

10 Responses submitted (as of February 23, 2024)

Request for input regarding **Parental Responsibilities in Alberta Education**

- 1) Grade Level of School:
Elementary 10 (100%) Middle 5 (50%) Junior 5 (50%) Senior 4 (40%)
- 2) School is considered:
Metro 3 (30%) Urban 2 (20%) Rural 5 (50%)
- 3) School authority is:
Public 8 (80%) Separate 2 (20%) Charter 0
- 4) In accordance with Section 32 of the Alberta Education Act, how does your school council interpret parents' responsibilities in their child's education? (Please select one):
 - Limited Responsibilities – 2 (20%)
 - Supportive Responsibilities – 1 (10%)
 - Shared Responsibilities – 1 (10%)
 - Active Responsibilities – 4 (40%)
 - Comprehensive Responsibilities – 2 (20%)Comments:
- 5) What specific responsibilities does your school council believe parents should have in supporting their child's education? (*select all that apply*):
 - Attending parent-teacher conferences - 10 (100%)
 - Assisting with homework and assignments – 9 (90%)
 - Volunteering at school events – 10 (10%)
 - Promoting a positive learning environment at home – 10 (10%)
 - Participating in school fundraising activities - 8 (80%)
 - Attending school council meetings, council of school council meetings, or school board meetings - 9 (90%)
 - Advocating for educational improvements at the district or provincial level - 8 (80%)
 - Other:
 - As an alternative program that focuses primarily on homeschooling, our school council recognizes that parents are the primary educators of their children.
- 6) Does your school council currently have programs or initiatives in place to encourage parents to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, and engage in their child's education? (Please select one)
Yes 6 (60%) No 4 (40%)
- 7) If yes, please briefly describe some of the programs or initiatives and their impact:
Comments:
 - We always encourage families to participate with hot lunch, school dances, events, etc. We always advertise that we are looking for volunteers.
 - We offer hybrid meetings so that parents can attend.
 - Coffee With Counsel, Hot Lunch Program, BBQs, Events, Fundraising, Movie Nights.
 - Promote volunteering, participating in fundraising, and attending school council meetings.
 - We utilize communication and calendars, parent mentor groups and cooperative learning groups to help our parents fulfill their children's educational outcomes.

8) If no, what obstacles or challenges have prevented the implementation of such programs or initiatives? Please check all that apply):

- Lack of funding and resources – 2 (20%)
- Insufficient parental interest or participation – 4 (40%)
- Limited volunteer availability – 2 (20%)
- Lack of awareness or communication – 2 (20%)
- Overlapping or conflicting programs/initiatives – 0
- Time constraints – 2 (20%)
- School administrative barriers – 1 (10%)
- Resistance from school staff or teachers – 0
- Lack of support from the district or provincial level – 2 (20%)
- Other (please specify):

Comments:

- We work very closely with the school so while we don't have anything there are things that we are jointly working with the school to provide.
- Financially the ASCE Grant limits us to gently welcoming/inviting parents into introductions. The feeling has been that school council is boring or takes up too much time. As well parents feel not qualified.

9) How effectively do you believe Section 32 of the Alberta Education Act aligns with parents' expectations and understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the education system? (Please select one)

- Strong Alignment - Section 32 strongly aligns with parents' expectations and understanding of their roles and responsibilities - 4 (40%)
- Moderate Alignment - Section 32 moderately aligns with parents' expectations and understanding of their roles and responsibilities – 3 (30%)
- Neutral - Section 32 neither aligns nor misaligns with parents' expectations and understanding of their roles and responsibilities – 1 (10%)
- Limited Alignment - Section 32 has limited alignment with parents' expectations and understanding of their roles and responsibilities – 2 (20%)
- No Alignment - Section 32 does not align with parents' expectations and understanding of their roles and responsibilities – 0

10) Are there any specific areas or aspects of the Alberta Education Act that you believe should be amended or improved to better align with parents' expectations and understanding of their roles, responsibilities, and engagement in education? Please explain.

Comments:

- Rather than amending or improving the Act itself, more awareness of our roles, responsibilities, and opportunities for engagement should be the primary focus of ASCA, the ministry, and Councils at the school level.
- Parents should have more choice.
- Knowing what is in the curriculum.
- No comments currently.

11) Please use this space to provide any additional comments, suggestions, or insights related to parents' expectations and understanding of their roles, responsibilities, and engagement in education in Alberta.

Comments:

- The parents at our meetings feel that while some understand and care about their roles, we feel that sometimes the school system is used as a dumping ground or daycare, and some don't want to be more involved.
- Parental responsibilities need to be more visible.