

A Philosophy and Pedagogy of Walking Alongside



Parent Engagement

Saskatchewan School Boards Association

2019 Spring General Assembly

Hilton Garden Inn

Saskatoon, SK

April 11, 2019



Presented by:

Debbie Pushor, PhD
University of Saskatchewan

306-230-5885

debbie.pushor@usask.ca

@DrDebbiePushor

@WalkAlongsideSK

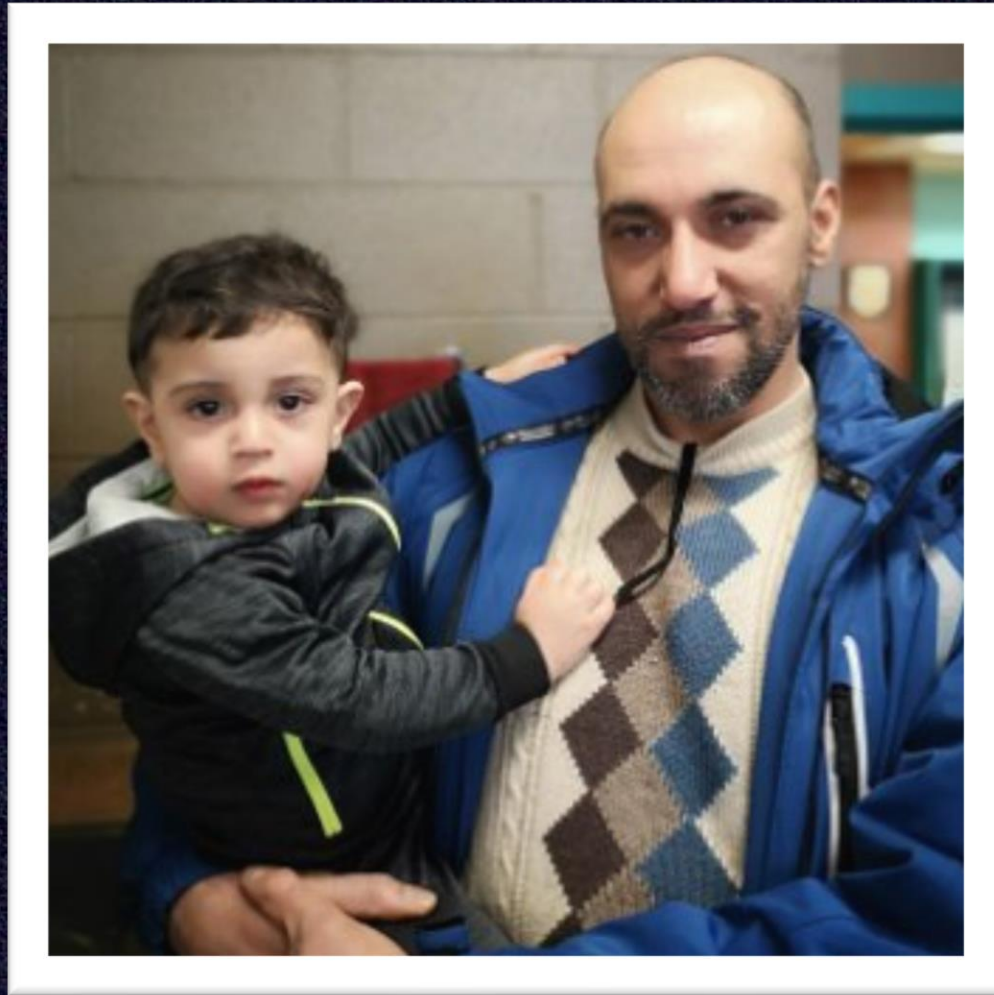
#parentengagement

#parentknowledge

#walkalongside



Why the term “Parent”?



Who is a "Parent"?



Why the term “Engagement”?

ENGAGEMENT

-to make



Engagement

ENGAGEMENT

-a pledge



Engagement

ENGAGEMENT

-the act of



Engagement

ENGAGEMENT

The act of making a pledge to one another



Parent Engagement is not:

An activity

An event

A strategy

A practice

An SCC



Why?

Parent Engagement is:

a philosophy
and a
pedagogy.



Worldview



Worldview



Shifting Your Worldview



From Schoolcentric

- believing we
can educate
children by
ourselves.



To Familycentric

– believing we can
do a better job
when we work
with
parents/families.



Shifting your worldview



Parent Engagement ... A Philosophy

All parents:

- care,
- have strengths,
- have capacity,
- hold knowledge,
- are educators.



Parent Engagement ... A Pedagogy

In schools, we:

- “dwell within” (Polanyi, 1958) homes and communities ,
- honor parents hopes and dreams for their children,
- create meaningful and authentic place and voice for parents,
- walk alongside them in schooling and education.



Parent Engagement Asks:

- Are we doing to or are we doing *with*?
- Are we standing above or are we standing alongside?
- Who is engaged in the planning/decision-making?
- Whose knowledge counts?
- Who is benefitting?
- Who is talking and leading? Who is listening and learning?
- Are we providing parents' a rightful place and voice in the core work of schooling?

Provincial Education Plan 2020-2030



Parent engagement is not just one pillar or focus area in the Provincial Education Plan. Parent engagement is the worldview in which the entire plan is situated.

Parent Engagement as a Worldview

Promotes and nurtures:

- equity;
- respectful relationships;
- inclusive and safe school environments;
- diversity;
- strength-based approaches;



Parent Engagement as a Worldview

Promotes and nurtures:

- academic achievement, mental health, and well-being;
- early learning and literacy;
- relevant, engaging, culturally and identity affirming content and practices;
- reconciliation.

Provincial Education Plan 2020-2030



Undergraduate Teacher Education

A required course on parent engagement for all teacher candidates.



Teacher Licensing

A required course on parent engagement to obtain a teacher's license in the province of Saskatchewan.



Graduate Teacher Education

Increased:
expectations,
funds allocated to tuition reimbursement,
number of educational leaves un/funded,
new/different opportunities.



Graduate Coursework in Educational Administration

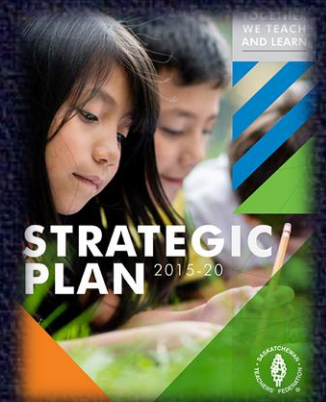
Required coursework on parent engagement.



Defined Professional Roles

STF/Bargaining Units

- Negotiate teacher time for high impact activities.
- Re-imagine extra curricular activities.
- Re-imagine what it means to be a professional educator in Saskatchewan.



A Provincial Leadership Priority

SSBA, LEADS, SASBO, STF, CUPE

- Provide leadership, advocacy, and support for parent engagement.
- Promote the development of knowledge, skills, and beliefs to authentically and meaningfully engage parents.



A Jurisdictional Priority

School Divisions/First Nations Authorities

- A key pillar in your strategic plan.
- A staffing consideration.
- A significant item in teacher evaluation.
- A significant item in principal evaluation.
- Designated positions responsible for mentoring teachers and principals in parent engagement.



A Jurisdictional Priority

School Divisions/First Nations Authorities

- A realignment of your SCCs to realize their mandate of shared responsibility for teaching and learning.
- Parent learning opportunities in regard to group facilitation, teaching and learning strategies.

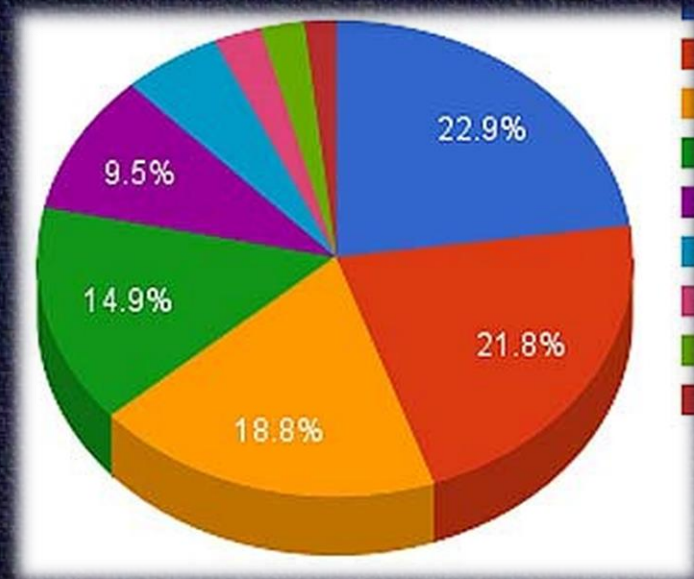
Ministry of Education

Parent Engagement Office

- Establishes provincial parent engagement policy.
- Develops teacher and administrator standards related to parent engagement.
- Expands Family Engagement handbook beyond Pre-K through to secondary.
- Stays abreast of current research.
- Liaises with all provincial partners and stakeholder groups.

Ministry of Education

Works into funding formula a resource allocation to support parent engagement.



Provincial Education Plan 2020-2030

GENTLE

REVOLUTION

Parent Engagement

Debbie Pushor, PhD

University of Saskatchewan

debbie.pushor@usask.ca

306-230-5885

@DrDebbiePushor

@WalkAlongsideSK

@UofSEd

