

Ontario Provincial Parent Board Call for Applications

Why is parent involvement important?

Good schools become even *better* schools when there is a strong connection with parents.

Parents play a vital role in their children's development and education. Involved parents can increase a child's self-confidence and success. Parents also have a major impact on school success and children's attitudes toward school.

That's why the Ontario government wants to help parents get involved in their children's education.

New Provincial Parent Board

To make parental involvement easier, the Ontario government is establishing a new Provincial Parent Board.

The board will be a strong voice for parents at the provincial level. As advisors to the minister, board members will play a critical role in engaging parents with schools. Their advice will ensure that effective parent involvement programs are successfully implemented across the province.

Who is eligible?

Board members must be parents or guardians of a child in Ontario's public school system. Their child must attend a public school for at least 50 per cent of the member's term on the board.

Example

John wants to apply to the Provincial Parent Board. His daughter Julie is entering grade 12 in an Ontario public school. Since Julie will only be in school for one more year, and since John has no other children, John cannot apply for a three year term.

However, John is eligible to apply for a two year term.

The following background is ideal for this challenging role:

- Strong communication skills
- Experience working with school and community groups
- Comfortable discussing and reviewing parent involvement programs

Board members will look beyond their own school, community, and interests. They should have a broad perspective on parent involvement that is appropriate and relevant to the school system as a whole. A mix of candidates will ensure that the Provincial Parent Board includes:

- Individuals with varied experience (for example, experience on school council, and broader community experience)
- Parents from Ontario's four public education systems (English public, French public, English Catholic and French Catholic)
- Members who reflect Ontario's diversity
- A broad cross-section of communities (for example, rural and urban)

How to Apply

1. Complete the application form
2. Attach a note that explains why you want to join the Provincial Parent Board.
Remember to include:
 - Your experience with local education programs, schools and community groups
 - Any special skills or work experience that will benefit the board
 - How you can represent interests unique to your community
3. Obtain three letters of reference. Each letter should outline how your skills, experience and background will contribute to a strong, diverse board. Suggested sources include:
 - School councils
 - Education related organizations
 - Community groups
4. Send the original, plus three photocopies to:

Keith Clark
 Director, Evaluation Services
 Curriculum Services Canada
 439 University Avenue, 18th Floor
 Toronto, ON M5G 1Y8

Applications may be sent by mail, courier, or hand-delivered.

Application Deadline: February 16, 2007 10:00 a.m.

Incomplete and late applications will not be considered.

Frequently Asked Questions

How often does the board meet?

The board will meet six to eight times during the school year. Each meeting will take place over two days, so board members should expect about 12 to 16 days of meetings.

When and where will meetings take place?

Meetings will be held in Toronto. We will try to hold meetings on weekends, but they may include a Friday or a Monday. Meetings will be scheduled in advance, to allow members time to make plans for work and other commitments.

The first Provincial Parent Board meeting will be in spring 2007.

Will you reimburse travel and accommodation costs?

Members may claim reasonable travel and lodging expenses incurred to attend board meetings. Meals and refreshments will be provided.

How long will board members serve?

Most members will be on the board for three years. Terms will be staggered to ensure continuity and to let new board members work with existing members.

One third of the members selected for the first Provincial Parent Board will serve for only two years. The application form asks candidates if they will serve the shortened two-year term.

Who will select the board members?

Ministry of Education staff and evaluators from across Ontario will review the applications. This may include validating references. Then a nominating committee of parents will make the final selection.

In the first year, the nominating committee will have four members from the Interim Parent Involvement Advisory Board, and one from the Parent Engagement Office. In future years, the nominating committee will be made up of members of the Provincial Parent Board.

How long will it take to select the board?

The selection process will take about four weeks and will be finished by spring 2007. We will send a letter to each applicant, thanking them for applying and informing them of the outcome.

Contact us

For more information about the Provincial Parent Board and the application process, please contact:

Jacqueline Barghout
Parent Engagement Office
Ministry of Education
Phone: (416) 314-0426
Toll free: 1-800-361-6483
email: jacqueline.barghout@ontario.ca

Copies of this package are available on the Ministry of Education website in the parents section – www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents