshops, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i) Support school initiatives with finances, materials or equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j) Share information about School Council issues/ activities with parents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k) Share information about relevant Board/ Ministry issues with parents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l) Obtain parent input about issues under consideration by Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m) Complete a School Statement of Needs (SSON) for consideration in Principal/VP vacancies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n) Represent parents on school committees (e.g. Safe & Caring Schools)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o) Other <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. What were the **top 3** areas of focus or accomplishment for your School Council this school year?

a)

b)

c)



**D. Funding**

10. Which of these funding sources did your School Council access this year? (Check off all that apply.)

- Ministry funds of \$500.00 allocated to each School Council
- TDSB funds of \$1.25 per pupil (min \$300, max \$1000)
- Additional funding for Model Schools for Inner Cities
- Parent Reaching Out Grants (PROG) available by application
- External grants
- Our own Fund Raising efforts

11. Does your School Council have access to sufficient funds to meet their operational needs and requirements?

- Yes
- No

Additional Comments about funding:

**Communications & Relationships**

12. Are you using the School Council email account that is provided by the Board?

- Yes
- No
- Not aware of the email account

13. How often does your School Council use the following communication strategies or methods to inform or share School Council news with the wider school community?

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Not Sure
a) School Council meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) School Council newsletter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Reports within a school newsletter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Information signs or posters displayed on the schools Public Noticeboard (Reg 613; 1.1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) Individual flyers/ notices sent home with students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) School Council website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g) School website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h) Email messages and/or alerts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i) By phone or automated message system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j) Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter...)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k) The School Council Facebook page	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l) Other <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Please respond to the following statements about your School Council communications, relationships and information sharing using the frequency scale provided:

	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Not Sure
a) Parents are actively encouraged to attend School Council meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Parent outreach and engagement strategies help us connect to culturally diverse families	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) The School Council has a positive, respectful working relationship with others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) The Principal provides information and resources to support our work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) The Principal takes the advice/recommendations offered by the School Council into consideration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) A parent delegate attends Ward Council/ Forum meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g) School Council members attend workshops or training sessions provided by TDSB	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h) The School Council is aware of the work of the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i) PIAC provides the School Council with helpful information, support and/or resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j) School Council members attend the School Council Appreciation Event in February hosted by PIAC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k) School Council members and/or parents attend the annual PIAC "Parents Make a Difference" conference in November	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Building Capacity & Next Steps

15. To what extent do you think that your School Council members have access to the resources and information needed to carry out their roles?

- To a great extent
- To a moderate extent
- To a limited extent
- Not at all

16. To what extent do you think that your School Council has a meaningful influence on school planning and decision-making?

- To a great extent
- To a moderate extent
- To a limited extent
- Not at all

17. To maximize the success and effectiveness of your School Council, please indicate what kinds of additional assistance (you may select multiple options) would be most valuable in terms of:

**(a) The types or methods of support preferred?**

- Training/Workshops
- Reference documents (e.g. a handbook, Best Practice write-ups, guidelines, templates...)
- Equipment, materials, resources or supplies
- Financial Support
- Networking Opportunities
- Other

**(b) The specific topics or subject areas where more information is needed?**

- Legislation & Regulations
- Recruitment & Orientation
- Operational Procedures
- Effective Meetings
- Consensus Building & Decision Making
- Contributing to the School Improvement Plan (SIP) process
- Relationship Building
- Communication Strategies
- Engaging Diverse Populations
- Fundraising Policies & Procedures
- Other

**Additional Information**

18. Additional space is provided below for any other thoughts or comments about School Council successes or issues that you'd like to bring to our attention.

***Thank you for your time and for providing us with some very important information. A summary of results and recommendations will be made available to you upon completion!***

**SUBMIT**