

## The School Planning Council (SPC)

The School Planning Council (SPC) is another way that parents work together with staff to find ways to meet the needs of all students in their school.

The *School Act* says every school must have an SPC. Members of the council work collaboratively to develop a school plan to improve student achievement. The council consists of the principal, three parents elected by the parents and a teacher<sup>5</sup> elected by the teachers in the school. Parents and teachers hold their positions for one year, but may be re-elected. For schools that include grades 10-12, the principal appoints a student representative from one of those grades. Parents or guardians employed by any school board are not eligible to represent parents on the council. Many SPCs seek and consider the input of support staff and others.

The SPC consults with people in the school community to hear their perspectives about student needs. They also consider information they have collected about student achievement from the classroom, school and district. Members meet to discuss different perspectives and work together to come to agreement about what the school plan should include. They talk about how the school will use its resources to support educational programs that will meet the goals they have decided.

Members decide how the meeting is run and how to deal with disagreements if they arise. The principal provides collaborative leadership and ensures the right kind of information helps develop the school plan. Members find it helpful to have a code of ethics. The SPC is not the place to discuss confidential information about students, parents or staff.

During the year, the SPC looks at the progress the school has made toward its goals. The council makes changes to the school plan where needed to meet the needs of students. The council follows a one-year cycle within a timeline set by the school board.



### The school board:

- consults with the SPC about the resources, staff, educational programs and services it gives to the school
- consults with the SPC regarding matters relating to the school that are included in the board's accountability contract with the ministry
- decides on a timeline for school plans
- is responsible for maintaining policies and procedures to support SPCs in every school
- approves the school plan, approves it with changes or rejects it
- may provide training for SPC members in how to work as a team and how to use the kinds of information about student achievement
- may appoint someone to a vacant position.