

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS (Q&A)

What is the Parental Involvement Committee?

The Parental Involvement Committee is a new team of parents being created to work alongside the Commissioner of Education and school leaders to help improve student achievement, our schools and our public education system.

Why is the Parental Involvement Committee being created?

A parent suggested that a committee be put in place so that the voices of parents can be heard and strengthened beyond individual schools and across the public education system.

Why have a Parental Involvement Committee?

Parents often have ideas and suggestions that can help many schools. Parent advocacy, support and investment at the system level will help drive positive change for the public education system.

What are the roles and responsibilities of the Parental Involvement Committee?

The Parental Involvement Committee will engage and represent the voices of parents. It will work alongside the Commissioner of Education and school leaders to improve family and community engagement by:

- Providing advice and feedback from parent perspectives
- Representing broad parental interests, including issues of concern
- Providing support to parent councils and PTAs
- Helping parents support their children's learning at home and at school
- Helping to develop a parental involvement and community engagement strategy.

How will the Parental Involvement Committee be chosen?

All parents of public school students are being given the chance to be considered for the Parental Involvement Committee. A selection process will be run by a team of other parents, educators and community members who are all passionate about improving public education. The goal is to have a Parental Involvement Committee that reflects the collective capacity and diversity of the public education system. 'Invitation to Apply' forms are available at www.moed.bm.

How can I get involved?

Parents are asked to complete a short 'Invitation to Apply' form and submit it to the Parental Involvement Committee Selection Team. The Selection Team will hold interviews and make recommendations to the Minister on which parents should be appointed.

How many persons will sit on the Parental Involvement Committee?

The Parental Involvement Committee will consist of 7–15 members.

If chosen, how long will I serve?

Members will serve one, two or three year terms.

What are the criteria for selection?

Parents selected should represent a cross-section of parents across public schools and:

- Have a child or children enrolled in a Bermuda public school
- Be committed to family and community engagement
- Be able to attend monthly meetings
- Be able to work co-operatively and collaboratively, and
- Be able to engage parents and community partners and represent their ideas and interests.

Is the Parental Involvement Committee guided by legislation?

Yes, the Parental Involvement Committee and its appointment are guided by section 25I of the Education Act 1996. The Education Act is available at www.bermudalaws.bm.

What is the difference between the Parental Involvement Committee and PTAs and parent councils?

PTAs and parent councils support improved parental involvement for individual schools, whereas the Parental Involvement Committee will work to improve parental involvement across the entire public education system.

What role will PTAs and parent councils play?

The Parental Involvement Committee is responsible for engaging and representing parents; therefore it will work with PTAs and parent councils towards the common aim of improved parental involvement.

How much time will be required of Parental Involvement Committee members?

Since the Parental Involvement Committee will be a new committee, the amount of time required will depend on how committee members decide to best carry out their responsibilities. Members will be required to meet at least once a month and contribute at least 2–3 additional hours per month.

When will the work of the Parental Involvement Committee begin?

The Parental Involvement Committee should be established and be up and running during the current school year.

Will the Parental Involvement Committee be provided any training?

Yes, the Parental Involvement Committee will be provided with orientation and ongoing training and support.

Where do I send the 'Invitation to Apply' form?

Completed forms can be sent to:

The Parental Involvement Committee Selection Team
c/o The Ministry of Education Headquarters
14 Waller's Point Road
St. George's DD 03

Email: parents@moed.bm or fax: 278-3348.

When is the deadline to submit the 'Invitation to Apply' form?

The deadline is Sunday, 9 April 2017.

What if I have additional questions?

Please email parents@moed.bm or call 278-3311 if you have any questions.

