



# **School Councils vs. Fundraising Associations**

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# School Councils



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## Purpose

- To advise the principal and school board on matters related to the school, focusing on supporting and enhancing student learning.
- School council provides a space for parents to reflect the wishes of the broader community for the education of its students and to actively participate in giving advice and support to the principal in the operations of the school.

## Composition

- Typically includes parents, teachers, secondary students, principal, staff, and community representatives.

# School Councils



## Role:

- Communicating, listening, engaging, representing, and providing advice.
- Contributing input on school policies, budgets, and education plans. This includes policy on financial and fundraising plans.
- Promoting positive, collaborative engagement within the school community.

# School Councils



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## Legal Status

- School councils are established under the School Act and are not legal entities, meaning they cannot be incorporated under the Societies Act.
- They are a part of the Education Act and are required for all schools in Alberta.

## Fundraising:

- While school councils can discuss and potentially undertake fundraising activities, it is not their primary function, and they cannot engage in activities requiring a gaming license from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC).
- School councils may choose to raise funds through non-gaming activities and maintain a bank account or utilize the school's account, by following the policies, expectations and use of accounting procedures established by their school board/charter board.
- As a statutory entity, and not a legal authority, school councils should focus on their mandated advisory role and let the Fundraising Association (incorporated society) handle the money as much as possible.



# **Fundraising Association**

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# Fundraising Association



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## Purpose

- To raise funds to support the school and its activities

## Composition

- Often made up of parents and community members
- Can be the same parents and community members of the School Council

# Fundraising Association



## Role:

- Organizing and implementing fundraising events and activities.
- Managing funds raised and allocating them to school needs.
- Work closely with school councils, seeking their input on fundraising goals and how funds will be used.

# Fundraising Association



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## Legal Status

- Fundraising associations are incorporated societies, meaning they are legal entities and can undertake fundraising endeavors that require a gaming license such as raffles, bingos and casinos.

## Fundraising and Activities:

- More flexibility in what can be done for fundraising activities.



# Thank you

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