



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

POLICY – PO211

Catholic School Councils and Parent Involvement Committee

Area: Governance

Source: Superintendent of Education – Academic Services

Approved: March 25, 2002

Revised: October 24, 2005; February 10, 2020; May 25, 2026

1. Introduction

The Durham Catholic District School Board (the “Board”) affirms that parents are the primary educators of their children and values their active participation and family engagement through Catholic School Councils and the Parent Involvement Committee.

2. Definitions

Parent (*Ontario Regulation 612/00: School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees*) – with respect to a school council or parent involvement committee, parent of a pupil who is enrolled in the school, including a guardian as defined in Section 1 of the Act.

Parent Member (*Ontario Regulation 612/00: School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees*) –

- a) With respect to a school council, a member of the council who is elected to the council in accordance with Section 4 or who fills a vacancy created by a parent member ceasing to hold office;
- b) With respect to a parent involvement committee, a member of the committee who is appointed or elected to the committee in accordance with Section 34 or who fills a vacancy created by a parent member ceasing to hold office.

3. Purpose

This policy outlines the Board’s commitment to supporting Catholic School Councils and the Parent Involvement Committee in nurturing parent engagement.

4. Application / Scope

This policy applies to all schools within the Durham Catholic District School Board and members of the Catholic School Councils and the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC), in accordance with the Education Act and Ontario Regulations.

5. Principles

5.1 The Board recognizes that:

- 5.1.1 Catholic schools are rooted in the partnership of parish, home, and school, welcoming each child into the sacramental life of the Church and supporting faith formation. This partnership upholds a commitment to excellence in nurturing the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical, and social development of every child;
- 5.1.2 Catholic schools have the purpose of developing students who will contribute positively to the Catholic Church as well as to the society in which they will be citizens;
- 5.1.3 parents, as the primary educators of their children, have a responsibility to actively participate in the education of their children;
- 5.1.4 every school is required to have a Catholic School Council that acts in an advisory capacity to the principal to support student engagement and success;
- 5.1.5 DCPIC plays an active role in supporting, encouraging and enhancing parent engagement to improve student achievement and well-being across the district.

6. Requirements

- 6.1 The Director of Education shall issue administrative procedures to support this policy and to amend them thereafter as the need may arise.
- 6.2 Each school within the Board shall:
 - 6.2.1 establish, maintain and operate a Catholic School Council consistent with all Board policies, administrative procedures and the attendant legislative requirements;
 - 6.2.2 shall adhere to a membership structure and term of office for their Catholic School Council, as defined within the attendant Administrative Procedure Catholic School Councils (AP211-1);
 - 6.2.3 have access to communications and resources promoted by DCPIC.
- 6.3 The Board shall establish and maintain a Parent Involvement Committee as a regulatory sub-committee of the Board.

7. Sources

- 7.1 [Education Act, RSO. 1990, c. E.2 – Section 170\(1\) 17.1, Section 170\(3\)](#)
- 7.2 [Ontario Regulation 612/00: School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees](#)
- 7.3 [Ontario Regulation 330/10: School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees](#)
- 7.4 [Ontario Regulation 298: Operation of Schools General](#)
- 7.5 [Ministry of Education School Councils: A Guide for Members](#)

8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures

- 8.1 [Catholic School Councils Administrative Procedure \(AP211-1\)](#)
- 8.2 [Catholic School Council Committees Administrative Procedure \(AP211-2\)](#)
- 8.3 [Catholic School Council Constitution Administrative Procedure \(AP211-3\)](#)
- 8.4 [Employee Conflict of Interest Policy \(PO317\)](#)
- 8.5 [School Level Fundraising Policy \(PO416\)](#)