

# PARENT ENGAGEMENT

## Strategies & Resources for Parents & Schools

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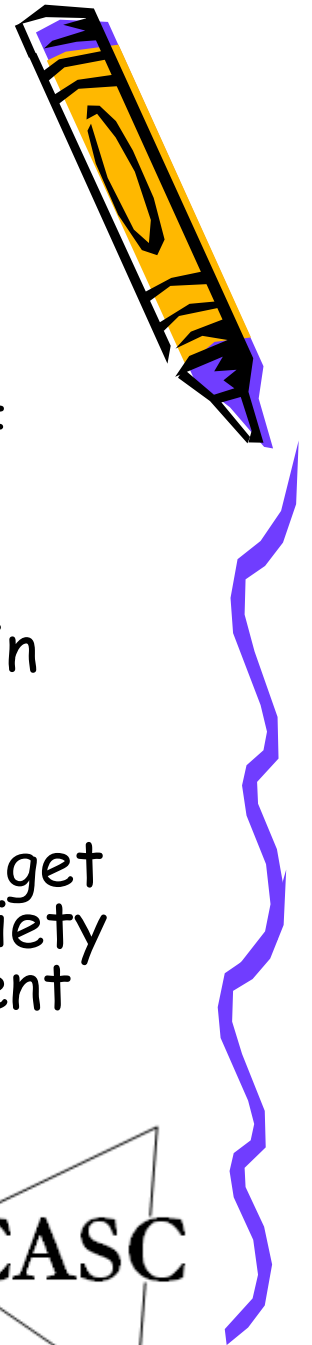
~ PRO Grant by OCASC & OCISO ~



OCASC

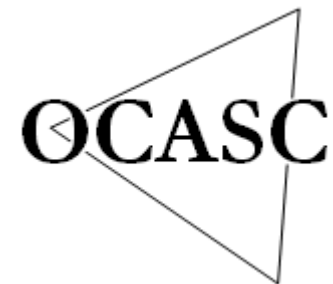
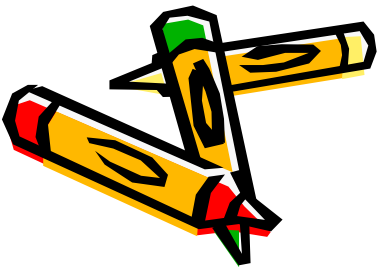
# Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC):

- a volunteer organization with a membership of over 80 school councils (of 140 schools)
- membership is open to all school councils within the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
- provides an opportunity for school councils to get together to share ideas and solutions on a variety of school council related issues as well as parent engagement strategies



# OCASC Focus for 2009-2010:

- outreach with school councils, parents, teachers, school staff, and the school board;
- consultation, collaboration, and communication on key issues;
- dialogue on education to discuss student success.



# OCASC - How we can help...

- **PARENTS/GUARDIANS...**

- speakers on issues important to your child's education
- electronic newsletter (OCASC News)
- Special Education Corner

- **SCHOOL COUNCILS...**

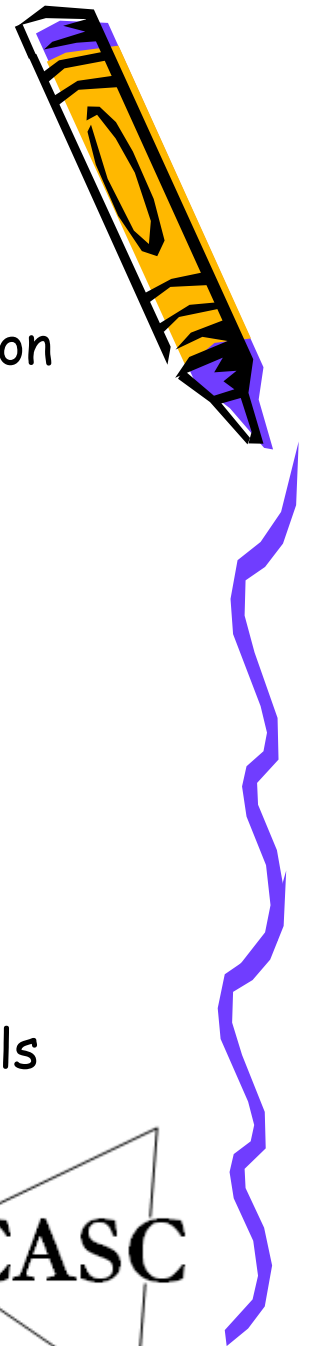
- sharing best practices (Chalk It Up)
- website with online resources
- monthly meetings

- **TEACHERS/SCHOOL STAFF/OCDSB...**

- facilitate consultation
- resource for schools and working with school councils
- representation on committees

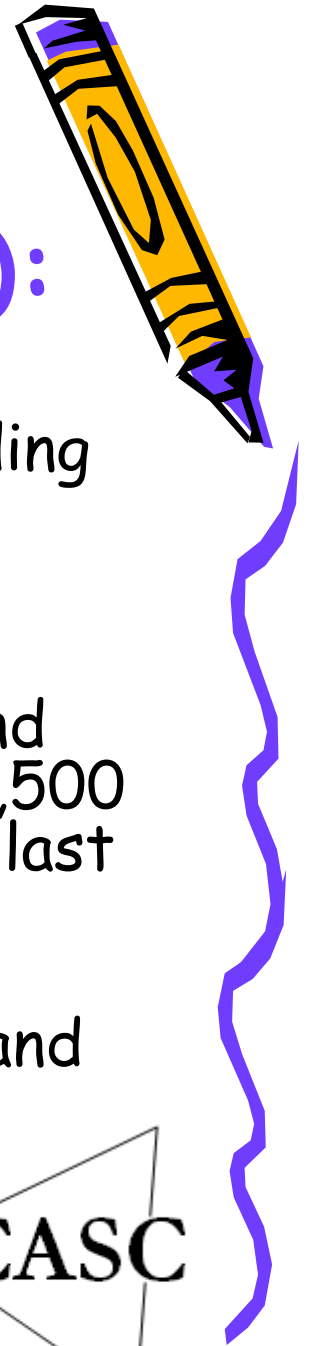
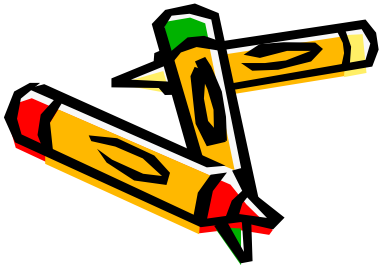


For more info: [www.ocasc.ca](http://www.ocasc.ca)



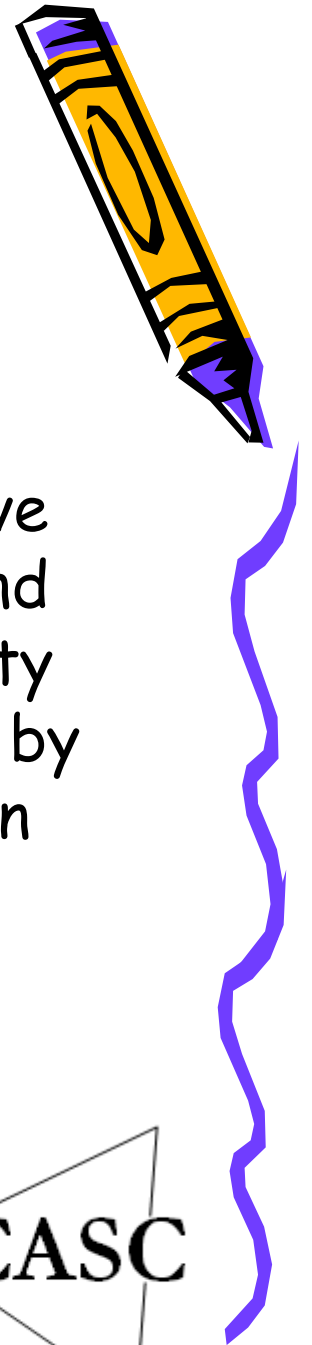
# Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO):

- a non-profit organization that has been providing settlement and integration services to the community for over 30 years
- annually more than 6,000-8,000 immigrants and refugees land in Ottawa with approximately 4,500 newcomer students in Ottawa's schools in the last 2-3 years
- OCISO serves more than 25,000 immigrants and refugees every year



# OCISO Mission:

To support immigrants through the journey of making Canada their home by providing creative and responsive programs that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, by building community through mutual respect and partnerships, and by fostering healthy and inclusive spaces for open dialogue and healing.



# OCISO - How we can help...

- **PARENTS/GUARDIANS...**

- multilingual resources
- office and website

- **SCHOOL COUNCILS...**

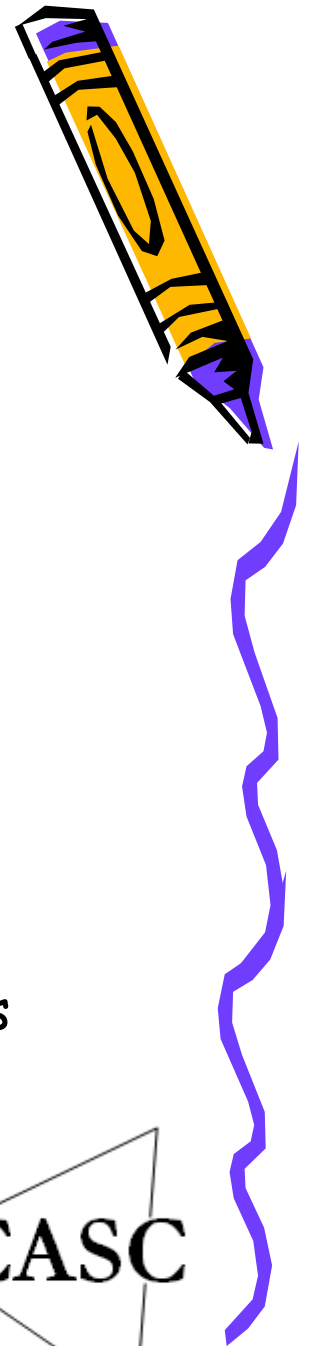
- best practices for engagement
- translation
- diversity action team resources

- **TEACHERS/SCHOOL STAFF/OCDSB...**

- Multilingual Liaison Officers in Schools program
- facilitate communication between staff and families
- sharing customs and practices



For more info: [wfarah@ociso.org](mailto:wfarah@ociso.org)  
[www.ociso.org](http://www.ociso.org)



# What is parent engagement/involvement?

**GOAL: TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS IN YOUR FAMILY,  
IN YOUR SCHOOL, AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

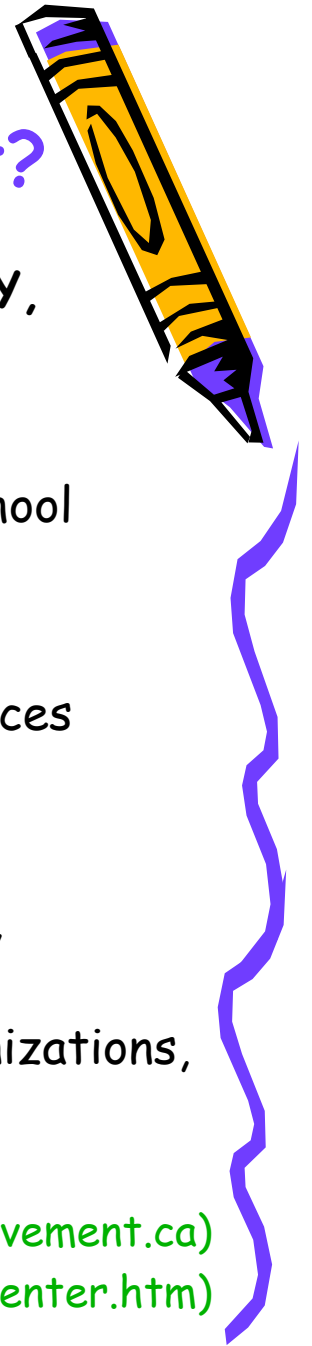
How do we do it?

- **COMMUNICATING:** two-way dialogue between home and school
- **HELPING AT HOME:** homework, supportive environment
- **ATTENDING SCHOOL EVENTS:** activities at school
- **BUILDING PARENTING SKILLS:** courses, access to resources
- **VOLUNTEERING:** in the school
- **FUNDRAISING:** to support school activities
- **PARTICIPATING IN DECISION-MAKING:** school councils, consultation
- **LEVERAGING COMMUNITY RESOURCES:** community organizations, community member



Source: Gord Kerr ([www.parentinvolvement.ca](http://www.parentinvolvement.ca))

based on research by Joyce Epstein ([www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/center.htm](http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/center.htm))





# What are the barriers to parent engagement/involvement?

- **Communication** - translation, providing curriculum or school-based information
- **Geography** - reaching parents living in a larger geographic area
- **Parents New to the System** - new to the school system, new to the area, new to Canada
- **Other** - time available, etc

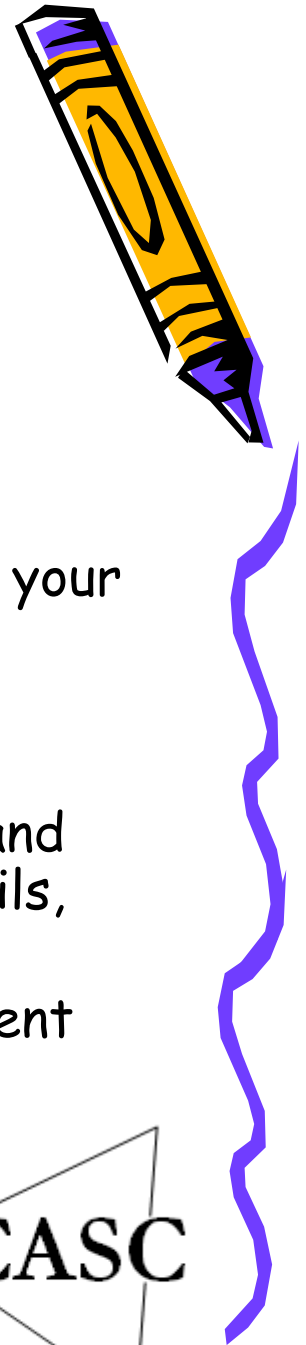
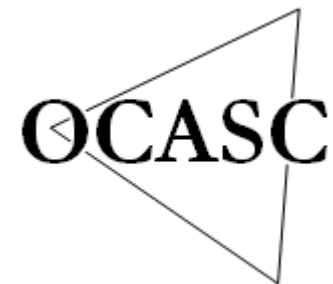


# PRO Grant:

## Parent Engagement – Strategies & Resources for Parents & Schools

### Goals

- Find out more about parent engagement/involvement in your school and what you would like to improve
- Seek concrete solutions to the key issues that school councils see as challenges in engaging parents
- Create an online resource of parent engagement tools and strategies available to parents/guardians, school councils, and teachers/school staff/OCDSB
- Provide mentoring on best practices in parent engagement



- **What works?**

What strategies does your school council use successfully to engage parents in your community? - 10 min

- **What are challenges?**

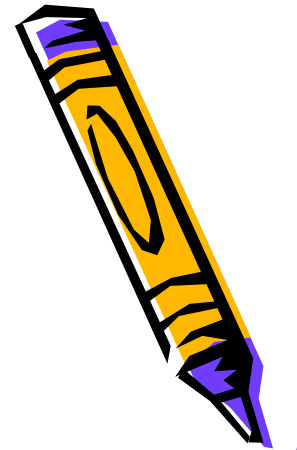
What are some of the challenges that your school council faces in engaging parents in your community? - 10 min

- **What would help?**

What would help your school council to further engage parents in your community? - 10 min

- **How do you measure success?**

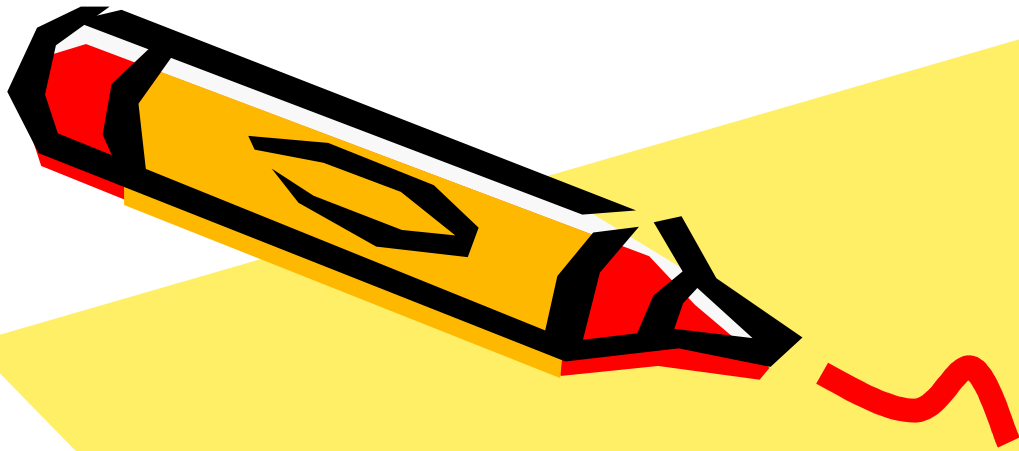
What are your parent engagement goals? - 5 min





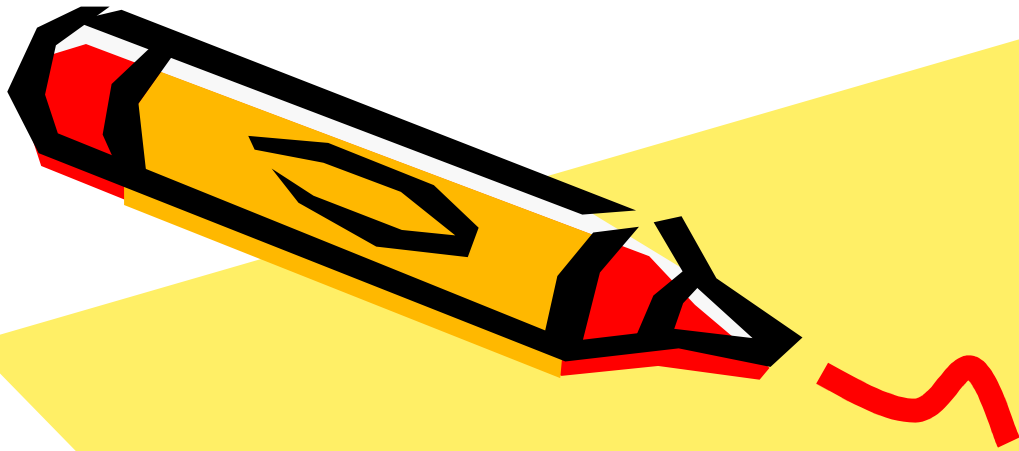
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What are some of the challenges that your school council faces in engaging parents in your community?





What would help your school  
council to further engage  
parents in your community?





How do you measure success?

What are your parent  
engagement goals?



# Thank you for your feedback.

This information will help us:

- ✓ Identify the key challenges in parent engagement and seek concrete solutions,
- ✓ Create an online resource of parent engagement tools and strategies for parents, school councils, teachers, school administrators and the OCDSB,
- ✓ Continue to share best practices and provide mentoring on parent engagement.

For more information, please contact:

Norah Vollmer at [nvollmer@sympatico.ca](mailto:nvollmer@sympatico.ca)

We will continue to share information on this project with you.

