

# IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

Engagement, or public participation, is a process used to make better decisions, that incorporates the interests and concerns of all people affected while meeting the needs of the decision making body around the issue that's being addressed.

At New Westminster Schools, we're committed to working alongside our partners as we make decisions about all the work that's happening across the district. Depending on the issues, options and goals, the participation level might look a bit different each time. Below is a framework that was created by the International Association for Public Participation that serves as a helpful guide to understanding the different ways we may engage with members of our communities, with our local examples added in the last row.

	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Public participation goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the public	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
Examples of what that looks like for the Board of Education, District and schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on curriculum, classroom lessons, and school activities</li> <li>• Reports on learning outcomes and other collected data</li> <li>• Sharing information on health and safety-related issues</li> <li>• Information and updates provided by email, website, social media</li> <li>• Staff reports to the Board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement opportunities at public meetings (<i>Board meetings, PAC meetings</i>)</li> <li>• Surveys (<i>Budget consultation, public reviews of programs or portfolios</i>)</li> <li>• Email correspondence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder meetings or interviews</li> <li>• Focus groups</li> <li>• Student Voice presentations &amp; the annual Student Symposium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory Committees (<i>Indigenous Advisory Committee, Renaming committees, Inclusive Education Review Committee</i>)</li> <li>• Participating in wider community committees (<i>with regional partners, Ministry committees, City planning committees</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At times 'Empower' may include deferring to an individual or group of experts (<i>e.g. Indigenous Rightsholders, Inclusion experts, etc.</i>)</li> </ul>