

What can I do if I am interested in joining the PAC, but cannot because I have young children at home?

Many schools offer childcare in the school for parents who are attending PAC meetings.

Ask the school secretary about childcare arrangements.

How can I find out more about the PAC in my child's school?

- Read the school's newsletter or go to its website.
- Look for information on the school's community bulletin board.
- Ask the school secretary.
- Contact your school's Multicultural Liaison Worker or Settlement Worker in Schools (SWIS) to get more information in your home language about the PAC.

“Parent Advisory Committee”

This brochure is one in a series sponsored by the VSB SWIS program and produced collectively by a group of ESL teachers and the VSB MCLW team.



Funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, and Citizenship and

Parent Advisory Committee



Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

All parents of a school community are welcome to join the PAC.

When possible, interpretation can be provided for those parents who do not feel their English skills are strong enough for them to fully participate.

Many parents new to the community choose to come with a friend or neighbour.

What is the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)?

Every public school in British Columbia has a Parent Advisory Committee.

It is made up of a group of parents, administrators, and may include teachers.

The PAC meets about once a month, usually in the evening.

Why do schools have a PAC?

The PAC's main purpose is to discuss and set goals and objectives so it can help make the school and school community a better, safer place.

The PAC also:

- gives parents a voice in their children's education;
- provides parents with information about various issues; and
- gives parents an opportunity to meet each other, socialize and talk.

What are some things the PAC can do for the school?

The PAC helps the school find ways to do a variety of projects such as:

- purchasing new playground or gym equipment.
- upgrading the school's computers and/or computer programs.

- establishing or improving a school garden.
- helping set up special programs, for example to stop bullying.
- helping individual teachers who want to set up special programs that require extra funding.
- assisting in planning and organizing school events that celebrate special occasions during the school year.

What are the benefits of joining the PAC?

Joining the PAC is optional. However, joining it gives parents an opportunity to:

- meet other parents;
- learn more about the school; and
- contribute ideas and ask questions.

