

Title of Project: "Beyond Council Meetings": Mobilizing Research for Effective Parent Engagement

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Lead Institution: People for Education

Project Partners: Ontario Principals' Council, Ontario Teachers' Federation, Ontario Parent Involvement Committees, People for Education Network

Ministry Priority: Engagement

Brief Background: This project will make research on effective parent involvement readily available to schools, principals, school councils, and educators.

Research Context: There is solid research showing what types of parent interaction make a real difference for student success and closing achievement gaps. There is also evidence that the most effective forms of parent interaction have an impact across socio-economic lines. Most policy currently focuses on structural school-based forms of parent engagement such as school councils and board level Parent Involvement Committees. There is little evidence to show these forms of parent engagement directly affect student success, and it is clear that they reflect existing socio-economic and ethno-racial divisions.

Knowledge Mobilization Activities: In order to effectively mobilize this research, a **toolkit** will be developed in **print and web 2.0** formats that is based on the research on effective parent involvement. The toolkit will include a research review and tip sheets customized for parents, teachers and principals around support for effective parent involvement. In addition, **traditional media, a new web hub, and extensive provincial networks were used to disseminate the findings.** The toolkit provides tools which can be used by principals, teachers, school councils and individual parents to support implementation of their own evidence-based strategies to support parents' effective involvement with their children's schooling.

Outcomes: There is a disconnect between the research knowledge about effective parent involvement and the major parent involvement structures in the province. This mobilization project will provide support to principals and interested school councils who seek to promote the most effective practices, and create a campaign to encourage school councils to become informed about effective parent involvement. By linking the best research with examples of strategies and activities that can be applied at the local school level, school councils will be empowered to direct more of their energy to what they identify as their main priority, communication.

