

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS

### Background

The Division encourages and supports community involvement and the use of volunteers in its schools.

The importance of the school working in partnership with the community to develop and educate our youth is fundamental to the directions contemplated by the recent restructuring of education in Alberta. Historically, Alberta Education provided an initial impetus to the community education concept by providing ear-marked funding for community schools. While this funding is no longer available, the philosophy that underpins the community school concept is still very relevant and valuable. As well, school volunteers are a valuable resource which can enhance learning and assist school staff. Parents form a large component of the school volunteer team but assistance from anyone is appreciated. School volunteers can become strong advocates and ambassadors for the school in the community at large.

### Procedures

1. The community school philosophy encourages schools to:
  - 1.1 Be consciously oriented to the larger community they serve.
  - 1.2 Cooperate with community agencies in the development of programs and services.
  - 1.3 Provide school facilities for community use.
  - 1.4 Establish and maintain close communication with families in the neighbourhood.
  - 1.5 Build sensitivity to neighbourhood problems and issues.
  - 1.6 Contribute to the development of a sense of community in their neighbourhood.
  - 1.7 Implement (as much as possible within funding limitations) the community school philosophy as outlined by Alberta Education.
2. Joint booking and use of school and community facilities shall be governed by the terms of the Joint Use Agreements in the respective communities within the Division.
3. The extent of the implementation of community school projects will be subject to the availability of funds and other required resources.
4. Schools must recognize the value of school volunteers and establish a welcoming environment to encourage participation.

5. School volunteers must work under the direction of a professional to ensure activities are appropriate and support learning.
6. School volunteers must recognize and adhere to established policies and practices when working in the school environment.
7. Schools should recognize the contributions of volunteers.

Revision Dates: May 12, 2017 (renumbered from 152)