



ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force – September 2021 RESULTS

13 Responses submitted (as of November 5, 2021)

Request for input regarding “**Alberta’s Funding and Assurance Framework**”.

Background A:

Alberta’s Assurance Framework implemented alongside funding changes creates new opportunities for parents to engage with the education system and help shape local priorities and initiatives.

Link to government [Assurance Framework information and relevance to school councils](#).

Link to ASCA [Assurance Framework information for school councils](#).

The [Leadership Quality Standard \(LQS\)](#) outlines the professional expectations that principals and school jurisdiction leaders must demonstrate to create the conditions under which teachers can do their best work.

In the nine competencies outlined, a comprehensive 22 indicators relate specifically to school councils and the school community (highlighted in the [document link here](#)). This is why it is so important for members of school councils to be aware of, and understand, the LQS.

1) Has your principal explained how your School Council can be involved in the Assurance Framework at the school level?

5 (39%) Yes 6 (46%) No 2 (15%) Unsure

Comments:

- Yes; our Administration has discussed how our involvement in the School Education Plan is a part of the Assurance Framework.
- Our principal has not specifically talked about the Assurance Framework regarding the school. However; on a regular basis at our meetings, we discuss topics that would fall under the Assurance Framework. In the last 1-2 years; there have been other topics that have taken priority.
- Provided explanation documents and data.
- No specifics. Seems the same as it was before. Fill out surveys seems to be the ask.
- We have been involved in feedback gathering; and are constantly invited to give feedback; but were unaware this was what it was called.

2) Has your principal explained how your School Council can be involved in the Assurance Framework at the Division level?

4 (31%) Yes 7 (54%) No 2 (15%) Unsure

Comments:



- Yes; our participation in understanding how our school's goals fit within the division's goals and the assurance framework.
- Our principal has not specifically talked about the Assurance Framework regarding our District level. However; our School District Trustee always attends our School Council meetings; and she discusses and asks for input on topics that would fall under the Assurance Framework.

3) Has your School Council discussed how it can help the principal meet the requirements of the Assurance Framework?

7 (54%) Yes 6 (46%) No 0 (0%) Unsure

Comments:

- Yes; by participating in initiatives that support our school goals; we help administration meet the requirements of the assurance framework.
- Continue to discuss topics that would be relevant to the Assurance Framework. Promote school surveys that allows parent input/thoughts regarding many areas of our school.
- Yes; as above; we give feedback to our principal frequently.

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Background B:

Investing in students to close the gap on pandemic learning loss [Government News Release](#)

Alberta’s government is providing up to \$45 million in new funding to jump-start targeted supports for students who require extra help with literacy and numeracy after two school years of pandemic-impacted learning.

4) Does your School Council believe that the additional funding provided to address identified Covid-19 related learning losses for Grades K-3 is adequate?

0 (0%) Yes 6 (46%) No 7 (54%) Unsure

Comments:

- While we are happy for the increase in funding for students in grades 1-3 to support their foundational skill building; we are seeing a need in all grade levels. As high school parents and staff we feel strongly that increased funding would well serve all students.
- No; there are significant gaps that require resources beyond what the additional funding will provide. Additionally; our school budget and provincial funding is not sufficient to support growth; let alone address learning gaps.



- As we are unaware how the funding will be distributed nor how it will be applied; it is hard to identify if the funding will adequately address the learning losses in K-3.
- At this time, we are still unsure of the amount our school/District has received.
- This is a stop gap; we need solutions that are long term.
- It's under \$100 per student, right?
- Our trustee informs us that we applied for funding but haven't heard back.
- We are a grade 4-6 school.
- We are a Junior High School; not applicable.

5) Does your School Council know how the additional funding for K-3 will impact students at your school?

7 (54%) Yes 2 (15%) No 4 (31%) Unsure

Comments:

- We are a high school parent council; we will not benefit from this funding.
- Yes; we will hire an additional EA to provide pull-out literacy support to identified students as well as help with numeracy gaps.
- Our principal did send out an email talking about additional assessments for grades 1; 2 and 3 students. However; without results it is difficult to know how the additional funding will be used/distributed.
- As per education performance results summary.
- It won't.
- Targeted to Grade 2-3 students for extra learning/support.
- We are a 7-12 school; it will not impact us.
- We are a grade 4-6 school.
- We Are a junior high school so not applicable.

6) If yes, please provide the top three priorities your school has identified for that additional funding:

- We will hire an EA to do small group reading and Leveled Literacy Intervention appropriate to the needs of the students. The funding has already been used to implement assessments to identify students who need more support. The EA will try to work on numeracy supports for students as well.
- For literacy; our School/District has created reading/phonics groups of 4-5 students with similar targeted needs in grades 2 and 3 a plan for numeracy is still being worked on.
- Screening K-6 Reading Specialist.
- Literacy; early interventions; numeracy.
- Getting students to their required reading level, improve mathematics proficiency.

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Background C:

Enhancing parent engagement in Alberta schools [Government News Release](#)

Alberta's government is providing more than \$1 million directly to school councils to support collaboration between parents and schools.

7) Is your School Council aware of the Alberta School Council Engagement Grant of \$500 for each Alberta School Council?

12 (92%) Yes 1 (8%) No 0 (0%) Unsure

Comments:

- We have discussed it at our council and at our Committee of School Councils.
- Only two out of five people knew that there was a grant.

8) Is your School Council aware of how this money can be spent?

3 (23%) Yes 3 (23%) No 7 (54%) Unsure

Comments:

- We believe this money can be used to pay for ASCA provided training. Training that was previously provided free to schools because of funding from the provincial government. We can also use this money to support family school events.
- Yes; our school council chair and our Trustee both identified the parameters around the grant.
- At this time any information regarding how money can be spent is very broad.
- We have seen the list of suggestions from ASCA but are unsure how those would actually look/work in our school community; especially amidst the pandemic.
- We found the press release and website very vague. It would be helpful to have lists of suggested spends rather than broad categories. Hoping for more guidance when funds are distributed.
- it seems that it can be used for seminars; but all requests need to be filled out by the school principal to get the funds; we are still investigating.
- They haven't told us.
- Waiting for more government instruction.
- The two parents that knew about it knew how it could be spent.

9) How will the Alberta School Council Engagement Grant of \$500 help your School Council fulfill its legislated role and engage your school community?

- We do not feel strongly that this grant will help create a meaningful impact on our school community engagement.



- We have had a discussion with our Associate Superintendent to discuss pooling the money or some of it at a district level to leverage the funds to bring in the best PD for our councils. Our Committee of School Councils discussed it at their last meeting and indicated that Chairs should bring this back to their respective councils to help them understand what the needs are from school to school. We hope to be able to pool our resources and support many councils who are facing some similar issues. Additionally we hope to use a significant part of our grant to bring in ASCA services to support ASCA. We have had the discussion on how this is a frustrating and frankly; ridiculous way to deploy this grant when ASCA exists for this expressed purpose and already has all these fantastic resources available. It is a deliberate attempt by this government to undermine ASCA and fool the public into believing that they want input from parents. It also creates an additional - unnecessary - burden on already taxed districts and council to create administration systems for this funding. It is extremely frustrating.
- While it is not decided as the grant has yet to be awarded; the grant will likely go towards parent engagement and workshops focused on important topics such as mindfulness; peaceful parenting; internet safety; healthy living; etc.
- We are unsure what the exact parameters are for spending it; but it will be discussed at a future school council meeting once information is gathered. Current ideas are; but not limited too: parent information night and an activity that engages parents with school council/school.
- Provide funding for ASCA annual conference fee to allow for continued education to bring back information to council. May be used to register for workshops. Can be used to find events that promote parent engagement.
- Unsure at this time.
- Need more guidance from government on how this could be used to help us.
- Ensure we become more comfortable with subject matter and the effect we can have as a group.
- Who knows? We intend to use it to pay for something that has been cut (speech therapist; something) but I bet they will make that impossible.
- It will give us the money to reach out more effectively.
- We plan on using it to create parent engagement once we have the funds
- Unsure.
- We don't know yet. Tabled it for discussion at the AGM.