



# Guiding Document of the Parental Involvement Committee

Collaborate. Communicate. Educate. Represent. Advocate.

The Parental Involvement Committee (PIC) has developed the following document to frame and guide its work with parents and the public education system. We look forward to receiving any questions or feedback that you may have at [parents@moed.bm](mailto:parents@moed.bm).

<p><b>1. Purpose</b></p>	<p>We are a team of passionate and committed parents<sup>1</sup> working with the Commissioner of Education, other school and system leaders and parents to support parental<sup>2</sup> and community engagement. Our purpose is to help improve student achievement, schools and our public education system.</p>
<p><b>2. Rationale</b></p>	<p>We know that parental, family and community engagement are key factors for better student achievement. We believe that transformation will be stronger, more effective and longer lasting if parents, community members and staff work together to design, implement and support improvement together.</p>
<p><b>3. Vision</b></p>	<p>Our vision reflects those of many parents: authentic and meaningful family and community engagement across all public schools to support all children to develop and learn to their fullest potential.</p>
<p><b>4. Aspirations</b></p>	<p>We hold dear these aspirations for our children, parents, educators, schools, public education system and for the PIC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <u>Students</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grow and develop in supportive and challenging learning environments so that they “are educated to lead personally, and professionally, compete locally and contribute globally”<sup>3</sup></li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. <u>Parents</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are respected, valued and supported as partners in the education of their children and the improvement of schools and the public education system</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii. <u>Educators and Support Staff</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are respected, valued and serve as caring, encouraging adults in the lives of students</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> *Parents* refers to fathers, mothers, foster parents and guardians or other primary caregivers of children.

<sup>2</sup> *Parental Engagement* is the meaningful support of parents in their children’s learning at school and at home. Examples include setting expectations for learning and good work habits, reading with children, making sure their school work is complete, attending parent-teacher conferences, being proactive about a child’s education, and participating in parent council or PTA meetings.

<sup>3</sup> Taken from the vision of Plan 2022: Bermuda’s Strategic Plan for Public School Education.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are provided the resources and professional development to practice their profession with excellence</li> </ul> <p>iv. <u>Schools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are a valuable option for all parents</li> <li>• Hold students at their centre</li> <li>• Are safe, healthy, positive and supportive environments where all students and staff can succeed</li> </ul> <p>v. <u>Our Public Education System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeps the best interests of children at heart</li> <li>• Is proactive in supporting excellence in education for all children, including those with additional needs</li> <li>• Is well-governed, with consistent, effective and stable leadership</li> <li>• Is guided by a strategic plan that is delivered with quality and fidelity</li> </ul> <p>vi. <u>We, the Parental Involvement Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve as a student, parent, educator, school and system-focused body of caring and passionate parents</li> <li>• Support our public education system to foster authentic and meaningful family and community engagement for the benefit of students, schools and the public education system.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Values</b></p>	<p>Our values are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Trust</li> <li>ii. Respect</li> <li>iii. Collaboration</li> <li>iv. Communication</li> <li>v. Transparency, and</li> <li>vi. Student-centeredness.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Role</b></p>	<p>As part of a team of parents committed to supporting parental engagement and public education, our role is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Represent broad parent interests including those of concern</li> <li>ii. Provide information and advice to Ministry and Department of Education leadership from the perspectives of parents</li> <li>iii. Provide support to parent councils and PTAs</li> <li>iv. Help parents support their children’s learning at school and at home, and</li> <li>v. Help to develop a parental and community engagement strategy for Bermuda Public Schools.</li> </ul>

<p><b>7. PIC Expectations of the Ministry and Department of Education</b></p>	<p>We are working with the Ministry and Department of Education to foster a relationship of trust, transparency and mutual understanding.</p>
<p><b>8. Key Questions</b></p>	<p>Working with the Commissioner of Education, and other system and school leaders, we will work to address the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. How should the Ministry and Department of Education and PIC effectively support and grow meaningful parental engagement for Bermuda’s public school children?</li> <li>ii. How can parents, students, community members, educators and support staff and the Ministry and Department of Education work together to support schools to improve learning and student achievement?</li> <li>iii. What is the best role for the Ministry and Department of Education and the PIC to play to support parents and community members to support public education and schools?</li> <li>iv. What should a strategy for the improvement of parental involvement and community engagement look like?</li> </ol>
<p><b>9. Our Goals</b></p>	<p>Our goals<sup>4</sup> are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <u>Relationship-building</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To work with the Ministry and Department of Education, schools and parents to develop productive relationships based on trust and mutual respect</li> <li>• To include within our focus parents who are disengaged, alienated and/or who face barriers to engaging in their children’s education</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. <u>Two-way Communication</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To have a two-way information flow between the PIC and the Ministry and Department of Education, between the Ministry and Department of Education and parents and between the PIC and other parents</li> <li>• To receive and understand valuable information on what is happening in public education and also disseminate information to other parents</li> <li>• To advise and support the Ministry and Department of Education in their efforts be leaders in communication to parents, staff and the community, via information-sharing and public relations to support public education</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

<sup>4</sup> These goals were taken and adapted from the Kentucky Family and Community Involvement Guide to Student Achievement. Please see an excerpt of the Kentucky Guide on page 2 of <https://education.ky.gov/CommOfEd/adv/Documents/PACtheMissingPiecev2.pdf>.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. <u>Decision-making</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To help to inform decision-making by the Ministry and Department of Education in clearly identified areas, and weigh in on other areas either proactively or as they arise</li> <li>• To understand and respect that our role is as an advisory body and that following input, decisions are ultimately made within the Ministry and Department of Education, schools, and in some cases by the larger Government of Bermuda</li> <li>• Where the Ministry and Department of Education engage us on major policy or other decisions, we can engage parents and other critical stakeholders and help to consider and represent feedback back to the Ministry and Department of Education</li> </ul> </li> <li>iv. <u>Advocacy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To advocate on behalf of the students, parents, schools, educators, the system and the PIC in support of the vision and mission of the BPSS as identified in Plan 2022</li> <li>• To help to create pathways for more parents to serve as advocates. Advocacy may include focus on specific issues like the budget, resources, policy improvement, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>v. <u>Learning Opportunities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be a learning body to understand more about what is going on in public education, including Plan 2022, policies, initiatives, effective delivery and barriers to delivery and success</li> <li>• To foster learning amongst parent councils, PTAs, parents and other stakeholders</li> </ul> </li> <li>vi. <u>Stakeholder partnerships</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To work with other bodies such as parent councils, PTAs, alumni associations, community groups and businesses to achieve our aims.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>10. Priorities</b>	<p>Our priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Engagement on Plan 2022 strategies</li> <li>ii. Recommendations and feedback on system priorities</li> <li>iii. Identifying concerns and making recommendations</li> <li>iv. Engagement in system improvement strategies</li> <li>v. Sharing ideas and strategies for improved communication</li> <li>vi. Strengthening relationships between schools</li> <li>vii. Supporting and promoting Bermuda Public Schools.</li> </ul>