



Alberta School Councils' Association

Results Statements

2016-2019

Mission

To engage and support parental involvement in public education through school councils, and direct parental views and voice into the education system.

Vision

An effective school council in every Alberta school.

Belief

Parents are recognized and respected as knowledgeable, supportive contributors to their children's education, and are provided a variety of opportunities to be authentically engaged in all levels of the education system.

Background

In September of 2016, as stewards of the organization, the Alberta School Councils' Association Board of Directors engaged in a reflective process that will advance opportunities for achievement of organizational Ends through the development of agreed upon statements for ASCA that reflect the Association's current and future priorities..

As an independent not for profit organization focused on supporting parental engagement through school councils, and focused on representing the collective voice of parents from school councils to the provincial education Ministry, and with appreciation for the opportunity to be recognized as a provincial partner in K-12 education through ongoing grant funding from Alberta Education, the ASCA Board is pleased to have been able to identify alignment in many areas of its own organizational goals with the goals of other provincial level education partners, solidifying the opportunity to make the K-12 system stronger for all learners in Alberta.

Desired Result: Stakeholder groups in the public education system seek the Alberta School Councils' Association provincial perspective prior to implementation of new education directions and policy.

Objectives for 2016-19

The ASCA Board will

- *authentically represent the collective voice of parents from member school councils.*
 - **Action:** Through the use of advocacy policy positions;
 - **Action:** Through input from the School Council Engagement Task Force;
 - **Action:** Through dialogue at partner meetings; at meetings with the Minister and ministry staff; at Board appropriate external advisory committee opportunities.

- *provide member based input to draft education legislation and relevant regulations as/if required.*
 - **Action:** Monitor the status of legislation that impacts education and provide feedback to ministry(s) as required/requested
 - **Action:** Monitor the status of the draft regulations relevant to school councils

- *communicate effectively with elected officials and the education community at the provincial and school district levels of governance.*
 - **Action:** Stay current with developments taking place at Ministerial, District and local levels

- *elevate the understanding and value of the Association with provincial stakeholders*
 - **Action:** Develop relationships and share appropriate organizational information according to the work outlined by the Community Engagement and/or other Committees of the Board

Desired Result: School councils are recognized by education stakeholders and community as essential organizational elements in every school that can be knowledgeable valuable contributors to the public education system through the Alberta School Councils' Association.

Objectives for 2016-19

The ASCA Board will

- *encourage school councils to recognize the importance of their advisory role in the K-12 public education system*
 - **Action:** Continue to offer a subsidized annual conference focused on knowledge and skill development for parents involved with their school councils
 - **Action:** Continue to offer registered attendance opportunities to school board trustees, school administrators, school system leaders, and education ministry staff
 - **Action:** Provide access to information for school councils about provincial level initiatives to increase system knowledge of parents
 - **Action:** Accept input and perspectives from parents through school councils on provincial level initiatives

- *recognize parents contributions on school councils*
 - **Action:** Offer a provincial level recognition and awards program
 - **Action:** Encourage Alberta school councils to be as diverse as the students they serve

- *support the development of district-wide umbrella groups allowing for school councils to contribute directly at a district level*
 - **Action:** Promote knowledge and skill development opportunities to system leaders.

- *encourage system leaders to acknowledge the value of effective school councils.*
 - **Action:** Promote the importance of school council development opportunities to partner organizations as part of an overall engagement strategy

Desired Result: Alberta school councils know and understand the influence the Alberta School Councils' Association exercises on their behalf.

Objectives for 2016-19

The ASCA Board will

- *commit to being up to date with respect to ongoing education initiatives and directions being contemplated by Alberta Education and other provincial association partners*
 - **Action:** in the Alberta context, support the Call to Action from the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* that speaks to Education of First Nations, Metis and Inuit learners and their families
 - **Action:** Maintain bi-monthly Board discussions on emerging education issues and current initiatives progress
- *provide members the most up to date provincial developments available with respect to initiatives and directions being undertaken by Alberta Education and other provincial association partners*
 - **Action:** Provide updates from the President
 - **Action:** in collaboration with Alberta Education, organize meets and greet with ASCA Board representatives and school council parent representatives
- *inform members of any advocacy policy positions taken between Annual General Meetings*
 - **Action:** Provide periodic updates as necessary on emergent education issues.
 - **Action:** Present to the assembly of delegates at the Annual General Meeting
 - **Action:** Seek input from parents through member school councils regarding provincial initiative developments and progress
- *provide forums for members to express their perspectives on province-wide K-12 education issues*
 - **Action:** Respect and advance the will of the membership on K-12 education issues identified by delegates at an Annual General meeting
 - **Action:** Represent the will of the membership on K-12 education issues identified through the School Council Engagement Task Force
- *support school councils continuing to be reflected as an essential organizational element in education legislation*
 - **Action:** Advocate to the Minister of Education and all related parties on the value of school councils as advisory to the K-12 education system at every level
 - **Action:** Advocate to the Minister of Education the need to clarify problematic areas of the school council regulation
 - **Action:** Encourage system leaders to work with provincial office on clear district policies for school councils

Desired Result: Alberta School Councils will promote and encourage knowledge and understanding of First Nations, Metis and Inuit issues in education.

Objectives for 2016-19

The ASCA Board will

- *Commit to responding to the Calls for Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendation 10: v, vi)*

We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:

v. Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems.

vi. Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children

- **Action:** Provide members with resources related to the development of First Nations Metis Inuit focus in K-12 curriculum
- **Action:** Encourage Alberta school councils to be as diverse as the students they serve.
- **Action:** Encourage school council based activities that promote understanding of the First Nations, Metis and Inuit culture