

Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC)

CCCSC is the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils established by the board in 1997. The goal of the CCCSC is to provide orientation, training, and networking opportunities for Catholic council chairs and members. It provides input and makes recommendations to the board. As well, CCCSC facilitates communication among school councils and the board. Its goal is also to promote the board's vision, values, and the sacramental practices of the board. All activities of CCCSC are reported on a regular basis to the board through the minutes of its meetings.

Each year, CCCSC sponsors a number of board-wide events, including: training sessions for council members in executive positions, an annual parent night with a major keynote speaker of interest to all parents, and an annual conference and marketplace with a keynote speaker and workshops.

CCCSC has one elementary school representative and one secondary representative, elected by school council representatives within each family of schools to serve as a member. All CCCSC monthly meetings are open to the public and council members to attend.

Elections & Appointments

Elections of all members of a Catholic school council shall be held within the first 30 days of the school year.

1. Parent members shall be elected on a date that is fixed by the chair or co-chairs of the school council, after consulting with the Principal of the school. The election of parent members shall be by secret ballot. Check with your school for the due date of nominations, date of vote, and first meeting.
2. The teacher representative shall be elected on a date that is selected by the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association members at the school.
3. The non-teaching staff member shall be elected on a date that is fixed by the Principal of the school, in consultation with non-teaching staff at the school.

When a new school is established, the first election of parent members to the Catholic school council shall be held during the first 30 days of the school year on a date that is fixed by the Principal of the school in consultation with the Superintendent of the Family of Schools.



**Get Involved
in YOUR Catholic
School Council**

You may contact CCCSC through
your school principal or visit us
online at www.dpcdsb.org

For more information about your
Catholic School Council, contact
your local school.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed individuals can change the world,
indeed it's the only thing that ever has."*

Margaret Meade

Catholic School Councils: Making a Difference

School councils play a vital role in the education system in Ontario. They provide a forum through which parents and other members of school communities can contribute to improving student achievement and school performance.

In 2000-2001, the Ontario government took significant steps to ensure that parents, through their school councils, would have greater influence in their children's education. Regulations were created that confirm the advisory role of school councils and clearly state that their purpose is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

School councils are now able to make recommendations to their principals and school boards on any matter. Principals and school boards, in turn, must consult with school councils on a variety of matters that affect student learning. They must also consider recommendations made by school councils and report back to the councils on how they plan to act.

Policy

The Catholic school council is established by Board Policy, in accordance with Ministry of Education Regulations 612 and 613. Catholic school councils shall promote the vision, values, sacramental life, and Catholic practices of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and be faithful to its mission.

Getting Involved

"Parental involvement is one of the most significant factors contributing to a child's success in school. When parents are involved in their children's education, the level of student achievement increases. Students attend school more regularly; they complete more homework in a consistent manner and demonstrate more positive attitudes towards school. They are also more likely to complete high school."

*School Improvement Planning:
A Handbook for Principals, Teachers, and School Councils
Education Improvement Commission*

As a member of a Catholic school council, you can become involved in many functions that council may undertake. Some councils have committees or sub-committees on which you may serve, including: special events, volunteer training and recognition, school website, reading programs, guest speaker evenings, by-laws writing team, classroom volunteer program and school renovation/building projects.



The Composition of the Catholic School Council

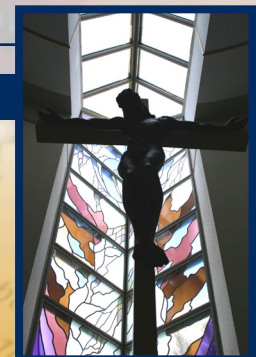
Council members are elected for a term that lasts from the first meeting of one school year to the first meeting of the next.

Ideally, each council will reflect the diversity of its school community. Parents and guardians must form the majority of members on the council. All members may bring before the council the issues and concerns of the groups that they represent and provide links to those groups.

Ontario Regulation 612/00 establishes that a school council will consist of the following members:

- A majority of parents
- The principal or vice-principal of the school
- One teacher employed in the school
- One non-teaching employee of the school
- One student in the case of secondary schools (optional for elementary)
- One or more community representatives appointed by the elected council (including parish representative)
- One person appointed by an association that is a member of the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education

Catholic school councils assist schools in improving Catholic identity in our schools, and respond to the gospel call for justice. Catholic education is a pilgrimage, a sacred journey to a holy place and Catholic school councils can work with schools to ensure the longevity of Catholic education is preserved and maintained.



"Get involved in your child's education..."

The purpose of a Catholic school council is through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

A Catholic school council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations in accordance with the policy and regulation to the principal of the school and to the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.