

Information Sheet No.36

Parent participation: how does your school rate?

Use the check list below to assess how parent participation in your school rates. The rating '1' would imply the answer 'No' while the rating '5' would imply 'Yes' with 'Sometimes' indicated in between these.

Communication

Inquiries to the school office from community members are handled in a courteous and helpful manner.

The school has a regular form of communication with parents.

The school produces clearly-worded, attractive publications about its policies and programs.

Interpreters and translated materials are used where necessary.

Parents are regularly informed about current issues in education.

The school holds regular sessions where curriculum areas and teaching methods are demonstrated and discussed (using interpreters if necessary).

Meaningful written and verbal reports about student achievement are provided on a regular basis.

Parents and Learning

Parents are encouraged to help improve their children's learning through appropriate family activities.

Parents who are involved in classroom programs are invited to help to shape the future directions of these programs.

Parents have the opportunity to take part in programs which help them understand how children learn and how they can assist the learning process.

Parents and Curriculum Decision-Making

Parents' views are respected and can be seen to influence the work of the school.

The School Board takes seriously its responsibility to ensure that as many parents as possible contribute to school policy-making.

The P&C is a forum for discussing school policy issues and is not expected to confine itself to fundraising.

Parents are represented on school curriculum/education/policy committees.

Parents participate in the evaluation of school policies and programs.

Useful suggestions and new ideas are considered on their merit, regardless of their origin.

Queries about aspects of the school programs or organisation are followed up and feedback provided.

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Parent participation: how does your school rate? (cont.)

School Community Development

Parents are invited to take part in curriculum days.

Parents are included in school teams to attend in-service programs.

The School Board helps to identify issues to be addressed at curriculum days.

Parents act as a resource for the school as appropriate. "

School community members are informed about professional development programs which might be of interest to them. "

School Facilities

There are well-placed signs telling people where various sections of the school are located.

There is a place where parents can meet informally.

There are multi-lingual signs, if needed.

Finance and Administration

The school's financial position is known and understood in the community.

Parents contribute to identifying resource needs.

The School Board has an open, well-publicised budget process.

Administrative arrangements for handling and collecting voluntary contributions, including subject levies ensure that the privacy and dignity of individual parents and students, are maintained.

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