



Surrey District #36 Parent Advisory Council (Surrey DPAC)

Strengthening PACs & Empowering Parents

Surrey DPAC's Inclusion of Diverse Learners Committee

www.surreydpac.ca

Terms of Reference

Purpose

To provide a place of support and direction for families while promoting and facilitating inclusion of diverse learners within the Surrey School District. To help navigate the process of acquiring appropriate services for students with diverse needs.

Accountability

DPAC Board of Directors and DPAC membership. Any changes to the Terms of Reference will be recommended by the committee and approved at a DPAC General Meeting. The Chair will ensure that committee members are fulfilling their responsibilities as evidenced by their reporting out during General Meetings.

Membership

6-12 members:

- DPAC Directors (minimum 2, one of whom will act as Chair)
- Parents of diverse learners (minimum 2)
- School district liaison(s) (non-voting)

Other stakeholders to be consulted as needed, such as:

- School district staff
- Professionals and paraprofessionals who work with diverse learners, including members of diverse ethnic/cultural groups who speak a variety of languages
- Organizations such as BCEdAccess, Inclusion BC, Family Support Institute, BCCPAC
- Representatives from other school districts

A term on the committee will be one school year, to be continued by mutual agreement between the member and the DPAC Board of Directors. The DPAC Board reserves the right to approve membership on this committee, or to dismiss a member due to inconsistent engagement.

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Responsibilities (Goals)

1. Collaborate with the Surrey School District regarding initiatives that promote tolerance, respect, and acceptance for all students.
2. Ensure that resources are easy for parents to find, reviewed annually, and updated as needed.
3. Educate and empower our families to build their networks of support within the District and beyond.
4. Have a working knowledge of the Guide to Inclusive Education for Surrey Schools, the Special Education Services Category Checklists , Inclusion BC's A Parent's Handbook on Inclusive Education, and any other related guidelines and policies, including the CUPE and Surrey Teachers Association (STA) collective agreements.
5. Create an action plan to reach families in need of support and to engage or assist them.

Responsibilities (Goals)

6. Review the current state of inclusion in the Surrey School District, utilizing a tracking mechanism to identify areas of concern, and make recommendations to the DPAC Board on a quarterly basis.
7. Help families interpret and navigate the process required for advocacy within the District, and enhance collaboration, networking, strategic partnering, and participation with stakeholders including relevant mentors.
8. Recruit and mentor new volunteers to continue the work of the committee.
9. Work towards building a network of parent representation within the committee from each geographic area of the school district, with the goal of having representation from each family of schools.
10. Provide a safe place to facilitate the sharing of experiences and knowledge.