

# The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations: What's the Difference?

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## Home & School Association

- organized by members for members
- recognized in the Education Act
- membership open to all who support OFHSA policies and beliefs; members set policy by majority vote
- all members are covered by liability insurance for any H&S endorsed activities on or off school property through OFHSA
- independent organization meeting in the school
- fundraising should follow school board/Ministry of Education fundraising guidelines if fundraiser on school property; offsite fundraisers should follow OFHSA fundraising guidelines
- funds held in separate account and controlled by members; sets its own budget; access to financial guidelines for record keeping, reporting and managing funds
- elects own executive committee; association organized and operated by executive and membership
- operates under established OFHSA Constitution and Bylaws
- may be part of a Home & School Council and connected to provincial and federal bodies
- has a voice at all levels of government: regional (school and school board), provincial and federal
- influences government actions in education and beyond through responses, briefs, resolution process and committee membership
- charitable tax receipts available through OFHSA
- must have representation on school council
- can speak on behalf of members
- provincial office, executive and board
- has access to independent information through network and provincial mailings, newsletter, e-news and website
- leadership training and resources available
- Annual Meeting and conference

## School Council

- mandated under the Education Act
- operates under Ministry established guidelines
- majority of members are parents but also includes school staff, a community member and students
- limited insurance coverage under school board liability policy for approved activities on school property
- meetings held in school
- fundraising must follow school board/Ministry of Education fundraising guidelines; fundraisers approved by principal
- funds held in school accounts, controlled under principal's signing authority; funds reported according to school board & Ministry of Education guidelines
- responsibility for set up and operation lies with the principal; meetings run by committee chair
- may be connected to other school councils at the board level
- has a voice only at the school and school board level
- advisory role to the principal
- respond to directives from the school board and ministry of education
- charitable tax receipts may be available through school board



**The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations**

**info@ofhsa.on.ca 905.308.9563**

**www.ofhsa.on.ca**

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