



English Parents' Committee Association



IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Welcome Back to School

BROCHURE
About EPCA

ARTICLES
Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
- What is an IEP and How can it Help?

ARTICLES

Who is eligible to attend English Schools in Quebec?

Alloprof: Back-to-School Tips for Parents from Alloprof

EPCA Presents... CARE Conference
CARE Conference - You are Invited!

PARENT RESOURCES



Katherine Korakakis is the President of the English Parents Committee Association (EPCA) and Head of Entrepreneurship at ProMontreal Entrepreneurs (PME), an early-stage VC fund. She has spent over a decade fostering entrepreneurial initiatives in Quebec, particularly through the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge. Katherine also serves as Vice-President of PME MTL Centre-Ouest, participates on key investment committees, and has co-authored guidebooks on entrepreneurship education, contributing her expertise to various corporate boards.

President's message

Welcome back to school!

Dear parents,

As we begin the new school year, I'd like to extend a warm welcome back to all our students, parents, and school communities. The start of the school year is always a time of renewed energy, new possibilities, and, of course, new challenges. But I am confident that we will rise to meet them, as we have in the past.

This year, the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) is more dedicated than ever to supporting you, the parents. We understand that navigating the educational system can be difficult, which is why we're here to help you every step of the way.

I'm excited to announce that we will once again offer a series of workshops designed specifically for parents. These workshops cover a wide range of topics, including understanding your child's curriculum and effectively advocating for your child's needs. Whether you are a new parent in our school system or have been involved for many years, there is something for everyone. These sessions are intended to provide you with the knowledge and tools necessary to support your children's educational journey.

In addition to the workshops, we have several tools and resources to help you throughout the school year. Our website offers guides, checklists, and video tutorials on topics ranging from school registration to special education resources. You can find our Guides for Parent Governance & Involvement [HERE](#).

While we all want to start the year on a positive note, we must acknowledge that we will no doubt also face challenges. There will be challenges in adapting to new regulations, addressing ongoing staffing shortages, and ensuring that all students receive necessary supports. However, I am confident that by working together—as parents, educators, and community members—we can overcome these obstacles and provide a nurturing and productive environment for our children.

Let us make this school year one of collaboration, resilience, and achievement. EPCA is here to guide you and work with you, and we're excited to keep building a strong and vibrant school community together.

Wishing you all a great start to the school year!

Katherine Korakakis
President, English Parents' Committee Association

About EPCA



**English Parents'
Committee Association**

WHO IS EPCA?

The English Parents' Committees Association is a coalition of parents' committees from English school boards in Quebec, representing 100,000 students of the English-speaking youth sector. EPCA is a non-profit association funded by the Ministry of Education. We advocate for public English education in Quebec and campaign on issues of concern to member parent committees. Whenever there is an education issue, we are the voice of parents. EPCA represents the parents of English-language school boards in Quebec and is a strong and trusted partner for parents throughout their child's educational journey from elementary through high school. There is strength in numbers and EPCA works to bring everyone together!

EPCA'S GOALS

While working tirelessly for the educational success of our Children, EPCA accompanies, supports, and represents parents with children in public school in Quebec. EPCA helps parents to take their rightful place in the school ecosystem and assists them in meeting the needs of their children.

An organization of parents, for parents, and independent from school boards, EPCA is made up of parent volunteers who understand the unique issues faced by our youth. EPCA is also a lobbying force for concrete action, advocating for the rights and interests of our minority English language parents and children with the Quebec government, with school boards, and school administrations.

A guiding voice for

English education

in the province of Quebec.





THE EPCA TEAM

The EPCA team is made up of 16 members.

Two EPCA Directors are chosen by each member Parent Committee. These positions are nominated and elected at the first Parents' Committee meeting or parents AGA in their respective school boards (usually held in October). EPCA Directors are the official representatives for their school board's Parents' Committee. They participate at Board of Directors meetings and contribute their experience and expertise through EPCA sub-committees. The term of office of EPCA Director is a two-year term.



OUR PARTNERS

Collaboration is the key to success. With strong relationships with education partners across the province, EPCA is a strong advocate of cooperation to better our schools.

- EPCA is a preferential partner of the Ministry of Education and is consistently working with them to advocate and represent the English parents' voice.
- EPCA partners with QESBA, QCGN, and QFHS to support students and parents.
- EPCA is partners with LEARN Quebec and AlloProf.
- EPCA's strategic work with PARENTS.QUEBEC is an excellent resource for parents.



WHAT WE DO

EPCA offers support, training services, and workshops to parents involved in Education by answering questions they may have, directing them to relevant resources, and providing valid and verified information that is public and accessible to all.

EPCA also offers a personalized consulting service for which the identity of parents and their children as well as the exchanges they have with EPCA remain confidential, guaranteeing the trust that parents can have in their Association.

EPCA helps parents find the information needed to support children, help them be successful, support their well-being, or to get involved in the school's parent governance structure. Parents can learn about how to apply for English-language education eligibility, enrol in kindergarten, transition to high school and much more.



**English Parents'
Committee Association**

CONNECT WITH US

Sign up for our newsletter here:

<https://epcaquebec.org/for-parents/>



EPCA Website



(514) 778-3722

epcaquebec.org

president@epcaquebec.org



Ministère
de l'Éducation

Québec



Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

- What is an IEP and How can it Help?

An IEP builds on the curriculum that a student with a handicap, social maladjustment, or learning difficulty is following. It is designed to set out the strategies being used to meet the student's specific identified needs. This plan is created with short and long term goals to help measure the effectiveness of the interventions used to help your child in his/her school life and beyond.

The IEP is:

- A flexible, working document, helping the school and parent/guardian plan for, monitor, evaluate, and communicate the student's growth.
- An opportunity for schools, students, parents, and external agencies to work together to create a workable record of your child's developmental journey, both academic and social.
- A process embracing the philosophy that success has different meanings depending on the different abilities and needs of the student.
- An identifier of the entire child's needs, how the school will meet these needs, and how the school will measure the child's progress.

Why should parents participate in the IEP meeting?

YOU know your child better than anyone else and can provide critical information to the school team. YOU have the best understanding of your child's social, developmental, physical, and academic history. YOU chart your child's future with every step that they take and are ultimately responsible for your child's development and overall success. As a parent, you are your child's best advocate. Your child will have a greater chance for success when the school and the family work together!

Who is involved in the IEP?

The development of the IEP is a team process, which involves the principal, the parents, the student (where appropriate) and the staff working with the student. Although the principal is responsible for the implementation and periodic evaluation of the IEP, it may be coordinated by a key professional involved with the child (e.g. classroom teacher, resource teacher), and may be facilitated by an aide or technician.

IEP interventions can be expressed as "adaptations" or "modifications"... what is the difference?

- Modified Program, Competency, or Subject: End of cycle objectives will be modified to reflect the student's particular level of functioning (i.e. student will learn to count to ten).
- Adapted Curriculum: Students will be able to meet standard end of cycle outcomes with specific adaptations in place (i.e., preferential seating, adapted materials, etc.).



Who is eligible to attend English Schools in Quebec?

The following are the guidelines for English language eligibility. More information can be found on EPCA's website under [Eligibility](#).

In Quebec, there are three situations which permit a child to attend an English school:

- children who are residing in Québec permanently and who qualify for a Certificate of Eligibility for instruction in English
- children who are residing in Québec permanently and who are entitled to receive instruction in English under a Special Authorization
- children who are living in Québec temporarily and who qualify for a Temporary Authorization to receive instruction in English



Who may obtain a Certificate of Eligibility?

A certificate of eligibility is generally issued to children:

- who have received the major part of their elementary or secondary school instruction in English in Canada;
- whose brother or sister did the major part of his or her elementary or secondary studies in English in Canada;
- whose father or mother did the major part of his or her elementary studies in English in Canada;
- whose father or mother attended school in Québec after August 26, 1977, and could have been declared eligible for instruction in English at that time

Who may receive instruction in English under Special Authorization?

- children with serious learning disabilities as defined in the government regulation under section 81 of the Charter.
- children admitted to receive instruction in English by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur by reason of a serious family or humanitarian situation, following a recommendation to this effect by the examining committee, and after an assessment by a person designated by the Minister stating that the child's situation is not covered under any provision of the Charter.

Who is eligible to attend English Schools in Quebec?

cont.

Who may receive Temporary Authorization?

Children who may receive temporary authorization to receive their instruction in English fall into three categories :

First, the dependent children of persons living in Québec temporarily to study or work, including:

- the dependent children of foreign nationals who hold a Québec certificate of acceptance or an employment authorization or a student authorization issued in accordance with the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, or who are exempted from holding such a certificate or authorization under a statute applicable in Québec
- the dependent children of Canadian citizens or permanent residents domiciled in another Canadian province or territory of Canada who are temporarily living in Québec to study or work

Second, the dependent children of persons who are not Canadian citizens and who are posted in Québec temporarily as representatives or officers of a country other than Canada or of an international organization.

Last, the dependent children of members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are posted in Québec temporarily.

When a child is granted a temporary authorization to receive instruction in English, this is valid for the period of validity of the immigration document issued to the parent or child, or for the duration of their temporary stay, as stated in a sworn declaration. This stay can be for a maximum of three (3) years and expires on June 30 of the school year in which the temporary stay of the parent or child ends.

A temporary authorization to receive instruction in English may be renewed provided that the applicant still meets the same criteria as in his or her first application.

However, temporary authorization cannot be granted to the children of foreign nationals who are claiming refugee status for themselves or their children, or of foreign nationals who choose to settle in Québec on a permanent basis and obtain a Québec selection certificate. If an authorization has already been granted, it expires on June 30 of the school year in which the selection certificate is issued.



alloprof



Back-to-School Tips for Parents from Alloprof

Mission: Alloprof helps students in Quebec to transform academic challenges into successes, thanks to its free, professional, and stimulating services.



Away go the beach towels and out come the school bags– a new school year is once again upon us! It is time for children to transition back into school routines and homework. But what about parents? How can parents start the school year with a sense of control and ease?

The Basics

While elementary school supply lists are often available at the end of the previous school year, many high school students only learn what they need when they meet their new teachers. Consequently, parents and teens may end up rushing out to buy school supplies at the last minute. There are several ways to save on the cost of supplies, such as reusing items from the previous year, swapping extras for missing items with friends and neighbours, and hunting for the best deals. Also, consider sprucing up last year's backpack.

Lunch at two in the afternoon? Snacking all day between playdates with friends? Lunchtime can feel very different during the summer months, and getting back into the-making-lunch routine seems like just another chore to complete. Think about getting your child involved in preparing their snacks and school lunches. It is also a great way to spend time together and work on some academic skills as well.



alloprof parents

alloprof



Back-to-School Tips for Parents from Alloprof

Finally, consider setting up the ideal homework nook for your child. A quiet space, an organized desk, good lighting, and a comfortable chair can all make a difference. Alloprof offers some fun and educational posters and tools that you can print and use to decorate this space. Here are a few examples:

- The Mood Thermometer
- How Was My Day at School?
- Get Organized the Night Before
- Hundreds Charts: 0 to 101
- 7 Questions to Make Sure You've Understood a Story
- How to Solve a Math Word Problem

Alloprof Parents

Alloprof offers a dedicated section for parents, providing invaluable support for schoolwork, academic perseverance, and fostering a joyful and healthy family environment. On Alloprof Parents you'll find engaging resources and expert advice on topics ranging from establishing homework routines to helping your child prepare for end-of-year exams. Subscribe to our parent newsletter to stay updated with our latest resources and tips!



EPCA Presents... CARE Conference



CARE will take place at the Holiday Inn Centre-Ville, 999 rue Saint-Urbain, Montréal

To register:
Contact Suzanne Keough
by calling
514-849-5900, ext. 221
or via email at
skeough@gesba.qc.ca

The aim of the Conference is to strengthen the vital link between the education community and the wider official language minority community and society it serves, share knowledge, and develop innovative ways to make the public English education system more effective. We will be recording all sessions over the two-day conference and will be producing a complete report with recommendations to deposit with the Minister of Education.

The CARE Conference is being developed around five themes:

1. Sustainability
2. Programs/Expertise
3. Strengthening links between the education community and other communities within the English-speaking Community of Quebec
4. Best practices in working cooperatively with government and positively contribute to the development of legislation, regulations, policies and programs.
5. Government support to the English school system in Quebec.

CARE Conference - You are Invited!

Why Attend the CARE Conference: A Message from the President of EPCA

As President of the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA), I am delighted to extend you an invitation to the upcoming CARE Conference. This event has significant implications for the future of our children's education and promises to be a watershed moment. Mark your calendars for September 25 and 26, 2024, because something special is taking place at the Holiday Inn Centre-Ville in Montreal. This conference is not your typical gathering; it is a strong call to action for our community.

What makes the CARE Conference significant?

The CARE Conference was carefully planned in collaboration with key players in the Quebec education community, including the Quebec English School Boards Association, EPCA, the Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers, and other stakeholders. What is the goal? To strengthen the vital link between our English-speaking community and the broader educational environment in Quebec.

An Unprecedented Opportunity to Influence What Lies Ahead

This conference aims to address urgent issues in our public English education system. This conference's topics are extremely important to any parent who is concerned about their child's education. These themes directly address educational quality, from sustainability and teacher retention to program enhancement and expertise.

Every session will give you valuable insights and practical solutions that you, as a parent, can share with your school community. These discussions are critical for shaping the recommendations we will make to the Minister of Education. It is critical that parents' voices are heard and considered at the highest levels.

Importance of Your Participation

We greatly appreciate your participation. Attending the event will help you gain a better understanding of the topics being discussed while also providing a platform for you to share your own experiences and ideas. We value our community's insights and contributions because they will help shape our innovative strategies for the benefit of all of our children.

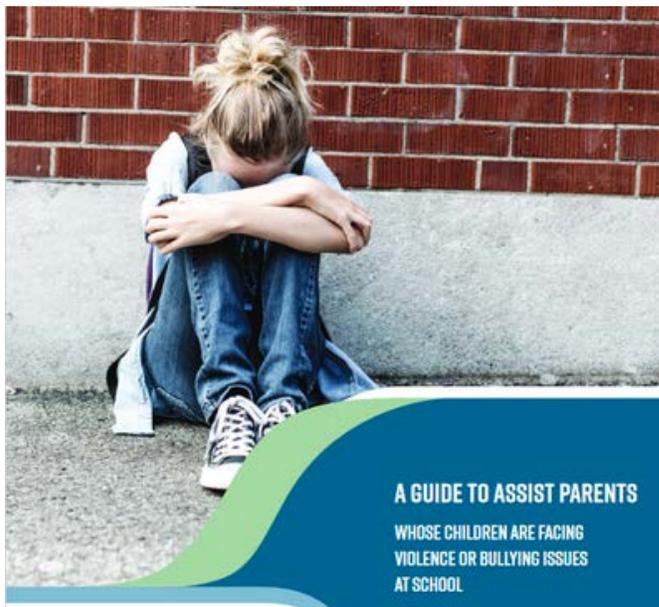
The conference will also highlight the critical role that our schools play in preserving and promoting our community's language, culture, and identity. Schools play an important role in our communities, serving as more than just places for education. They are the beating heart that keeps traditions alive and fosters social connections. Join a community of like-minded parents, educators, and policymakers who are committed to keeping our schools strong and vibrant.

Email Suzanne Keough to register: skeough@gesba.qc.ca

I am excited to meet you at the event!

Katherine Korakakis
President, English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA)

Parent Resources



The Quebec Federation of Parents' Committees, with support from various partners - including EPCA's President Katherine Korakakis, has put together a guide to assist parents whose children are facing violence or bullying issues at school - click [here](#).

Tutoring



Homework Help



ENGLISH ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATES

Explainer: What Quebec parents and students need to know about English eligibility certificates: At this [LINK](#) are details on how to apply for a certificate and who is eligible to attend English schools in Quebec.

EPCA MISSION STATEMENT

The English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) is a coalition of parents' committees of Quebec's English-language public school boards, representing more than 100,00 students in the youth sector.

EPCA advocates for a strong and sustainable English-language public education system to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for our children, while respecting the culture and language of anglophone Quebecers.

To do so, EPCA seeks to engage and motivate parents across Quebec to contribute to strong, representative and effective parent governance, to foster positive relationships with stakeholders across the educational spectrum, and to provide guidance and support to all member organizations.

What would you like to see in
our upcoming editions?

[TELL US HERE](#)

5253, Blvd. Decarie, Suite 309, Montreal, Quebec, H3W 3C3
(514) 778-3722 - epcaquebec.org - president@epcaquebec.org

EPCA STRATEGIC PILLARS

INFORM

Using all communications tools at our disposal, offer up-to-date information on public education initiatives, parent governance interests, best practices and issues management to ensure a healthy, well-engaged anglophone parent community.

CONSULT

Ensure strong, high-quality and consistent feedback mechanisms with members and partners across the English-language public school network through both electronic and in-person methods.

SUPPORT

Provide training and professional development at all levels of parent governance, optimize the sharing of best practices and provide multiple support services for parent committees, governing boards and parent delegates in need.

ADVOCATE

Push for appropriate policy change and improvement through enhanced partnerships with like-minded organizations, Government working groups/tasks forces, and related organizations, through well-considered political positions on behalf of English- Language parents committees across Quebec, taking into account regional difference and the urban/rural divide.