

TVDSB SCHOOL COUNCIL POLICY COMPARATIVE GUIDE

The policy document on school councils has undergone significant changes between the original version from 2018 and the updated version from 2024. Here are the major changes:

2018

2024

Inclusion and Diversity Focus

The original policy focused on the establishment of school councils and their role in improving pupil achievement and accountability to parents, as per Ontario Regulation 612/00

The updated version places a stronger emphasis on equity and inclusion. It explicitly calls for removing discriminatory barriers and ensuring diverse representation from various cultural, socioeconomic, linguistic, and ability backgrounds, with a focus on underrepresented groups like Indigenous, Black, and racialized individuals, as well as 2SLGBTQIA+ persons

Mandatory Hybrid Meeting Formats

There was no specific mention of how meetings should be conducted.

The updated version mandates that all school council meetings be conducted in a hybrid format, ensuring that they are accessible to the public both online and in person

Broader Scope of Advisory Role

School councils primarily focused on providing advice to the principal and the Board to improve student achievement

The advisory role has expanded to include collaboration with various stakeholders (students, staff, parents, and community partners), as well as contributing to broader initiatives such as the TVDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, Student Achievement Plan, and the school's School Improvement and Equity Plan

Accountability and Reporting

Limited information on reporting requirements.

The updated policy includes specific requirements for councils to submit an annual report by September 30th, and to contribute to the Director of Education's performance appraisal. Additionally, councils are now expected to provide input into the Administrator Leadership Profile and contribute to the development of the School Profile

Mandatory Participation in Orientation

No mention of mandatory orientation for council members.

The new policy mandates that the School Council Chair (or delegate) participate in a mandatory orientation provided by the Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee. This includes training on the TVDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan and other critical policies

Consultation on Capital Improvements

No mention of council involvement in school infrastructure or capital improvements.

The updated policy includes provisions for school councils to be informed of capital improvements that impact the school community and to provide input on areas such as school budget priorities

These changes reflect a broader focus on inclusion, accountability, and engagement with the school community in the newer version of the policy.

SCHOOL COUNCIL PROCEDURE COMPARATIVE GUIDE

The policy document on school councils has undergone significant changes between the original version from 2018 and the updated version from 2024. Here are the major changes:

2018

2024

Inclusion and Diversity Focus

The procedures referenced the need for parent/guardian participation and general engagement in school matters, but there was less focus on diversity and inclusion

The updated version places a stronger emphasis on equity and inclusion, specifying that the composition of school councils must reflect the diversity of the school community. Strategies are included to actively seek out individuals from underrepresented groups, with a focus on breaking down barriers for Indigenous, Black, and other racialized individuals, as well as those who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+

Hybrid Meeting Formats

There was no specific mention of how meetings should be conducted.

There is a requirement for hybrid meeting formats to ensure that all meetings are accessible both in person and online, to encourage broader participation

Expanded Role of School Councils

School councils were expected to act in an advisory capacity to the principal and, when necessary, to the board

School councils now play a broader role in supporting the TVDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, Student Achievement Plan, School Improvement and Equity Plan, and Safe and Inclusive School Plan. Councils are expected to provide input into these plans and work collaboratively with various stakeholders

Accountability and Reporting

Councils were expected to submit an annual report summarizing activities and fundraising efforts

The updated policy includes specific requirements for councils to submit an annual report by September 30th, and to contribute to the Director of Education's performance appraisal. Additionally, councils are now expected to provide input into the Administrator Leadership Profile for their school

Mandatory Training and Orientation

No mention of mandatory orientation for council members.

There is now a requirement for the School Council Chair or a delegate to attend mandatory orientation sessions provided by the Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee

Capital Improvements and Consultation

No mention of council involvement in capital improvements.

The updated policy includes provisions for school councils to be informed of capital improvements that impact the school community and provide input on school budget priorities and other consultation matters

SCHOOL COUNCIL PROCEDURE COMPARATIVE GUIDE

2018

2024

Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

Conflict of interest and confidentiality guidelines were present but not as extensively outlined

Conflict of interest provisions are much more detailed. They now define actual, perceived, and potential conflicts of interest and outline a formal process for declaring and handling such conflicts during meetings

Conflict Resolution

There were basic guidelines for resolving disputes

The updated procedures expand on conflict resolution, offering more detailed steps for internal disputes, including outside facilitation and potential disciplinary actions if necessary

These changes reflect a more inclusive, accountable, and engaged school council structure, with clearer roles, expectations, and supports for both council members and school administrators.

More questions? Get in touch with your TVPIC Rep!
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