



# **SCHOOL COUNCILS 2008-2009 YEAR IN REVIEW**

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## **DATA ANALYSIS SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORTS**

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## **Acknowledgements**

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**Rationale:**

To provide trustees, School Councils, principals and senior administrators with the status of School Council initiatives and a summary of the annual reports received from School Councils.

**Background:**

School Councils complete an annual report and submit it to the Board. Highlights of each School Council’s report are also shared with the school’s local community. Annual reports also include a year-end financial statement. The annual reports are summarized and reported to the Board, senior staff, principals and School Councils. The summary is posted on the School Council pages of the Board’s website.

**Summary of School Council Annual Reports**

A total of 140 School Council reports were summarized: 120 Elementary and 20 Secondary. The response rate for Elementary schools was 75% and for Secondary schools it was 65%. Table 1 summarizes the number of responses received from each Community Education Center (CEC) and the respective response rates. Table 2 summarizes the number of responses from the Secondary panel and the total response rate.

**Table 1**

<b>Elementary</b>		
<b>CEC</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Response Rate</b>
Central	31	76%
East	37	82%
North	24	73%
West	28	68%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>75%</b>

**Table 2**

<b>Secondary</b>	
<b>Count</b>	<b>Response Rate</b>
20	65%

The following sections summarize the information provided by School Councils in response to the questions asked in the annual report template. Each question is analyzed and summarized in relation to only those School Councils that responded to each particular question. The number of participants (n) is provided for each question.

**QUESTION 1: During your last election process, parent members of council were selected by:**

Across both panels, the majority of parent members of School Councils were selected by **acclamation**:

	Elementary (n=118)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Acclamation	83	70%	14	70%
Voting	33	28%	6	30%
Both	2	2%	0	0%

**QUESTION 2a: How many parent members did your School Council have this past year?**

The responses to this question from Elementary School Councils ranged from 2 to 35 parent members with an average Council having 13 members. The responses from Secondary School Councils ranged from 4 to 26 with a mean value of 13.

Number of Parent Members	Elementary (n= 119)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1-5	6	5%	2	10%
6-10	39	33%	7	35%
11-15	44	37%	6	30%
16-20	15	13%	3	15%
21+	15	13%	2	10%

**QUESTION 2b: How many of those members were new to the School Council?**

The responses to this question from Elementary School Councils ranged from 0 to 15 new members with a mean value of 4. The responses from Secondary School Councils ranged from 0 to 14 with a mean value of 4.

Number of New Parent Members	Elementary (n= 119)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
0	4	3%	2	10%
1-2	30	25%	8	40%
3-5	57	48%	4	20%
6-10	21	18%	5	25%
11+	7	6%	1	5%

## Decision-Making

**QUESTION 3a: To what extent has your School Council had opportunities to provide input into the School Plan for Continuous Improvement during the past school year?**

Across both panels, a majority of Elementary School Councils and Secondary School Councils provided input into the SPCI during the 2008-2009 year. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils had opportunities to provide input where '1' indicates not at all and '5' indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n= 117)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	5	4%	2	10
2	18	15%	1	5
3	30	26%	3	15
4	49	42%	8	40
5 (A Great Extent)	15	13%	6	30

**QUESTION 3b: If yes, in what ways has your School Council been involved with providing input into the Plan?**

In both panels, the most selected method of input into the SPCI was direct **collaboration with school administrators** (90% of Elementary and 83% of Secondary). As well, more than half of both Elementary and Secondary School Councils indicated that they had **sent feedback to school administrators** (56% of Elementary and 61% of Secondary).

	Elementary (n= 108)		Secondary (n= 18)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Collaboration with school administrator (i.e. principal, vice-principal)	97	90%	15	83%
Discussion of SPCI content with teaching staff	45	42%	8	44%
Responded to survey or questionnaire	33	31%	6	33%
Committee directly involved in drafting or updating SPCI	22	20%	7	39%
Sent feedback to school administration	60	56%	11	61%
Other	11	10%	3	17%

\* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

**QUESTION 3c: To what extent do your goals and priorities align with the School Plan for Continuous Improvement?**

Across both panels, the vast majority of School Councils are aligning their goals and priorities with the School Plan for Continuous Improvement. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils were aligning their goals and priorities with their SPCI where '1' indicates not at all and '5' indicates to a great extent.

	<b>Elementary (n= 118)</b>		<b>Secondary (n= 17)</b>	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	1	1%	0	0%
2	4	3%	0	0%
3	24	20%	3	18%
4	50	42%	4	24%
5 (A Great Extent)	39	33%	10	59%

**QUESTION 3d: In what ways has your School Council supported the implementation of priorities and goals set out in the School Plan for Continuous Improvement?**

**Curriculum Implementation**

A large majority of School Councils from both panels indicated that they had supported the implementation of SPCI priorities and goals through encouraging and supporting **parental engagement** (96% of Elementary and 95% of Secondary Councils). Most Elementary School Councils also indicated that they had supported the SPCI through **volunteers in the school** (93%).

Curriculum Implementation	Elementary (n= 120)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<b>Parental engagement</b> through communication and events (e.g., meet the teacher, Welcome to Kindergarten, technology in the classroom, guest speakers, Literacy Night, Curriculum Night, Snuggle-up-and-Read, school or council website, newsletter, teachers speaking at SC)	115	96%	19	95%
<b>Support for the arts</b> (e.g., musical presentations, Junior Arts Night, dance program, spotlight, microphones, risers, musical instruments, sound systems)	94	78%	8	40%
<b>Volunteers in the school</b> (e.g., guided reading, book clubs, in library, field trips)	112	93%	5	25%
<b>Financial support for literacy</b> (e.g., books, Silver Birch & Red Maple, boys' literacy initiatives, parent/family literacy corner, literacy resource room, classroom libraries, book clubs)	94	78%	3	15%
<b>Financial support for math and science</b> (e.g., math manipulatives, Scientist in the School, science equipment, microscopes, math cart)	70	58%	1	5%
<b>Financial support for technology resources</b> (e.g., media literacy, SmartBoards, computers, cost sharing, AV equipment)	96	80%	4	20%
<b>Financial support for student health and welfare</b> (e.g., nutrition and food programs, Healthy Schools, school safety programs, gym/sports equipment, swimming program)	95	79%	3	15%
<b>Financial support for other things</b> (e.g., unspecified classroom resources, supply teachers, field trips, social science materials, student recognition programs, character education)	104	87%	6	30%
<b>None</b>	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Other</b>	15	13%	5	25%

\* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

## Parent, Family and Community Engagement

The most selected response for both panels indicates that School Councils **kept parents and the community informed** of school events as a means of supporting the Parent, Family and Community Engagement goals and priorities in their school's Plan for Continuous Improvement (93% of Elementary and 90% of Secondary Councils). A large majority of Elementary School Councils (90%) also used **workshops, presentations and/or social events** to achieve this support. The percentage of Secondary School Councils who indicated the same was much lower (65%).

Parent, Family and Community Engagement	Elementary (n=120)		Secondary (n=20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<b>Hosted or supported workshops, presentations, and/or social events</b> (e.g., Parents as Partners, guest speakers, Literacy Night, Numeracy Night, parenting classes community breakfast, barbeques, Fun Fairs, Triple P, concerts, cultural holiday celebrations)	108	90%	13	65%
<b>Funded initiatives and resources for school</b> (e.g., staff websites, playground, take-home resources, PRO grant)	94	78%	6	30%
<b>Kept parents and community informed</b> (e.g., flyers, school and council newsletters, electronic bulletins, email, council meetings)	112	93%	18	90%
<b>Parent and SC involvement in school policies and practices</b> (e.g., involvement in cell-phone policy, dress code, attendance policy, homework policy, student success initiatives)	64	53%	13	65%
<b>Requested input from parents</b> (e.g., surveys, focus groups, forums, at council meetings)	95	79%	13	65%
<b>Community partnerships</b> (e.g., Catholic schools, feeder schools, child services organizations, Toastmasters)	36	30%	5	25%
<b>Community and charity work</b> (e.g., food drives, community members in need, food programs for students, fundraising)	83	69%	5	25%
<b>Recruitment of more parents for School Council</b> (e.g., invitations to meetings, to make their opinions heard)	105	88%	17	85%
<b>Communication Improvements</b> (e.g., with administration and staff, forums, common language, parent survey, more input)	63	53%	10	50%
<b>Language support for parents</b> (e.g., translation, dual language books)	36	30%	4	20%
<b>None</b>	2	2%	0	0%
<b>Other</b>	8	7%	3	15%

\* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.



## School and Workplace Climate

A majority of Elementary School Councils indicated that they had supported the School and Workplace Climate goals of their SPCI through **promoting healthy living** (86%), **supporting and appreciating school staff** (86%), **school spirit and student social events** (85%) and **financial support** (85%). The most popular responses from Secondary School Councils were **school safety efforts** and **school spirit and student social events** though both were selected by only half of the responding Councils.

School and Workplace Climate	Elementary (n= 118)		Secondary (n= 18)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<b>Environmental initiatives and “greening”</b> (e.g., Eco-League, tree planting, beautification, outdoor classroom)	72	61%	3	17%
<b>School safety efforts</b> (e.g., traffic issues, yard safety and supervision, Restorative Approaches, reviewed school Code of Conduct, anti-bullying initiatives)	85	72%	9	50%
<b>School spirit and student social events</b> (e.g., lunches, barbeques, fun fundraising activities, yearbook, spirit days, assemblies, student recognition, field trips, extracurriculars)	100	85%	9	50%
<b>Promoted healthy living to students</b> (e.g., funded purchase of sports equipment, funded athletic programs, Healthy Schools, hot lunch programs, healthy snacks, lice screening, Breakfast Program)	101	86%	4	22%
<b>Support and appreciation of staff</b> (e.g., appreciation events, funding for classrooms)	102	86%	6	33%
<b>Character education</b> (e.g., Character Matters initiative, Caught you Caring)	45	38%	2	11%
<b>Improvements to school grounds</b> (e.g., improved signage, yard enhancement, carpeting, playground)	72	61%	2	11%
<b>Financial support for resources and programs</b> (e.g., technology, computers, fans, AV equipment, defibrillator, arts program, microwaves, Battle of the Books, CPR training)	100	85%	5	28%
<b>None</b>	1	1%	2	11%
<b>Other</b>	5	4%	1	6%

\* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

**QUESTION 4: Identify documents developed or revised by your School Council this year:**

The document that School Councils most commonly developed or revised in the past year was their **School Plan for Continuous Improvement** and related priorities (50% of Elementary and 75% of Secondary). As well, 53% of Elementary School Councils indicated that they developed or revised documents related their **goals and objectives**.

	Elementary (n= 104)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Constitution / By-Laws	45	43%	6	30%
School Profile	25	24%	3	15%
School Plan for Continuous Improvement / Set of Priorities	52	50%	15	75%
Administrator Profile	40	39%	9	45%
Dress Code	32	31%	7	35%
Code of Behaviour	26	25%	2	10%
Council Website	51	49%	8	40%
Homework Policy	26	25%	0	0%
School Council goals and objectives	55	53%	6	30%
School Council orientation package	20	19%	1	5%
Parent handbook	15	14%	2	10%
Other	17	16%	4	20%

\* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

Common responses in the ‘Other’ category include School Councils developing or revising school safety documents and welcome packages for new families.

**Communication**

**QUESTION 5a: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in activities to support home-school communication with parents/families?**

The vast majority of Elementary and Secondary School Councils were engaged in activities to support home-school communication with parents/families. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils were engaged in activities to support home-school communication with parents/families where ‘1’ indicates not at all and ‘5’ indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n=120)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	3	3%	1	5%
2	10	8%	1	5%
3	29	24%	7	35%
4	49	41%	6	30%
5 (A Great Extent)	29	24%	5	25%

**QUESTION 5b: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in providing opportunities for parents/families to provide input and feedback?**

The vast majority of Elementary School Councils and Secondary School Councils were engaged in providing opportunities for parents and families to provide input and feedback. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils are engaged in providing opportunities for parents/families to provide input and feedback where ‘1’ indicates not at all and ‘5’ indicates to a great extent.

	<b>Elementary (n= 120)</b>		<b>Secondary (n= 20)</b>	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	2	2%	0	0%
2	10	8%	1	5%
3	29	24%	8	40%
4	51	43%	6	30%
5 (A Great Extent)	28	23%	5	25%

**QUESTION 5c: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in effectively addressing feedback from parents/families?**

The majority of Elementary and Secondary School Councils were engaged in effectively addressing feedback from parents and families. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils were engaged in effectively addressing feedback from parents/families where ‘1’ indicates not at all and ‘5’ indicates to a great extent.

	<b>Elementary (n= 118)</b>		<b>Secondary (n= 20)</b>	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	6	5%	0	0%
2	10	9%	2	10%
3	30	25%	6	30%
4	45	38%	6	30%
5 (A Great Extent)	27	23%	6	30%

**QUESTION 5d: How has the School Council engaged parents/families and the school community to obtain feedback?**

The most common method for seeking feedback from parents utilized by School Councils in both panels was the allotment of **time during Council meetings** (82% of Elementary and 90% of Secondary). Also fairly common in both panels was the maintenance of an available **Council email** (67% of Elementary and 65% of Secondary).

	Elementary (n= 119)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Surveys	49	41%	5	25%
Memberships on sub-committees	82	69%	7	35%
Focus groups	21	18%	2	10%
Coffee meetings	33	28%	1	5%
Town hall	8	7%	1	5%
Time during Council meetings	98	82%	18	90%
Suggestion / comment forms	37	31%	3	15%
Council email available	80	67%	13	65%
Other	22	19%	6	30%

\* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

Notable ‘Other’ responses indicated by School Councils included website forms and an SC voicemail account available for parents to call.

**QUESTION 5e: In what areas have families been asked to provide input or feedback (e.g., fieldtrip planning, fundraising priorities)?**

A majority of Elementary School Councils indicated that they sought feedback from families relating to **fundraising** (84%), **School Council events** (77%), and **parental involvement and volunteering** (75%). Secondary School Councils focused on **School Council events** (75%) and **how best to communicate with parents** (55%).

	Elementary (n=116)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Fundraising	97	84%	7	35%
School Council events	89	77%	15	75%
School safety	41	35%	4	20%
School policies (e.g., SPCI, dress code)	32	28%	9	45%
Field trips	38	33%	2	10%
School site improvements	44	38%	5	25%
Parental involvement and volunteering	87	75%	10	50%
How best to communicate with parents	51	44%	11	55%
Other	10	9%	3	15%

\* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

## Learning at Home

**QUESTION 6a: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in activities to support parents with their children’s learning at home?**

The majority of Elementary School Councils affirmed that they had been engaged in activities to support parents with their children’s learning at home. Secondary School Councils were fairly evenly distributed as to whether they were engaged in this manner or not. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils were engaged in activities to support parents with their children’s learning at home where ‘1’ indicates not at all and ‘5’ indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n=120)		Secondary (n=20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	15	13%	8	44%
2	18	15%	2	11%
3	46	38%	2	11%
4	31	26%	6	33%
5 (A Great Extent)	10	8%	0	0%

**QUESTION 6b: If yes, how has the School Council assisted parents in supporting their children’s learning at home? Please check all that apply.**

The most common method used by Elementary School Councils to assist parents was **keeping parents informed of school events and policies** (79%). More than half of responding Elementary Councils also selected **family activity events** (53%) and **guest speakers** (52%). Only about half of Secondary School Councils responded to this question though a majority of those that did noted their involvement with **keeping parents informed of school events and policies** (82%) and **workshops** (73%).

	Elementary (n=101)		Secondary (n= 11)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Guest speakers	52	52%	7	64%
Book exchange programs	36	36%	0	0%
Tip sheets for parents	30	30%	1	9%
Forums for exchanging best practices	14	14%	4	36%
Workshops (e.g., reading at home, Pathways and course selection)	31	31%	8	73%
Family activity events (e.g., Snuggle-up-and-Read)	53	53%	0	0%
Access to learning resources	44	44%	2	18%
Keeping parents informed of school events and policies	80	79%	9	82%
Other	14	14%	0	0%

\* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

## Collaboration with the Community

**QUESTION 7a: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in activities to collaborate with the community to enhance student learning?**

The majority of Elementary School Councils and Secondary School Councils affirmed they had been engaged in activities to collaborate with the community to enhance student learning. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils were engaged in activities to collaborate with the community to enhance student learning where '1' indicates not at all and '5' indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n=113)		Secondary (n=19)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	7	6%	6	32%
2	12	11%	1	5%
3	33	29%	6	32%
4	45	40%	6	32%
5 (A Great Extent)	16	14%	0	0%

**QUESTION 7b: If yes, please describe the community partnerships / collaboration in which your School Council has been engaged. Please check all that apply.**

A large majority of Elementary School Councils indicated that they had been engaged in collaboration with the community through **fundraising** (95%) while approximately three-quarters of respondents also noted support for **hot lunch programs** (74%). Secondary School Councils tended to be engaged through providing **guest speakers** on community issues (64%). Also of note is the relatively low response rate from Secondary School Councils for this question (70%).

	Elementary (n=113)		Secondary (n= 14)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Breakfast programs	21	19%	2	14%
Milk programs	48	43%	0	0%
Hot lunch programs	84	74%	0	0%
Sportswear	36	32%	1	7%
Guest speakers	60	53%	9	64%
Fundraising	107	95%	3	21%
Collaborative community events/charities	63	56%	4	29%
Collaborating with community agencies to support students in the school	34	30%	2	14%
Cultural diversity outreach	27	24%	4	29%
Workshops and events are open to the community	46	41%	7	50%
Association with local businesses and organizations	52	46%	3	21%
Other	4	4%	2	14%

\* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

**QUESTION 7c: Which of these activities has your School Council undertaken in order to engage the community in supporting the cultural diversity of your school community?**

The activity to support cultural diversity selected most frequently by both Elementary and Secondary School Councils was an effort to **respect religious holidays when planning events** (83% of Elementary and 77% of Secondary). Approximately half of the responding Councils also indicated **efforts to ensure diverse representation on their SC** (46% of Elementary and 59% of Secondary).

	Elementary (n= 110)		Secondary (n= 17)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Multicultural (i.e. culturally sensitive) School Events	38	35%	4	24%
Reducing Language Barriers (e.g. translations, interpreters, dual language books)	33	30%	4	24%
Respect religious holidays when planning events	91	83%	13	77%
Direct resources & funding to supporting cultural diversity	22	20%	1	6%
Efforts to ensure diverse representation on SC	50	46%	10	59%
None	13	12%	4	24%
Other	7	6%	0	0%

\* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

## Parenting

**QUESTION 8a: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in activities to support parents and families with parenting skills? (i.e., assisting families with strategies to create an environment at home that supports children’s learning)**

As illustrated in the table below, the extent to which both Elementary and Secondary School Councils have been involved in supporting parents and families with parenting skills varies greatly. Responses from both panels are distributed between “Not At All” (1) and “A Great Extent” (5).

	Elementary (n= 118)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	30	25%	4	20%
2	21	18%	1	5%
3	26	22%	5	25%
4	26	22%	9	45%
5 (A Great Extent)	15	13%	1	5%

**QUESTION 8b: If yes, how has the School Council assisted families with strategies to create an environment that supports children’s learning?**

Due to the responses to the previous question, 8a, the response rate for this question is low in both panels with participation from only 71% of Elementary School Councils and 75% of Secondary School Councils. The most popular response from those who did answer this question in both panels was providing **guest speakers** to discuss important issues (61% of Elementary and 73% of Secondary).

	Elementary (n= 85)		Secondary (n= 15)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Guest speakers (e.g., cyber bullying , nutrition, parenting skills)	52	61%	11	73%
Information evenings and presentations (e.g., Triple P, Tribes, transitions, homework)	41	48%	8	53%
Access to parenting resources	50	59%	6	40%
Other	16	19%	2	13%

\* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

**Volunteering**

**QUESTION 9a: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in activities to support volunteering?**

A large majority of Elementary School Councils affirmed that they had been engaged in activities to support volunteering. The responses for Secondary Councils were more varied with a slight inclination towards not being involved in this area. The table below show the extent to which School Councils are engaged in activities to support volunteering where ‘1’ indicates not at all and ‘5’ indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n= 113)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	3	3%	8	40%
2	6	5%	2	10%
3	20	18%	3	15%
4	42	37%	3	15%
5 (A Great Extent)	42	37%	4	20%



**QUESTION 9b: If yes, how has the School Council supported volunteering? Please check all that apply.**

The most commonly indicated methods utilized by Elementary School Councils to support volunteerism in their schools were **recruitment and promotion of volunteers** (90%) and **modeling by example** (89%). In the previous question, 9a, many Secondary School Councils indicated a lack of involvement in promoting volunteerism at their school resulting in a relatively low response rate for this question (60%). Two-thirds (67%) of Secondary Councils who did respond indicated their involvement with **modeling by example** and **recruitment and promotion of volunteers**.

	Elementary (n= 115)		Secondary (n= 12)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Modeling by example	102	89%	8	67%
Recruitment and promotion of volunteers	103	90%	8	67%
Adapting volunteer handbook provided by the Board to the needs of your school	12	10%	1	8%
Assisting with training volunteers	45	39%	0	0%
Hosting a volunteer appreciation tea, lunch or other event	60	52%	1	8%
Community partnerships	37	32%	3	25%
Other	10	9%	2	17%

\* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

**QUESTION 10: Identify the activities below in which the council was successfully engaged this year?**

A large majority of Elementary School Councils indicated successes in **fundraising** (98%), **purchasing school resources** (93%), **Parental/Community Support of School Activities/Programs** (87%) and **communication** (86%). The most common response from Secondary Councils was success related to **Consultation/Input into School Policy Development/Review** (90%). Similar to their Elementary counterparts, success was also widely noted in **Parental/Community Support of School Activities/Programs** (85%) and **communication** (80%).

	Elementary (n=120)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<b>Support of Literacy Initiatives</b> (e.g., workshops; primary leveled readers; reading circle; homework club; math/science programs; snuggle up and read; literacy café)	85	71%	4	20%
<b>Parental/Community Support of School Activities/Programs</b> (e.g., career fair; curriculum night; meet the teacher; safety awareness; safe arrivals program; parenting workshops; Character Matters initiatives; environment program; graduation; assemblies, engaging parents of diverse backgrounds, translators for Parent Info Night)	104	87%	17	85%
<b>Communication</b> (e.g., school needs; community information; monthly newsletters; website content)	103	86%	16	80%
<b>Consultation/Input into School Policy Development/Review</b> (e.g., dress code; code of behaviour; head lice policy; school council constitution; SPCI; tech review; uniform survey)	76	63%	18	90%
<b>Fundraising</b> (e.g., achieved goals; magazine sales; pizza lunches; fun fair; movie night; popcorn Fridays; spring/fall fling; school BBQ; new volunteers; what/how to spend money)	117	98%	4	20%
<b>Purchase of School Resources</b> (e.g., computers; media; robotics; teachers' wish list)	111	93%	4	20%
<b>School Site Improvements</b> (e.g., repair/replace playground equipment; beautification; outdoor classroom)	79	66%	7	35%
<b>Collaboration/Recognition of School Council</b> (e.g., creation of School Council; surveys; meeting format; identifying goals and priorities; networking)	86	72%	12	60%
<b>Health/Wellness Activities</b> (e.g., hot lunch, milk, breakfast, nutrition and/or snack programs; health & wellness/nutrition committees)	89	74%	1	5%
<b>Promoting Community Partnerships</b> (e.g., Parks & Recreation; Health Services; Community events)	48	40%	5	25%
<b>Improvement in Fine Arts Programs</b> (e.g., Music; Visual Arts)	67	56%	3	15%
<b>Increasing Attendance/Participation in School Council</b> (e.g., recruiting new volunteers; positive, productive meetings)	94	78%	15	75%
<b>Development/Launch/Improvement of School Council Website</b>	48	40%	5	25%
<b>Transition to Secondary</b> (e.g., working with feeder schools; attending Grade 8/9 meetings; transition planning; teen support groups)	22	18%	10	50%
<b>Other</b>	10	8%	2	10%

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**QUESTION 11: Identify the activities below which the council found challenging this year.**

The challenge identified most by both Elementary and Secondary School Councils was **attracting/maintaining SC members and attendance** (71% and 59% respectively). **Volunteerism** was also commonly cited by Elementary School Councils (60%).

	Elementary (n=109)		Secondary (n=17)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<b>Attracting/Maintaining SC Members and Attendance</b> (e.g., no active involvement on subcommittees; difficult getting feedback from parents at Focus Group meetings; goal setting early in year with new members; difficulty increasing parental involvement; attendance at meetings; focusing SC meeting on Agenda & keeping within time limits, ensuring cultural diverse representation on SC, keeping proper documentation, interpersonal issues, conflict, succession planning, language issues)	77	71%	10	59%
<b>Maintaining or Lack of Volunteers</b> (e.g., difficulty engaging volunteers; lack of active volunteer participation)	65	60%	3	18%
<b>Fundraising or Resource Challenges</b> (e.g., lack of staff/parental support; opposition to initiatives; poor participation; no volunteers for fundraising events; allocation of funds)	42	39%	2	12%
<b>Communication/Collaboration</b> (e.g., to parents; to Board; to community; ESL issues; between council and parents; between councils; coming to understand the roles of administrators, parents, and SC; open networking between councils; starting SC newsletter; understanding how council contributes to student life; consistency in communication protocols; email addresses, website issues)	39	36%	2	12%
<b>Safety Matters</b> (e.g., safe walking community; parking safety; snow removal policy; traffic problems; safety and public access to school; schoolyard safety/bullying)	31	28%	0	0%
<b>School Site Improvements</b> (e.g., improvements to playground/equipment)	22	20%	2	12%
<b>Input into Policy Reviews</b> (e.g., homework policy; SPCI issues- not enough discussion; lack of focus/accountability in SPCI)	25	23%	1	6%
<b>Other</b>	12	11%	6	35%

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## Building System Capacity

**QUESTION 12: Identify below additional support or training your council would like to receive in the next school year?**

The most commonly indicated areas for which School Councils requested additional support were **information regarding speakers, programs & available resources** (70% of Elementary and 59% of Secondary) and **collaboration** with other School Councils and groups (60% of Elementary and 65% of Secondary). As seen in previous questions, **increasing parent volunteer involvement** was an often cited issue for Elementary Schools (61%).

	Elementary (n=119)		Secondary (n=17)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<b>Collaboration</b> (e.g., opportunity to collaborate, network or share and interact with other SC (between all schools & between local family of schools); sharing best practices (e.g. successful initiatives at other schools would provide good insight, best parent programs, best fundraiser); more support for “family of schools” initiatives; partnering with high school councils; communication; building community partnerships)	71	60%	11	65%
<b>Opportunity (&amp; Financial Support) to Attend School Council/Board Forums, Conferences, Workshops on Topics of Interest</b> (e.g., attendance at Quest; council input into P.D. topics; strategies to improve EQAO results; plan evening sessions; evaluation/report cards; student transition)	57	48%	6	35%
<b>Training/Information &amp; Strategies for Increasing Effectiveness of School Councils</b> (e.g., training on how to support SPCI goals & priorities; P.D. on what and how SC should be involved in; P.D. to help SC understand school programs; how to expand involvement/support in school; P.D. re: completing SC annual/treasurer’s reports; maintain consistent attendance; orientation for new members; managing meetings; IT training)	64	54%	5	29%
<b>Provide Information Regarding Speakers, Programs &amp; Resources Available</b> (e.g., anti-bullying; how to help our children; internet safety; provide information about available programs and resources such as <i>Character Matters, Restorative Approaches</i> )	83	70%	10	59%
<b>Guidance on How to Recruit New School Council Members</b> (e.g., parents; teachers; volunteer trainer)	74	62%	6	35%
<b>Guidance on How to Involve Parents of Various Religious, Language and Cultural Backgrounds</b> (e.g., translations of documents; interpreters, ESL challenges; multicultural sensitivity training)	60	50%	4	24%
<b>Training in Fundraising and Planning Fundraisers</b> (e.g., fundraising consultant (how to negotiate, with whom, where and when; other ideas for fundraising; do’s and don’ts; continued development & clarity around fundraising)	33	28%	1	6%
<b>Guidance on How to Increase Parent Volunteer Involvement</b> (e.g., more volunteer recognition events, training for parent volunteers to support early literacy, help with PRO grant proposals)	72	61%	3	18%
<b>Additional Funding</b> (e.g., IT resources-laptops; hardware; software; resources for libraries; textbook; tools for teachers to implement Living School initiatives; resources to assist with developing Parenting programs)	67	56%	4	24%
<b>EcoSchool Initiatives</b> (e.g., Ontario EcoSchools Program certification, tips on supporting environmental programs in the school )	65	55%	4	24%
<b>Other</b>	5	4%	1	6%

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## School / Board Delivery of Service

**QUESTION 13: In which area(s) does your School Council feel your school has shown improvement during this school year?**

The two most cited school improvements noted by School Councils dealt with improving lines of communication. **Communication with parents** was noted by 62% of Elementary Councils and 80% of Secondary while improved **communication with the School Council** was indicated by 67% of Elementary and 65% of Secondary School Councils.

	Elementary (n=120)		Secondary (n=20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<b>Communication with parents</b> (e.g., new voicemail, Synervice, improved/new website, improved/new newsletter, new school sign)	74	62%	16	80%
<b>Communication with the School Council</b> (e.g., administrator availability, administrator or teacher attendance at SC meetings, more information at SC meetings)	80	67%	13	65%
<b>Literacy initiatives</b> (e.g., guided reading, literacy blocks, boys' literacy initiatives, Literacy through the Arts, Literacy through Technology, summer reading programs)	70	58%	5	25%
<b>Numeracy initiatives</b> (e.g., math contests, clubs)	22	18%	2	10%
<b>Other school initiatives</b> (e.g., Healthy Schools, Eco-Schools, Technology)	70	58%	5	25%
<b>Extracurricular activities</b> (e.g., the arts - school musicals, animation programs; athletics - team performance, increased participation; others - general improvements, increased participation, yearbook)	65	54%	9	45%
<b>Resources</b> (e.g., more/better sports equipment, technology, musical instruments, playground equipment, other school materials)	79	66%	6	30%
<b>Community partnerships</b> (e.g., local business, community organizations, other schools)	43	36%	8	40%
<b>Encouraging parental involvement and engagement</b> (e.g., at events, in SC, volunteerism)	56	47%	8	40%
<b>Student behavior and discipline</b> (e.g., school spirit, anti-bullying initiatives, character education, RAYS)	43	36%	6	30%
<b>Cultural inclusivity</b> (e.g., events, increased language support)	32	27%	4	20%
<b>Assessment indicators</b> (e.g., literacy scores, numeracy scores, gender gap, graduation rate)	32	27%	6	30%
<b>Support for struggling students</b> (e.g., Intensive Support, support for at-risk learners, credit recover, case management)	39	33%	9	45%
<b>Recognition</b> (e.g., volunteers, student achievement, school staff)	58	48%	8	40%
<b>Did not notice improvement</b>	2	2%	0	0%
<b>Other</b>	3	3%	2	10%

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**QUESTION 14: In which area(s) does your School Council feel your Board has shown improvement during this school year?**

As can be seen in the table below, responses were distributed across many different areas in which the Board has shown improvement over the past year.

	<b>Elementary (n=116)</b>		<b>Secondary (n=17)</b>	
	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Keeping parents and School Council informed</b> (e.g., email communication, updates on Board meetings, newsletter, information from ministry through Board)	55	47%	9	53%
<b>Listening and responding to feedback from parents and School Councils</b> (e.g., open to discussion, quick responses, town hall meetings on new facilities, sensitivity to concerns of parents)	33	28%	6	35%
<b>School Council forums and workshops</b> (e.g., opportunity for networking, communication, professional learning, sharing ideas)	70	60%	8	47%
<b>Funding for resources and initiatives</b> (e.g., cost sharing for technology, playground, arts and sports, community classroom, healthy schools)	54	47%	4	24%
<b>Support for volunteers and parental engagement</b> (e.g., training on recruiting volunteers, training and workshops for SC, funding, support of PRO Grant application)	39	34%	5	29%
<b>Focus on literacy</b> (e.g., programming, funding, professional development, literacy collaborative, EQAO results)	41	35%	6	35%
<b>Presence and helpfulness of Board personnel</b> (e.g., Superintendents, Plant Services, trustees, Community Resource Facilitators, attended SC meetings, events, or were generally available)	32	28%	4	24%
<b>Support for safe schools initiatives</b> (e.g., bullying workshops, cyber-bullying, restorative approaches, RAYS)	28	24%	4	24%
<b>Supporting community partnerships</b> (e.g., theater groups, community organizations, communication with town or city)	7	6%	1	6%
<b>Professional development for teachers</b> (e.g., QUEST, training with technology, providing relief time for staff to attend PD)	37	32%	5	29%
<b>General support and recognition</b> (e.g., SC Awards, consistency, generally supportive, recognizing needs and wants of school)	11	10%	3	18%
<b>Did not notice improvement</b>	16	14%	4	24%
<b>Other</b>	7	6%	3	18%

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**QUESTION 15: In which area(s) does your School Council feel your school needs improvement?**

The most commonly indicated areas of school improvement need deal with parental involvement in school activities. **School Council membership** was selected by 56% of Elementary and 61% of responding Secondary School Councils. **Parent involvement** in general was selected by 58% of Elementary and 33% of Secondary School Councils.

	Elementary (n=116)		Secondary (n=18)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<b>Academic performance indicators</b> (e.g., EQAO results, OSSLT results, graduation rates, gender gap)	35	30%	4	22%
<b>Communication</b> (e.g., better communication, more information on website, updated information, open communication, more frequent and timely communication)	48	41%	3	17%
<b>More participation and visibility of teachers and principals</b> (e.g., around the school, at events, at Council meetings)	28	24%	0	0%
<b>School Council membership</b> (e.g., increase numbers, attendance, participation)	65	56%	11	61%
<b>More resources</b> (e.g., computers, other technology, textbooks, teaching supplies)	54	47%	3	17%
<b>Support of literacy initiatives</b> (e.g., EQAO performance, differentiated instruction)	28	24%	1	6%
<b>Parent involvement</b> (e.g., greater parent engagement in student learning, increased volunteerism, increased attendance at events)	67	58%	6	33%
<b>Community engagement</b> (e.g., community partnerships)	40	35%	2	11%
<b>School spirit and climate</b>	26	22%	0	0%
<b>Extra-curricular activities &amp; sport teams</b> (e.g., music, arts, chess clubs, media club, drama)	44	38%	0	0%
<b>Cultural proficiency</b> (e.g., language supports, more diversity involvement, multicultural awareness, religious celebrations)	26	22%	0	0%
<b>Collaboration between SC and school policy / planning</b> (e.g., input into SPCI, input into other policies)	38	33%	0	0%
<b>School safety</b> (e.g., safety concerns, respectful behaviour, anti-bullying, safe-inclusive & supportive environment, restorative practices)	29	25%	0	0%
<b>Site improvements</b> (e.g., playgrounds, beautification, greening, cleanliness)	42	36%	2	11%
<b>No suggestions</b>	4	3%	4	22%
<b>Other</b>	12	10%	2	11%

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**QUESTION 16: In which area(s) does your School Council feel your Board needs improvement?**

None of the options provided for this question received overwhelming response. Three areas for Board improvement were noted by 53% of Elementary School Councils: **increase support and funding of programs at schools, engaging our parent community and funding improvements**. The most common response from Secondary Schools was also **funding improvements** (44%).

	Elementary (n=116)		Secondary (n=16)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<b>Communication</b> (e.g., more information, more timely, more direction at beginning of year, send council specific information directly to chair, board contact required, summary of board meetings, plain language, board website more friendly)	50	43%	6	38%
<b>Board participation and involvement</b> (e.g., attend random SC meetings, visibility, being more open and approachable)	52	45%	4	25%
<b>Increase support and funding of programs at school</b> (e.g., resources purchases, more equitable distribution, support for PRO Grant applications)	61	53%	5	31%
<b>Support and training for SC members</b> (e.g., leadership training, increasing effectiveness, how to be involved in SPCI, how to recruit new members/volunteers, more timely and relative materials, more direction at beginning of year)	57	49%	6	38%
<b>Increased IT support</b> (e.g., tech support for website, support for new equipment, user support)	45	39%	4	25%
<b>Engaging our parent community</b> (e.g., provide training in engaging parents, proactive involvement in community, availability of guest speakers)	61	53%	5	31%
<b>Greater facilitation of collaboration among School Councils</b> (e.g., more forums, highlights of best practices, ideas on fundraising, events and other initiatives)	42	36%	2	13%
<b>Funding Improvements</b> (e.g., physical resources, extracurricular support, mental health financing, staffing support)	61	53%	7	44%
<b>Professional development opportunities for teachers</b> (e.g., more variety, funding or supports, greater availability)	27	23%	0	0%
<b>Site maintenance and improvements</b> (e.g., playgrounds, beautification, greening, cleanliness)	56	48%	3	19%
<b>No suggestions</b>	2	2%	0	0%
<b>Other</b>	13	11%	4	25%

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