
SCHOOL COUNCIL GRANT TIP SHEET

Thames Valley District School Board offers two distinct grant initiatives designed to help School Councils enhance family engagement. The PRO Grant (Parents Reaching Out Grant) and the PIF (Parent Involvement Fund) are both designed to enhance engagement, but they differ in specific objectives, scope, and application processes.

PRO Grant

(Parents Reaching Out Grant)

- Specifically aimed at funding projects that help identify and remove barriers to parent/caregiver engagement. Focus on enhancing the engagement of families by supporting the diverse needs of families and communities at the local level, with a focus on equity and inclusion.
- School staff, in collaboration with School Councils and/or Home and School Associations can apply for this grant. The applications are reviewed by the Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee (TVPIC).
- The funding provided through the PRO Grant can vary, but it usually supports a wide range of initiatives.

PIF

(Parent Involvement Fund)

- To support, encourage and enhance family engagement.
- Distributed to school boards, through central accounts for the use by school councils in collaboration with the local school community.
- Deposited into a central account and administered through the Thames Valley District School Board. All transactions are processed at the board level.
- Total funding is \$500 per year, per school. Funds must be spent by June 30. Unspent funds will carry forward for a maximum of 1 year.

FUNDING USE EXAMPLES

ELIGIBLE USES FOR PRO GRANT

- ✓ Anti-racism and anti-oppression initiatives
- ✓ Parent/caregiver engagement supports (e.g., evening conferences, child minding)
- ✓ Enhanced multilingual and technology support (e.g., virtual presentations, online networking)
- ✓ Food sovereignty and environmental activities (e.g., hiking, community gardens)
- ✓ Mental health and well-being (e.g., workshops for student and family mental health)
- ✓ Physical health and wellness (e.g., Zumba, basic first aid, conflict resolution)
- ✓ Targeted resources for parent/caregiver resilience (e.g., curriculum workshops, anxiety support, technology use guidance)

- ✓ 2SLGBTQIA+ awareness (e.g., culturally responsive experiences)
- ✓ Online learning and safety (e.g., cyber-literacy)
- ✓ Literacy support for parents/caregivers

PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PROJECTS

- ✓ Literacy Night / Invest in Children
- ✓ Mindfulness Event
- ✓ Multicultural Fair
- ✓ Kindergarten Open House
- ✓ Grade 8 Parent Night
- ✓ Books for Breakfast
- ✓ STEM Night

INELIGIBLE USES FOR PROGRANT

- ✗ Activities that took place before the start of the current school year
- ✗ Payment to school board staff or volunteers, including salaries, honoraria, gifts, etc.
- ✗ Refreshments exceeding 10% of the approved funding

- ✗ Debts or financial losses that result from a project
- ✗ Out-of-province travel
- ✗ Fundraising events
- ✗ Student-focused activities (must be family focused)

ELIGIBLE USES FOR PIF FUNDS

- ✓ Enhanced communication tools (newsletter, website)
- ✓ Family Literacy/Numeracy Night
- ✓ Parent/Caregiver Handbook
- ✓ Translated materials for parents/caregivers
- ✓ Volunteer Handbooks
- ✓ Direct communication to parents/caregivers
- ✓ Multicultural Night
- ✓ Parent/Caregiver Resource Library
- ✓ Child minding fees for meetings/events

- ✓ Guest speakers for parents/caregivers
- ✓ Funding for parent/caregiver nights/open houses
- ✓ Computer software for School Council activities
- ✓ Taxi/bus fare for parent/caregiver attendance
- ✓ Refreshments for parent/caregiver events
- ✓ Welcome packages for new parents/caregivers
- ✓ Monitor for displaying school/parent/caregiver activities
- ✓ Transitional kits for kindergarten and high school parents/caregivers
- ✓ School Messenger Fees/Student Planners

INELIGIBLE USES FOR PIF FUNDS

- ✗ Capital projects, school furniture, landscaping, playground equipment
- ✗ Ministry of Education or TVDSB funded items (textbooks, salaries, laptops, iPads)

- ✗ Student-focused activities (must be family focused)
- ✗ School anniversaries/reunions
- ✗ Fun fairs and fundraising events