



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

at Grand Erie





Achievement Environment Engagement

Message to Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians are the first and most important teacher in their child's life. Studies show that children with parents who are actively involved in their education perform better in school.

Grand Erie District School Board believes that parent involvement starts at home, working directly with your child. By simply asking them open-ended questions, everyday, you will be able to drive a response and show your child your interest.

Questions can be as simple as: "What's the most interesting thing that you learned today?" or "What was your favourite subject today?"

There are many opportunities where parents can become involved at the school and system level. This booklet will share examples and give you ideas about how to become involved in your child's education.

On behalf of the Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC), the Board of Trustees and Senior Administration, thank you for the important role you play in your child's education.



For a complete list of GEPIC members, visit granderie.ca

How can you get involved?

Listed Below are six Types of Parent Involvement

Type 1 – Parenting:

Grand Erie can assist families in understanding child and adolescent development and in setting learning conditions at home that support children as students at each grade level. It's important to help schools understand family backgrounds, cultures and goals.

- *Examples: Parents can learn more about healthy choices, proper nutrition and teaching their child ways to be safe.*

Type 2 – Communicating:

Parents can be involved when the school communicates effectively from school to home and from home to school about school programs and children's progress.

- *Examples: A school communicates with parents via report cards, agendas, newsletters, phone calls, websites, and program and course information updates.*

Type 3 – Volunteering:

Volunteers are parents or community members who can help organize events and support the school in a variety of ways that promote student success and well-being. Be sure to ask your school about what is needed to submit a "Volunteer Police Record Name Check" to your principal for a volunteer position.

- *Example: Volunteers help with special events, recognition/award ceremonies or field trips.*

Type 4 – Learning at Home:

Staff at your school can involve families with their children’s homework, other curriculum-related activities, course and program choices and plans for the future.

- *Examples: Help your child with his or her homework, attend parent-teacher interviews, be aware of transitions in a child’s education such as the transition from Grade 8 to 9, and discuss pathways and post-secondary destinations that include apprenticeship, college, university or the workplace.*

Type 5 – Decision Making:

Parents can take an active role at the school. Families can participate in school decisions and parents can take a leadership position as a representative on a school committee.

- *Examples: Become a member of your School Council, Home & School Association or sit on GEPIC, attend a meeting, be on a school committee or participate on an action team.*

Type 6 – Collaborating with the Community:

Parents can coordinate resources and provide support on projects that share talents from the school to help solve or enhance local issues or initiatives.

- *Examples: Work with the library to promote adult and children literacy, invite a speaker such as a police officer to talk about online safety or host a math or literacy workshop.*



Keeping Informed and Being Involved

~ Having regular contact with your child's school will help build a relationship to support your child's learning.

Why get active in your school?

- Children feel better about school when they see their parents/guardians getting to know their teachers and talking with them
- A positive home/school relationship allows you to see that all of your child's needs are met
- Parents can make longterm friendships with other parents through their involvement in school life
- Being involved in the school community makes it easier to find information on where resources can be found and how to share helpful hints

Your child's progress:

The principal and teachers will be happy to discuss your child's progress with you. Their open-door policy encourages parents to visit or call the school if you wish to discuss any concerns or ideas you may have. Refer to page 10 for more on how to get help with a concern.

You can help your child by:

- Supporting them in setting aside time for homework
- Communicating any concerns to the teacher about what they are learning
- Encouraging your child to read and take an interest in current events
- Informing the school of any family circumstances or extra-curricular activities that may need to be considered when homework is assigned or marked

Access more homework tips and download a free newsletter for parents called, *Helping Children Learn*. Visit **granderie.ca**



Get involved at the school level...

What's a School Council?

A great way to be involved in your child's education is to join the School Council. By being involved at the school level, you can learn about topics that affect your child's school. Parents, guardians, the principal, teachers and members of the community form a committee and meet regularly throughout the school year.

School Council is much more than fundraising. It's a chance to:

- Enhance communication between the school and parents
- Improve student achievement
- Support healthy school initiatives
- Promote school safety
- Attend school community events
- Develop a partnership with teachers and principals
- Create a support system with other parents
- Give input on policies and decisions

Contact your *School Council Chair* or *Principal* for more information or visit the *School Directory* section under the *School Tab* at at **granderie.ca** to locate his or her email address.



at the system level...

What's GEPIC?

GEPIC stands for the Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee and this group acts as an advisory body to the Grand Erie District School Board. GEPIC provides an important link between parents and the Board's Trustees and the Director of Education.

The purpose of GEPIC is to:

- Support, encourage and enhance meaningful parent involvement at the Board level
- Improve student achievement and well-being

GEPIC believes that parent involvement is one of the key components to the success of students and communities.

Who's on the committee?

- Parents representing each of the four geographic regions within Grand Erie
- Community representatives
- Two Trustees and the Director of Education
- Two school Administrators representing elementary and secondary

Access GEPIC's terms of reference at **granderie.ca** for a complete breakdown of the committee's composition and purpose.

How will GEPIC help build parent engagement?

- By providing advice to the Board that promotes parent involvement
- By communicating topics that matter to parents
- By developing strategies and initiatives that the Board could use to engage more parents to support their children's learning at home and at school
- By sharing information with and supporting the work of School Councils

Visit the *Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee* section under the *Parent Tab* at ***granderie.ca***

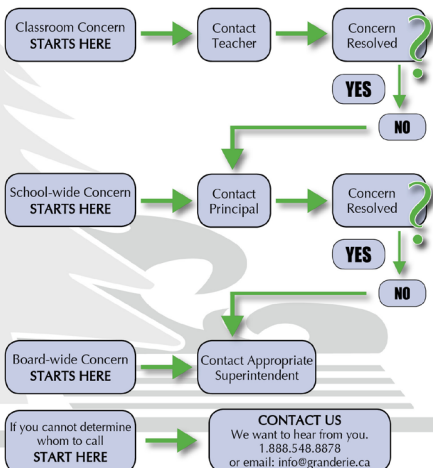


Contact the Manager of Communications and Community Relations to request more copies of this publication at (519) 756-6301 ext. 281147.

***Tell us what you think about this publication!
Email info@granderie.ca and write 'Parent Guide' in the subject line.***



HOW TO GET HELP WITH A CONCERN



YOUR TRUSTEE CAN GUIDE YOU THROUGH THIS PROCESS.

Find your Superintendent and Trustee Representative at granderie.ca

Achievement • Environment • Engagement

We're here to help!

Find out whom to contact using this helpful resource.

Your Trustee can help guide you through this process.

Trustees

Trustees are officials elected or appointed to serve parents, students and taxpayers. They are the link between communities and the school Board. Trustees ensure that Grand Erie schools meet the diverse needs of students in their respective communities. Among other duties, Trustees make policies, approve the budget, and appoint the Director of Education.

Full Board Meetings and Committee of the Whole Meetings are held Monday nights at 7:15 p.m. at the Education Centre, 349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, Ontario.

Find your local Trustee and a complete schedule of Board Meetings at [**granderie.ca**](http://granderie.ca)

Grand Erie... Your Choice in Education

- *Strong Values • Academic Excellence • More Programs, More Choices*
- *Safe and Inclusive Environments • Great Extra-Curricular Activities*

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Find out more about how we're making a difference for students... visit **granderie.ca**

