

Upper Grand District School Board

Parent Involvement Committee



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**Your Child's Education
Be a Partner!**



The Power of Partnership

Students want to succeed in school and to do that, they need guidance, support and encouragement from their parents, teachers and community. The Parent Involvement Committee recognizes the importance of these relationships and is committed to developing and supporting strategies that will enable healthy partnerships to flourish.

**BE A PARTNER. FEEL THE
POWER.**

**UGDSB
PARENT
INVOLVEMENT
COMMITTEE**

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Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

The Power of Parent Involvement

You Can Make a Difference. As a parent, you are the most important influence in your child's life. When it comes to formal education, you play a key role in your student's success. Through positive perceptions and direct support, you validate the importance of education. In turn, your child interprets and adopts this value. When you get involved in your child's education, everyone wins. Your child benefits as you build important relationships with the people and resources in your community. Most significantly, you inspire your child to learn and build the confidence and self-esteem that he or she needs to be successful.

Policy to Support Parent Involvement. The Ministry of Education recognizes the vital role that parents play in their child's education and in the success of schools. The Parent Involvement Committee has been formed in order to support, encourage and enhance meaningful parental involvement in schools and across the Board. This includes outreach to parents who find involvement more challenging due to language, recent immigration, financial challenges, newness to the system and other factors.

The UGDSB Parent Involvement Committee. Chaired by a parent, the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is made up of parents, trustees and Board staff who work together to facilitate ways of involving parents more fully. Parent representation from the various geographic areas of the UGDSB and from both the elementary and secondary panels reflect the diversity of schools.



Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

The Parent Involvement Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board looks for positive ways to involve the entire school community to support student success. The PIC works:

- to facilitate ways of involving parents more fully in the education of their children
- to support parent engagement
- to represent and provide a parent voice at the board level
- to increase communications with parents and the broader community
- to be a point of resource for School Councils and parents
- to provide opportunities for parents to develop useful skills to support their students



What to Expect

Throughout the school year, the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) will send out information through the First Class electronic communications system. School Chairs can expect to receive media releases, consultation requests, workshop invitations, newsletters, etc. The PIC website will provide important updates, PRO grant information, success stories and tips for School Councils. Visit the PIC website at www.ugdsbPic.ca. Questions can be directed to pic.info@ugdsb.on.ca

YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION – BE A PARTNER!

How can I help my child be successful at school?

Helping your child reach his or her full potential at school begins by being actively involved in your child's learning – at home, in the school and in the community. By being involved, you encourage good learning habits and support your child in making choices about his or her future.

What can I do at home?

Learning starts in the home. As a parent, you are the most important influence in your child's life and when it comes to formal education, you play a key role in student success. One of the best ways to ensure students' success at school is to READ, in any language and at any age to your child. You can also help by talking to your child about his or her day, helping to create homework routines and by ensuring that your child is prepared for school each day. Being well rested, properly dressed and having nutritious food allows your student to be ready for a busy day.

Getting involved can be challenging and difficult. Work and family responsibilities often conflict with school hours. Language, transportation, cultural and financial issues can also be barriers, but by communicating with your school's principal and your child's teacher, every parent can find a level of involvement that will work!



OPPORTUNITIES AT HOME

At home, if you have ...

A few minutes:

- Help your child develop routines to get ready for school
- Ensure your child starts the day with a nutritious breakfast.
- Ask your child each day what happened in the classroom and on the playground.
- Connect with your school principal and your child's teachers — in person, by telephone or even email.
- Visit your school's website for an update on recent and upcoming activities.
- Read your school and classroom newsletters.
- Read with or to your child everyday — in any language.
- Review your child's planner and check for important notes.

A few hours:

- Help your child with homework by providing a quiet place, by answering general questions and by asking your child to explain what he or she is learning.
- Talk to your child about current affairs and encourage him or her to read local newspapers and magazines.
- Volunteer in your child's classroom or other areas of the school.

A day:

- Visit a museum or attend a concert; see a live play.
- Encourage active learning through outdoor play and board games.
- Build something or cook a meal together.
- Clean out your cupboards and donate books or toys to the school. Check with the Principal and teachers for a list of what is needed first.

A few days or evenings:

- Work with a community organization to host a special event.

Once a month:

- Offer to provide transportation for other parents to get to meetings.
- Organize a car pool.
- Offer to write articles about your school's activities for the school newsletter or even the local paper.

A season:

- Coach a local team or club.
- Participate in keeping your school's yard safe and green: planting trees, gardening, maintaining play equipment, building and maintaining neighbourhood ice rinks.



OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

In the community, if you have:

A few minutes:

- Walk with your child through your community to school.
- If available, visit your neighbourhood association's office or website.
- Find out what is happening in your neighbourhood — read your community newspaper.

A few hours:

- Find out if you can volunteer to distribute school newsletters and flyers in your school's neighbourhood.
- Volunteer to contact local businesses or organizations to support activities in your school. Arrange for guest speakers.
- Take the kids to your local library.
- Attend a community sports game or support your local theatre.

A day:

- In consultation with your school and School Council, invite the community and other neighbourhood schools to your special events.
- Make connections in your community — find opportunities for community members and the school to work together.
- Encourage your child to attend or volunteer at community events.



A few days or evenings:

- Find out if you can volunteer to prepare classroom materials or other items for special school events.
- Offer to translate documents.
- Distribute translated communications in your culturally diverse community.
- Offer to work with your school and School Council to complete grant applications.

Once a month:

- Find out if your school, School Council, and child's classroom teacher have monthly calendars of events. Review and post them.

A season:

- Support your child's interest in extracurricular activities, either in the school or outside of the school. There are many music, sport, art and other special interest programs.

OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL



In your child's school, if you have ...

A few minutes:

- Arrange a time with your child's teacher to visit the classroom and learn more about your child's successes and challenges.
- Say hello to the school staff.
- Read the bulletin boards at your school or messages posted on the school sign.
- Find out where parent resources are kept at your school; use them.

A few hours:

- Attend your school's Meet the Teacher Night.
- Attend Parent -Teacher Interviews to discuss your child's progress and help set goals.
- Attend school assemblies, School Council meetings and special events.
- Get to know other parents at the school.

A day:

- Find out how you can volunteer in the school—reading to students, participating in field trips, special events, holiday celebrations, helping with crafts, library work etc.
- Find out if you can volunteer to be a guest speaker or a parent tutor/mentor.

A few days or evenings:

- Attend special school events, parent workshops and other activities being held in the school.
- Volunteer to organize a social event or a fundraiser at school.
- Offer to translate at School Council meetings to encourage parents of diverse backgrounds to participate.
- Find out if you can work with your school and School Council to develop and prepare a welcome package for new families.
- Offer to update the School Council bulletin board or its website.

Once a month:

- Attend a School Council meeting.
- Become involved in School Council.
- Plan a monthly cultural celebration.

A season:

- Find out if you can volunteer to coach a team or run a club at the school.
- Find out if you can volunteer to run a lunch club or to teach or share a special skill.

