



What is a Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and what does it do?

All school boards in Ontario, including the Lakehead District School Board, are required to have a Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). PICs are an important advisory body to the school board. They support student achievement and well-being by getting parents more involved in their children's learning. They do this by:

- providing information and advice to the district school board on parent engagement and ways to communicate with parents
- developing ways the board could use to help more parents support their children's learning at home and at school
- sharing information with and supporting the work of school councils.

Each PIC decides how best to achieve these goals, depending on the specific needs of its board and community, its organization and members.

How are PICs different from school councils?

School councils focus on an individual school; PICs provide advice at the board level. PICs actively support the school councils of their board by supporting their role in fostering parent engagement in their children's learning and sharing information.



Where can I learn more?

Lakehead Public Schools

<https://www.lakeheadschoools.ca/parent-involvement-committee-2>

Ministry of Education

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/PIC.html>

Who can be on a Parent Involvement Committee?

PICs are led by parents and most of their members are parents. The director of education at the school board and a trustee are also members, so parents have a direct link to the school board. The PIC appoints up to three community members. PICs decide whether to include other members, such as principals, teachers and support staff to meet local needs. Parent members serve for a term of one or two years. Each parent member must be the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in a school that is part of the board that established the PIC.

May I attend meetings?

Yes. Everyone is welcome to attend PIC meetings and learn firsthand how PICs work. Meetings are held at least four times a year. Visit the Lakehead Public Schools website at www.lakehead-schools.ca and look in the Community Section for more information about the Parent Involvement Committee and meeting times.

Is the work of PICs guided by education policy?

Yes. Like all education partners, PICs play an important role in fulfilling the vision and goals of Ontario's parent engagement policy to support student achievement and well-being. PICs are also governed by Ontario Regulation 612/00.

How do PICs help education in Ontario?

When parents and schools work together, there are many positive results. These include improved student achievement, reduced absenteeism, better behaviour and increased confidence among parents about their children's education. The Ministry of Education, district school boards and schools all benefit from the important work parents do to support their children's learning. They also benefit from hearing parent opinions and perspectives at the local, regional and provincial levels.


Lakehead Public Schools


Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2135 Sills Street Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 5T2

Phone: (807) 625-5100

www.lakeheadschoools.ca

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