



Alberta Learning recommends our committee's model as a best practice to school boards throughout the province.



Parents working together to shape education in Elk Island Public Schools



When and where does COSC meet?

COSC meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the library at Ardrossan Junior/Senior High (located on Range Road 222).

Please note COSC meetings are not held in July, August, and September. December and June meetings may also be exceptions.



For further information, please contact
EIPS Communications Services at 417-8205
or by email at communications@ei.educ.ab.ca

Monthly meeting agendas, minutes, and handouts can be accessed from EIPS' Web site at www.ei.educ.ab.ca under Parents/COSC.

Committee of
School Councils

Learning is a lifelong process in which parents play a fundamental role.

Families, schools, and community organizations all contribute to student achievement; the best results come when all three work together.



Parents play a key role in facilitating student learning.

What is the Committee of School Councils (COSC)?

COSC facilitates cooperation and partnership among school councils to create a positive learning environment for Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) students and enrich individual schools and the division as a whole.

Who belongs to COSC?

COSC is comprised of individual school council representatives from all EIPS' schools, the Board of Trustees, and representatives from EIPS' administration and central services.

Why was COSC formed?

COSC was formed to provide parents with the opportunity to voice concerns and provide input on a variety of educational issues in the district.

What is the purpose of COSC?

COSC provides a forum for discussing educational issues and matters of common importance to schools. The powerful group voice that is realized through COSC strengthens the division, and plays an important role in educational advocacy.

The meetings provide an opportunity to:

- share common interests
- learn about what is happening throughout the school division;
- celebrate school achievements and successes; and
- develop relationships with other school council representatives and district personnel.

In an environment of **trust and cooperation**, school council representatives will have the opportunity to share opinions, voice concerns, and provide input to influence decisions regarding policies, procedures, and educational issues in the district.

What are the group's goals?

COSC is implementing an operating plan, which includes **goals** such as promotion and communication; addressing issues; sharing information; clarifying the role of COSC with the Board, and encouraging participation.

Why should your school council be involved?

Education is a shared **responsibility** and EIPS values parental input. COSC provides the direct opportunity to share with those who shape and set direction for the school division. As a result, school council representatives can **influence** the decision-making process by actively participating in a respective, open and honest dialogue with administration and school board members at monthly meetings. The diverse background of COSC members, including representatives from large, small, urban, and rural schools, ensures many viewpoints are discussed and creates understanding about school-specific issues and challenges.

Involvement in COSC also provides a communication and feedback loop through which you can stay abreast of new **information** and **changes** in the school division and from Alberta Learning.