

School Councils (PAC) and Fundraising Associations (Societies)

School councils evolved from or replaced Parent Advisory Councils (PACs), advancing the role of parents and others in the community from volunteers supporting the school, usually through extensive fundraising, to collaborative participants in school decision-making.

This change raised questions about how to handle fundraising issues and continue providing enhanced resources and support to the school. School councils and fundraising associations are completely different entities. School councils (PAC) are forums through which members of school communities play an important role in school improvement planning.

Fundraising associations are groups of people who have incorporated under the Societies Act or Part 9 of the Companies Act.

Making the Distinction

School councils and fundraising associations provide two separate and distinct contexts for parent and community involvement in the school.

School councils provide a means for parents and community to work together with administration, staff and students to promote the wellbeing and overall effectiveness of the school community. The main role is advisory.

Fundraising associations provide a means for parents and community members to provide additional financial resources and support to the school. Their main role is fundraising. Members who serve on a school council can also serve on a fundraising association, and vice versa, unless the operating procedures/bylaws of either organization prohibit it.

Fundraising associations are responsible for reporting on their activities and fall within the statutes of the Societies Act, Alberta Corporate Registry and Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, depending on the group's fundraising activities.