



Alberta School Councils' Association

Our Vision Path

2024-2027



Mission

To engage and empower Alberta school councils while advocating for the parent voice in the education system.

Vision

A respected and empowered school council in every Alberta school.

Belief

Parents are recognized and respected as knowledgeable, supportive contributors to their children's education, and are provided a variety of opportunities to be authentically engaged in all levels of the education system.



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Background

In September of 2023 as stewards of the organization, the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Board of Directors engaged in a reflective process that led to the following agreed upon statements that reflect the Association's current and future priorities.

As an autonomous not for profit organization focused on supporting parental engagement through school councils, and focused on representing the collective voice of parents from school councils to the provincial education Ministry, and with appreciation for the opportunity to be recognized as a provincial partner in K-12 education, the ASCA Board is pleased to have been able to identify alignment in many areas of its own organizational goals with the goals of other provincial level education partners, solidifying the opportunity to make the K-12 system stronger for all learners in Alberta.

Overarching Philosophy

Alberta School Councils' Association focuses its time and energy in ways that attract and retain sufficient human, social and financial resources to ensure its long-term sustainability.

The ASCA Board of Directors makes decisions to ensure the Alberta School Councils' Association is: Relevant; Sustainable; Autonomous; and Innovative.



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ASCA Destinations 2024-2027

- 1) Destination: The Ministry of Education and partners in the education system seek the Alberta School Councils' Association provincial perspective when drafting, throughout the development, and prior to the implementation, of new education directions and policy.**

Priorities for 2024-2027

The ASCA Board will strive to:

- 1) Genuinely assemble and communicate the broad perspectives of parents through our Member School Councils.*
 - a) Action:** Through the use of advocacy policy positions.
 - b) Action:** Through member engagement opportunities including, but not limited to, the School Council Engagement Task Force and real time interactive virtual events.
 - c) Action:** Through dialogue at partner meetings and with education stakeholders; at meetings with the Minister and ministry staff; at external advisory committee opportunities.
- 2) Provide Member School Council based input to current and emerging Alberta Education initiatives and/or legislation as required/requested.*
 - a) Action:** Monitor the status of legislation that impacts education and respond by providing feedback to ministry(s) as required/requested.
 - b) Action:** Monitor the status of any regulations relevant to parents on school councils and initiate, or respond to, opportunities for advocacy.
- 3) Communicate effectively with elected officials and the education community at the provincial and school district levels of governance.*
 - a) Action:** Stay current with developments taking place at Ministerial, District, and local levels.
 - b) Action:** Be knowledgeable about Alberta's education system and political environment.
 - c) Action:** Provide opportunities for school councils to enhance their capacity for engagement.
 - d) Action:** Empower school councils to engage with their elected officials.
 - e) Action:** Empower school councils to advocate for the provincial level parent voice through, and the value of, Alberta School Councils' Association.
- 4) Elevate the understanding and value of the Association with the Ministry of Education, Boards of Trustees, MLAs, and other partners in the education system.*
 - a) Action:** Actively develop relationships and share appropriate organizational information.



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- 2) **Destination: Alberta School Councils' Association strengthens parent engagement, by building the skills, knowledge, and capacity of all school councils so they are recognized by education stakeholders, and school and system leaders, as essential for their legislated advisory role.**

Priorities for 2024-2027

The ASCA Board will strive to:

- 1) *Empower rural, urban, and metro school councils to embrace their role as bridges between their school and their community, enabling parents and community members to participate in making decisions that impact student success.*
 - a) **Action:** Offer provincial events focused on knowledge and skill development designed to help school councils build strong school communities.
 - b) **Action:** Offer attendance opportunities to ASCA events to school board trustees, school administrators, school system leaders, and education ministry staff.
 - c) **Action:** Provide access to information for school councils about provincial level initiatives to increase system knowledge of parents.
 - d) **Action:** Accept input and perspectives from parents through school councils on provincial level initiatives.
 - e) **Action:** Provide leadership and guidance to school councils enabling them to connect meaningfully to their school communities.
 - f) **Action:** Provide resources, materials, and assistance to school councils intended to build strong school communities and promote positive relationships between parents, teachers, principals, central office personnel and school trustees.
- 2) *Recognize parents' contributions on school councils.*
 - a) **Action:** Offer provincial level recognition.
 - b) **Action:** Engage in activities to celebrate the ongoing good work of school councils.
- 3) *Support the development of Councils of School Councils allowing for school councils to contribute directly at a district level.*
 - a) **Action:** Promote knowledge and skill development opportunities to system leaders.
 - b) **Action:** Promote the legislated creation and support of Councils of School Councils (CoSC), District School Councils (DSC), and/or Ward Councils.
- 4) *Encourage school and system leaders to actively engage school councils in meeting the expectations of the Assurance Framework.*
 - a) **Action:** Promote the importance of school council development opportunities to partner organizations, and school and system leaders as part of an overall engagement strategy.



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3) Destination: ASCA Member School Councils are aware of, and contribute to, the influence the Alberta School Councils' Association casts on their behalf.

Priorities for 2024-2027

The ASCA Board will strive to:

- 1) *Commit to being up to date with respect to ongoing education initiatives and directions being contemplated by Alberta Education and other provincial association partners.*
 - a) **Action:** In the Alberta context, support the Calls to Action from the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* that speak to Education of First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners and their families.
 - b) **Action:** Maintain Board meeting discussion on emerging education issues and current initiatives progress.
- 2) *Communicate to Member School Councils the most up to date provincial developments available with respect to initiatives and directions being undertaken by Alberta Education and other provincial association partners.*
 - a) **Action:** Provide updates from the President.
 - b) **Action:** In collaboration with Alberta Education and other provincial education partners, provide input and engagement opportunities with ASCA Board representatives and school council parent representatives.
 - c) **Action:** Coordinate interactive member engagement opportunities.
 - d) **Action:** Encourage participation of Alberta Education representatives in presenting education initiatives and topic sessions at ASCA events.
 - e) **Action:** Maintain an active social media presence.
 - f) **Action:** Provide updates from other provincial association partners as appropriate.
- 3) *Inform Member School Councils of any advocacy undertaken between Annual, Regular and Special General Meetings.*
 - a) **Action:** Provide periodic updates as necessary on education issues.
 - b) **Action:** Present to the assembly of delegates at any General Meeting.
 - c) **Action:** Maintain an active social media presence.
- 4) *Provide forums for Member School Councils to express their perspectives on province-wide K-12 education issues.*
 - a) **Action:** Present Board sponsored proposed Advocacy Resolutions when appropriate.
 - b) **Action:** Seek input from parents through member school councils regarding provincial initiative developments and progress.
 - c) **Action:** Coordinate interactive member engagement opportunities.
- 5) *Support the ongoing inclusion of school councils as indispensable organizational components within education legislation.*
 - a) **Action:** Represent the membership on K-12 education issues identified through any General Meeting and member engagement opportunities.
 - b) **Action:** Advocate to the Ministry of Education about the value of school councils as advisors to the K-12 education system at local, division, and provincial levels.
 - c) **Action:** Advocate to the Minister of Education the need to clarify problematic areas of the School Council Regulation.
 - d) **Action:** Advocate to the Minister of Education the need to strengthen the legislated role of school councils in alignment with the expectations of the Assurance Model.



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- 4) **Destination:** In collaboration with local Indigenous advisors, elders and/or knowledge keepers, Alberta School Councils' Association will advance reconciliation by promoting and encouraging knowledge and understanding of First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture, knowledge, worldview, ways of knowing, being and doing in education.

Priorities for 2024-2027

The ASCA Board will strive to:

- 1) *Commit to responding to the Calls for Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendation 10: v, vi)*

We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:

v. Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems.

vi. Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children.

- a) **Action:** Explore opportunities to meaningfully engage and elevate Indigenous voices and choices in school councils.
 - b) **Action:** Share resources related to the development of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit K-12 curriculum.
 - c) **Action:** Share and encourage school council-based activities that promote understanding of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture worldview, history, and contemporary issues.
 - d) **Action:** Model and share actions that support Truth and Reconciliation.
- 2) *Encourage school councils to be allies of and bridges to and from; the diverse Indigenous cultures of their school communities.*
- a) **Action:** Share and model broad and varied methods of providing information to, and gathering feedback from, Alberta school councils.
 - b) **Action:** Build and foster relationships with local and provincial Indigenous communities.



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5) **Destination: Partnerships, relationships, and strategic alliances strengthen the efforts and influence of Alberta school councils and the Alberta School Councils' Association.**

Priorities for 2024-2027

The ASCA Board will strive to:

- 1) *Pursue, build, and nurture relationships with diverse populations and organizations seeking to enhance parent and school council engagement in student learning.*
 - a) **Action:** Increase director knowledge and skills to confidently represent ASCA.
 - b) **Action:** Increase Alberta School Councils' Association representation in provincial engagement opportunities.
 - c) **Action:** Initiate and maintain conversations with the Ministry and partners in the education system.
 - d) **Action:** Pursue a broad range of funding sources through partnerships, sponsorships, and grants, creating greater general awareness of, and support for, the role, the importance, and the value of school councils and ASCA in positively impacting student learning success.
 - e) **Action:** Seek to listen and learn from equity seeking communities.

6) **Destination: School Councils are authentic reflections of the diversity in our Province. Parent voices are incorporated in the education system both locally and provincially, and are inclusive to parents of varying ethnic origin, ancestry, race, colour, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, political belief, marital status, socioeconomic status, and physical or mental ability.**

Priorities for 2024-2027

The ASCA Board will strive to:

- 1) *Model safe, respectful, and welcoming engagement practices and processes that facilitate the inclusive incorporation of diverse Member School Council perspectives.*
 - a) **Action:** Provide resources and materials for school councils containing inclusive language and encourage multiple methods of engagement and connection to their school communities.
 - b) **Action:** Encourage and support school councils to provide a wide variety of information through different means and opportunities to all parents/guardians in their communities.
 - c) **Action:** By example, and through resources, mentor school councils to be inclusive, safe spaces that fulfil their legislated roles while observing role and discussion boundaries, remaining non-partisan and being respectful of individuals' beliefs, values, experiences, and perspectives.