



SCHOOL COUNCILS 2010-2011 YEAR IN REVIEW

DATA ANALYSIS SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORTS

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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.

Summary of School Council Annual Reports

School Councils representing 144 schools completed the Annual Report and their responses are summarized in this review. Annual Reports from 126 Elementary School Councils and 18 Secondary School Councils were received representing 77% of Elementary schools and 58% of Secondary schools. The table below summarizes the number of responses received from each Community Education Center (CEC) area and the respective response rates.

CEC	Count	Response Rate
North	39	85%
Central	37	74%
East	33	67%
West	35	70%
Total	144	74%

The following sections summarize the information provided by School Councils in response to the questions asked in the annual report template.

Which of the following activities was your School Council involved in this past year?

1. Activities to Support Parent, Family and Community Engagement

In their efforts to support parent, family and community engagement, a large majority of School Councils noted that they had **kept parents and the community informed, hosted or supported workshops, presentations or social events** and **recruited more parents to their School Council** (see Table 1 below for frequencies).

Table 1	Elementary		Secondary	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Hosted or supported workshops, presentations, and/or social events (e.g., guest speakers, Literacy Night/ Numeracy Night, parenting classes, community breakfast, Fun Fairs, Triple P, concerts, cultural holiday celebrations)	119	94%	17	94%
Kept parents and community informed (e.g., flyers, school and council newsletters, electronic bulletins, email, council meetings)	124	98%	18	100%
Parent and SC involvement in school policies and practices (e.g., involvement in cell-phone policy, dress code, attendance policy, homework policy, student success initiatives)	86	68%	15	83%
Requested input from parents (e.g., surveys, focus groups, forums, at council meetings)	113	90%	16	89%
Recruitment of more parents for School Council (e.g., invitations to meetings, visited school councils of feeder schools to recruit parents)	119	94%	17	94%
Communication Improvements (e.g., with administration and staff, forums, common language, parent survey, more input)	92	73%	14	78%
Language support for parents (e.g., translation, dual language books)	33	26%	3	17%
Miscellaneous (e.g., offering a parent resource library)	2	2%	0	0%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses.

2. Activities to Support Positive School Climate

All of the categories offered in this question were selected by at least half of the responding Elementary School Councils. A large majority of them indicated involvement with **healthy living** initiatives and **school spirit and social events** (see Table 2 below for frequencies). In contrast, Secondary School Councils did not indicate their involvement in as many areas with the most commonly selected option, **school safety efforts**, only selected by 56% of the 18 responding councils.

<u>Table 2</u>	Elementary		Secondary	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Environmental initiatives and “greening” (e.g., Eco-League, tree planting, beautification, outdoor classroom)	95	75%	8	44%
School safety efforts (e.g., traffic issues, yard safety and supervision, Restorative Approaches, anti-bullying initiatives)	103	82%	10	56%
Supporting school activities through the lens of inclusivity (e.g., field trips, refreshments)	105	83%	6	33%
School spirit and student social events (e.g., Lunches/barbeques, Yearbook, spirit days, assemblies, student recognition, field trips, extracurriculars, collaborative community events)	119	94%	9	50%
Promoted healthy living to students (e.g., purchase of sports equipment, sportswear, athletic programs, Healthy Schools initiatives, hot lunch programs, healthy snacks, milk programs, Breakfast Program, Guest speakers, lice screening)	122	97%	8	44%
Support for, and appreciation of, staff (e.g., appreciation events, funding for classrooms)	114	90%	7	39%
Character education (e.g., Character Matters initiative, Caught you Caring)	63	50%	3	17%
Improvements to school/school grounds (e.g., improved signage, carpeting, playground)	74	59%	5	28%
Resources and programs (e.g., Technology/computers, arts program, workshops and events)	119	94%	9	50%
Collaboration with local businesses and organizations	88	70%	7	39%

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3. Activities to Support the Diverse School Community

School Councils from both panels indicated that their activities to support the diverse school community focused on **respecting religious holidays when planning events** (see Table 3 below for frequencies).

<u>Table 3</u>	Elementary		Secondary	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Multicultural (i.e. culturally sensitive) School Events	62	49%	8	44%
Reducing Barriers (e.g., language, special needs, socio-economic)	76	60%	4	42%
Respecting religious holidays when planning events	114	90%	13	72%
Direct resources & funding to supporting cultural diversity	30	24%	2	11%
Efforts to ensure diverse representation on SC	66	52%	11	61%

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Funding and Fund Raising

4.a) Was your School Council involved in fundraising activities during this past year?

All but one of the Elementary School Councils indicated that they had been involved in fundraising this year. Secondary councils were much less likely to indicate the same with only four noting that they had been involved in fundraising (see Table 4 below for frequencies).

<u>Table 4</u>	Elementary (n=126)		Secondary (n=16)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	125	99%	4	25%
No	1	1%	12	75%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to rounding.

4.b) If yes, please list the activities for which the funds were used:

For this open response item, only one Secondary School Council provided a response so it was combined with the Elementary Councils for the summary below. Fundraising money was most commonly used by School Councils to help provide **technology resources or programs** to their schools. More than half of responding School Councils also noted their financial support for **school events, healthy/active living programs** and **literacy resources or programs** (see Table 5 below for frequencies).

Table 5	Count	Percent
Technology resources or programs (e.g., computers, laptops, SmartBoards)	96	85%
Support for school events (e.g., transitions events, information evenings, Welcome to Kindergarten, graduation)	76	67%
Healthy/active living resources or programs (e.g., hot meals, sports equipment, lice check)	58	51%
Literacy resources or programs (e.g., books, Silver Birch/Red Maple)	56	50%
Arts resources or programs (e.g., costumes, musical instruments, art supplies)	45	40%
School site improvements (e.g., beautification, painting, furniture purchase/repair, playground equipment)	42	37%
Support field trips (e.g., transportation, way to identify students)	35	31%
School safety and spirit (e.g., anti-bullying events/programs, yearbook, student recognition awards)	28	25%
Science/mathematics resources or programs (e.g., equipment, Scientists in the School, robotics club, math manipulatives)	25	22%
Equity and inclusivity (e.g., subsidizing field trips for disadvantaged students, special needs supports, multicultural events, food bank, community resource fund, hot lunch programs)	24	21%
Classroom/teacher resources (e.g., fund for teacher use, early years resources, teacher/class websites)	24	21%
Supply teachers (e.g., for athletic events and competitions, release time)	17	15%
Staff appreciation (e.g., lunch, tea, thank you gift)	13	12%
Miscellaneous (e.g., agendas for students, professional development)	8	7%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to open responses addressing multiple themes. Percentages reflect school councils who responded to this item.

5. In which areas do you see the need for the Board to allocate additional resources? (e.g., ESL, special needs, technology, staff professional development)

Many School Councils in both panels noted the need for increased Board funding for **technology** in their schools identifying a need for upgraded computer software and hardware as well as access to SmartBoards, tablets and other digital devices (see Table 6 below for frequencies).

Table 6	Elementary (n=112)		Secondary (n=12)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Technology (e.g., computers, SmartBoards, laptops)	82	73%	10	83%
Staff professional development (e.g., special needs training, lunch room attendant training, technology, first aid)	36	32%	7	58%
Support for special needs students (e.g., staff training, assistive technology, other resources)	33	29%	5	42%
Support for English Language Learners (e.g., staff training, assistive technology, other resources)	19	17%	2	17%
School staffing (e.g., supply teachers for sports teams/events, community liaison staff, educational assistants, caretakers)	18	16%	1	8%
Arts programs and resources (e.g., musical instruments, craft supplies)	15	13%	1	8%
Support for parents and the community (e.g., support for newcomers, access to community resources, helping parents help their children at home, multicultural outreach programs, translation and language barrier support)	14	13%	2	17%
Literacy programs and resources (e.g., libraries, books)	13	12%	0	0%
Healthy living/physical activity (e.g., sports equipment, play equipment, physical education, outdoor activities)	13	12%	0	0%
Maintenance of school and grounds (e.g., playground, air conditioning)	10	9%	0	0%
Classroom supports (e.g., fund for teacher use, general resources, text books)	5	4%	0	0%
Field trips (e.g., buses, identification of students while on trip, more of them)	5	4%	0	0%
Miscellaneous (e.g., school safety, transitions, character matters, mental health, school specific programs, extracurricular activities)	14	13%	3	25%

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Building System Capacity

6. Identify below what additional support or training your council would like to receive in the next school year?

The most commonly selected categories for both panels were the desire for opportunities to **collaborate** with other School Councils and the community and more **information regarding programs and resources** from the Board (see Table 7 below for frequencies).

<u>Table 7</u>	Elementary		Secondary	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Collaboration (e.g., opportunity to collaborate, network or share and interact with other SC; building community partnerships)	80	63%	14	78%
Opportunity (& Financial Support) to Attend School Council/Board Forums, Conferences, Workshops on Topics of Interest	74	59%	12	67%
Training/Information & Strategies for Increasing Effectiveness of School Councils (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)	74	59%	11	61%
Provide Information Regarding Speakers, Programs & Resources Available (e.g., anti-bullying; internet safety; provide information about available programs and resources such as <i>Character Matters</i> , <i>Restorative Approaches</i>)	92	73%	12	67%
Guidance on How to Recruit New School Council Members (e.g., parents; teachers; volunteer trainer)	75	60%	8	44%
Guidance on How to Involve Parents of Various Religious, Language and Cultural Backgrounds (e.g., translations of documents; interpreters, ESL challenges; multicultural sensitivity training)	67	53%	7	39%
Training in Fundraising and Planning Fundraisers (e.g., how to negotiate, with whom, where and when; ideas for fundraising; do's and don'ts; continued development & clarity around fundraising)	50	40%	4	22%
Guidance on How to Increase Parent Volunteer Involvement (e.g., more volunteer recognition events, training for parent volunteers to support early literacy, help with PRO grant proposals)	78	62%	8	44%
Additional Funding (e.g., IT resources-laptops; hardware; software; resources for libraries; textbook; tools for teachers to implement Living School initiatives; resources for Parenting programs)	99	79%	12	67%
EcoSchool Initiatives (e.g., Ontario EcoSchools Program certification, tips on supporting environmental programs in the school)	78	62%	9	50%
Miscellaneous (e.g., supporting Healthy Schools initiatives)	1	1%	0	0%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses.