

School Planning Councils: Strategies for Communicating

To include the entire school community in the work of SPCs, members of the School Planning Council (SPC) may wish to develop a communications plan. This plan will keep the school community informed during the development of the plan, after the adoption of the plan and during the implementation and monitoring stages.

Some ideas to consider:

- PAC meetings include information or an activity about the school plan.

Example: PAC Meeting

At the meeting, a member of the SPC shows PAC members the provincial website on performance standards. Examples of how these standards are being used in the school (if applicable) are provided with an opportunity for discussion.

- School newsletters include information about the school plan.

Example: Newsletter Information

A newsletter item might read as follows: "In working on our writing goal and assessing where students are at, a school-wide write was held. Teachers met together to mark the writing using performance standards and developed anchor papers for our school. These are now posted on the school bulletin board. We encourage everyone to see more information on Performance Standards: http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/perf_stands/"

- Staff meetings include information or an activity related to the school plan.

Example: Agenda item - School plan progress to date

After a school-wide write was held, the school staff/SPC members noted that the majority of students needed work on descriptive words and descriptive sentences. Together, they decided to invite an expert to visit their next staff meeting with a writing workshop called 'From Bland to Grand'.

- Share your school goals with throughout the community

Example: Posters

Post a one page easy to read summary of your school goals on bulletin boards the community where parents are likely to gather (eg. ice rink, play school). Be sure to include contact information for anyone who has questions.

- During development of the plan, the SPC works with the PAC and staff to collect input from the whole school community.

Example: Phone Survey

Parent representatives develop key questions for a phone survey. Depending on the school size, this could be surveying all grade 10 parents, or all parents in the school.

Example: School Planning Day

The school has a planning day that involves all teachers, all support staff (inclusive of all school staff and support workers/aides), all parents, some students and the administration. The community works together to set priorities for the following school year.