

# Supporting Student Success



## Working Together in BC Public Schools

This handbook would not be possible without information and support from the following organizations:

- BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)
- British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE)
- British Columbia Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association (BCPVPA)
- British Columbia School Superintendents Association (BCSSA)
- British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA)
- British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF)

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**BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils**

## Supporting Student Success: Working Together in BC Public Schools

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# about this handbook

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*“The purpose of the British Columbia school system is to enable learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and a prosperous and sustainable economy.”*

BC Ministry of Education, Statement of Education Policy Order 1989

BC public schools and school districts are “learning communities.” They are places where students, parents, educators, support staff and community members – respecting and supporting each other’s roles – share responsibility for student learning.

Students’ success in BC’s public schools depends a great deal on the relationships among all the education partners in schools and districts. Parents play an important role in these relationships. They have insight, enthusiasm and skills as well as a commitment to their children and public schools that is crucial to the success of all students. Parents have the right and the responsibility to be involved in their children’s education. These rights co-exist with the rights and responsibilities of the people who work in schools and districts.

In 1996, the handbook *Building Partnerships in Schools* helped parents with their first formal advisory role in their schools. It provided parents with information about the legislation, policy and practice that helped them in their interactions with others in the system. It gave educators and parents a starting point to work together to improve parents’ access to the system.

*Supporting Student Success: Working Together in BC Public Schools* uses and expands on information from the first handbook. It is not meant to create new policy, suggest how parent involvement should happen or replace the roles of the legislature, minister or school boards.

## A guide to the symbols used in this booklet

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Something to think about.



Where parents can go for more information.

This handbook intends to help parents and parent leaders understand the roles and responsibilities in the public education system and the different ways parents can be involved in their children’s learning. It includes information about:

- parent involvement in BC
- the roles and responsibilities of the partners involved in public education
- coming together in the best interests of students
- parent and community partnerships in BC’s schools and districts
- governance and legislation.

It will also be useful to other education partners as they continue their collaboration with parents to create positive learning communities where parents are actively and effectively involved at all levels to support students’ learning.