



EPCA

English Parents' Committee
Association of Quebec



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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!

Dear parents,

As summer begins to wind down and we prepare for another school year, I want to welcome families back and extend a special welcome to those joining our school communities for the first time. Although the first bell hasn't rung yet, this is an important time for parents to get informed, get organized, and think about how they may want to become involved in the year ahead. This month's newsletter is designed to help you do exactly that.

We're starting with school AGAs, one of the first opportunities of the year for parents to learn more about their school and the different ways they can participate. If you're new to parent involvement, we also explain what parent volunteering can look like and why you don't need years of experience or endless amounts of free time to make a meaningful contribution.

At the same time, involvement needs to be sustainable. Many of us begin the school year with the best intentions and quickly find ourselves juggling work, family, school emails, meetings, and volunteer commitments. We're sharing some practical advice on avoiding volunteer fatigue and finding the right level of involvement for you.

We're also very excited to introduce [EPCA's new website](#). It was redesigned to make information and resources easier for parents to find, and we'll walk you through how to navigate it and make the most of what's available.

On the practical side, we have included a reminder about school tax registration for families outside Montreal, as well as important information about fees charged to parents. With back-to-school expenses adding up quickly, parents should understand what schools can charge for, what should be provided free of charge, and what questions they can ask when reviewing school fee lists.

A new school year always brings a lot of information at once. Our goal at EPCA is to help make that information clearer and to ensure parents across Quebec have the tools they need to understand the system, participate in it, and advocate for their children.

Enjoy these last days of summer. I wish all families a smooth and positive start to the 2026-2027 school year.

Katherine Korakakis – President, English Parents' Committee Association

New EPCA Website!

Welcome to the New EPCA Website: Built with Parents in Mind

We are excited to welcome you to the new and improved EPCA [website](#)!

Over the past several months, we have been working to create a website that better reflects what EPCA is all about: supporting, informing and empowering parents across Quebec's English public school system.

Our goal was simple. We wanted to make it easier for parents to find the information they need, when they need it.

Whether you are trying to understand your child's rights, looking for information about special needs, preparing for a parent-teacher interview, serving on a Governing Board or Parents' Committee, or simply trying to keep up with what is happening in education in Quebec, the new website was designed to help you get there more quickly.

A Website Designed Around Parents

One of the biggest changes you will notice is the way information is organized.

Instead of expecting parents to already know where information belongs or how the education system works, we have tried to organize the site around the questions and situations parents actually encounter. A great place to begin is the [For Parents](#) section.

Here, you can explore resources on topics including:

- Bullying
- Drugs and vaping
- English education eligibility
- High school
- Kindergarten
- Parent fees
- Parent-teacher interviews
- Sexuality education
- The Student Ombudsman
- Special needs



These sections are intended to give families a starting point when they have a question, need guidance or simply want to better understand the education system.

New EPCA Website!

cont.

Are You Involved in Parent Governance?

If you are a member of a Governing Board, Parents' Committee or another parent governance body, we have created a dedicated area for you.

Visit the [For Parents' Committee](#) section to find information and resources that can help you better understand your role and responsibilities.

You will find materials on parent governance, Parents' Committee resources, relevant legislation and guides designed to help parents participate more confidently in school and school-board decision making.

Parent involvement is an important part of Quebec's public education system, but we know that understanding the structures, terminology and legislation can sometimes be overwhelming. Our goal is to make that information more accessible.

Find Workshops and Events

EPCA offers workshops and information sessions throughout the year on issues that matter to families.

The [Our Initiatives](#) section is where you can learn more about EPCA workshops, their objectives and upcoming opportunities to participate.

Our workshops are designed not only to provide information, but also to give parents practical tools they can use when supporting their children or participating in their school community.

Stay Informed

Education in Quebec is constantly evolving.

New legislation, government decisions, consultations and policy changes can have very real consequences for students and families.

The [News](#) section brings together EPCA's latest articles, newsletters, parent guides, educational information and advocacy updates in one place.

We encourage parents to check this section regularly. It is one of the easiest ways to stay informed about both the everyday issues affecting families and the larger education issues EPCA is following on behalf of parents.

New EPCA Website!

cont.

Learn More About EPCA

If you are new to EPCA or have ever wondered exactly what we do visit the [About Us](#) section.

EPCA is a coalition of Parents' Committees from Quebec's English-language school boards, representing the interests of families and nearly 100,000 students across the English public education network. Our work includes supporting Parents' Committees, providing information and training, collaborating with education and community partners, consulting parents, and bringing the parent perspective to government and decision-makers.

Our website is another important part of that work.

Where Should You Start?

When you visit the new website, we recommend taking a few minutes to explore.

- Start with [For Parents](#) if you are looking for help or information for your family.
- Visit [For Parents' Committee](#) if you are involved in parent governance.
- Check [Our Initiatives](#) to learn about workshops and opportunities to participate.
- Visit [News](#) for our latest articles, newsletters, resources and advocacy updates.
- And if you cannot find what you are looking for, use [Contact Us](#) to reach out to EPCA.

Most importantly, bookmark the website and come back often. We will continue adding resources, information, workshops and updates throughout the school year.

This Website Belongs to Our Parent Community

The launch of our new website is not simply about having a new look. It is about making EPCA's work more accessible, practical and useful to parents.

Parents should not have to be experts in education law, governance or government policy to understand what is happening in their child's education. You should have somewhere to turn for clear information, helpful resources and support. That is what we want the new EPCA website to become: a place parents know they can turn to.

We invite you to explore it, share it with other parents and let us know what you think.

Welcome to the new EPCA website.

Your voice. Your resources. Your EPCA.

Visit [EPCA Quebec](#) and start exploring today.

Annual General Assembly (AGA)

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time – a fresh start for your child, a new classroom and teachers, and new opportunities for your family to connect with your school community.

At the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA), we know that strong schools are built on strong partnerships between parents, educators, administrators, and the wider community. EPCA advocates for English-speaking families and brings parents' voices to government and our educational partners across Quebec. But advocacy doesn't start at the provincial level. **It starts at your child's school.**

Ever wondered how a schoolyard revitalization project came to be? Or how decisions are made about budgets for books, musical instruments, field trips, and other school priorities? These are among the decisions discussed by your school's Governing Board, whose members are elected each year at the **Annual General Assembly (AGA)**.

You will receive, or may have already received, an invitation from your principal to attend your school's AGA. **If you've never attended, this is a great year to start.** The AGA is an important opportunity to learn how your school works, meet other parents, and have a voice in decisions that affect your child's school experience.

You don't need experience in education, governance, or school administration to get involved. You simply bring what matters most: **your perspective as a parent.** You know your child. You understand your family's experience with the school. You have questions, ideas, concerns, and hopes for your child's education. That perspective belongs at the table.

Serving on a Governing Board is a chance to work alongside school administrators, teachers, staff, and fellow parents – to listen, learn, contribute, and help shape your school community. And even if you can't serve on the Board, attending the AGA is a wonderful first step toward getting involved.

Parents have a voice. Parents have influence. Parents have a role to play.

Our schools are stronger when parents participate. Every volunteer, question, idea, and contribution helps build a stronger school community, and strengthens EPCA's ability to advocate for English-speaking families across Quebec. So, as we begin the 2026–2027 school year, we encourage you to **show up, get informed, and make your voice heard. Start by attending your AGA.**

For more information about Parental Governance and ways to get involved, please see **EPCA's Guides for Parent Governance & Involvement**. Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy, and rewarding school year!

Parent Retrospective - Parents Make a Difference

My family moved to Quebec in the summer of 2021, just before my oldest daughter started first grade. We didn't know anyone, and like many families starting somewhere new, we were looking for a sense of connection and belonging. Over the years since, volunteering has allowed me to become one small part of an incredibly strong parent community within our school, school board, and province.

One of the biggest lessons I have learned through parent governance is just how important that community is. When parents are engaged, connected, and willing to contribute, they help create a school where families feel that they belong. I can feel it when I am present at the school, and I know my children can feel it too. Volunteering communicates to them that we care about their school, their education, and their community, and that we are there to support them.

Sometimes parents, especially those who are new to a school community, aren't sure where they fit or what they have to offer. The beauty of a strong parent community is that there is a place for everyone, and it can begin with something as simple as showing up, listening, asking questions, sharing your perspective, or offering to helping. I have seen time and time again that small contributions, when made by many people, can have a tremendous impact.

After several years in school governance, I have come to believe that a strong parent volunteer community is one of the foundations of a strong school community. When parents invest their time and energy in their schools, they strengthen the connections between families, staff, and students and help create a community where children can feel supported, connected, and valued.

For me, volunteering began as a way to build connections while supporting my children's school, but it has become way to make connections, give back, and help create the kind of school environment where all children can feel that they belong.

As we begin another school year, I hope more parents will find a way to get involved, whatever that looks like for them. It doesn't have to be a major commitment. Attend a meeting, vote for their parent representatives, join a committee, volunteer at an event, or simply offer your time when you can. I strongly believe that there is a place for everyone, and every contribution matters.



Smart Volunteering

As parents head back into another school year, apparently refreshed and motivated from a relaxing summer, many of us will resume our responsibilities in Parental Governance, or in Home and Schools/POPs. While it is fundamentally important for parents to be involved in this aspect of school life, those who volunteer for this work often end up taking on many roles and responsibilities. It is absolutely important that parents take on these assignments, but it is also important that parents do not do too much and burn themselves out.

Some people can manage to wear many hats, but time is our most valuable asset, and it must be managed judiciously to avoid volunteer burnout. It is important to set firm limits on your time, learn to say no to extra tasks, and step back when you feel tired. Clear boundaries help keep your work fun and meaningful.

Set Clear Limits and Track Time

- Set a weekly hour cap for your volunteer work and stick to it.
- Pick a fixed number of hours each month and stick to them.
- Say no to last-minute requests if your schedule is full.
- Say no to tasks that drop outside of your regular schedule.
- Focus on one or two causes instead of spreading yourself too thin.

Protect Your Time, Rest and Disconnect

- Take real breaks without checking group chats or emails.
- Schedule guaranteed break weeks where you do zero volunteer tasks.
- Step away from tasks if you feel angry, tired, or annoyed.
- Turn off chat notifications and emails when you are off duty.
- Balance your volunteer work with family, rest, and hobbies
- Prioritize your own sleep, exercise, and hobbies above all else.

Communicate and Share

- Ask the organization for clear job tasks so you know what to expect.
- Share the work with other people instead of doing it all alone.
- Talk to your group leader if you need to take a leave of absence.



2026 School Fees

School Fees: What Parents Should Know

As the new school year begins, families will receive school-supply lists and invoices outlining various materials, services and activities for the year.

But not everything your child needs for school can automatically be charged to parents.

Quebec's Education Act and the Regulation respecting free instructional material and certain financial contributions that may be required establish what schools must provide free of charge, what parents may be asked to purchase, and the rules schools and governing boards must follow when fees are charged.

For parents, the most important principle to remember is: **Free public education is the rule. Fees charged to parents are the exception.**

What are parents generally responsible for?

Parents can generally be asked to provide materials intended for their child's personal use or personal organization. Examples include:

- Pens and pencils
- Paper
- Pencil cases
- Backpacks
- Binders and duo-tangs
- Standard or scientific calculators
- Certain physical education clothing
- School uniforms, where applicable



These are generally items that belong to the student rather than instructional materials that remain the property of the school.

What must the school provide?

Many materials required for teaching and learning are covered by the right of free use and must be made available to students without parents having to purchase them.

2026 School Fees

cont.

Depending on how they are being used, these can include:

- Textbooks and other required instructional materials
- Novels
- Dictionaries and grammars
- Atlases
- Art materials such as paint, pastels, clay and modelling materials
- Scientific materials
- Physical education and sports equipment
- Musical instruments
- Protective equipment such as helmets, safety glasses and hairnets
- Computers and tablets
- Required technological applications
- Headphones
- Graphing calculators



Our existing guide already identifies many of these instructional, technological and protective materials as materials the school is responsible for providing.

An important distinction: calculators

Parents should pay particular attention to the type of calculator requested.

Under the Regulation, **graphing calculators** are included among materials covered by the right of free use, while **standard and scientific calculators** are treated differently and may be included among personal-use materials.

Students with special needs

The Regulation also specifically recognizes certain **sensory-stimulation materials** intended particularly for students with disabilities or students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities as materials covered by the right of free use.

Parents should not automatically assume that specialized educational materials required by their child must be purchased at their own expense.

2026 School Fees

cont.

Can a school tell me which brand to buy?

Generally, **no specific brand or supplier can be imposed for personal-use materials**. A school can certainly tell parents what is required, for example, the size or colour of a binder or duo-tang but generally cannot require parents to purchase a particular brand or shop at one specific retailer.

There is an important exception for **activity and exercise books**, where a specific book may be required. Our previous guide explains this general principle regarding brands and suppliers.

What about school uniforms?

Schools may establish standards regarding the style and colour of a uniform. However, parents should not automatically be forced to purchase all clothing from a single supplier simply because the school has a uniform policy.

For example, a school may establish requirements for the clothing and make a school crest available at a reasonable cost that can be attached to an appropriate garment.

Schools cannot profit from fees

Where a financial contribution is permitted, it must respect the rules established under the Education Act and Regulation.

School fees are not intended to generate profit.

The amount charged must correspond to the permitted cost, and funding already provided to the school for that expense must be taken into consideration. In other words, parents should not be paying twice for something that has already been funded.

Your invoice should be clear

Parents have a right to understand exactly what they are being asked to pay. Financial contributions required for a service, activity, material not covered by free use, or applicable student supervision must be presented on a clear and detailed invoice.

The invoice should identify what the contribution is for and its cost. If you see a vague charge and cannot determine what you are paying for, **ask the school for clarification**.

2026 School Fees

cont.

Pay attention to printing and photocopying fees

This is particularly important at the secondary-school level.

A school invoice might contain separate printing charges for different subjects. Parents should look carefully at what those fees cover. Documents that replace an activity or exercise book may be chargeable. However, photocopied or reproduced material that replaces or supplements a school manual is subject to the rules governing free instructional material.

Our guide recommends that parents look carefully at printing charges and ensure they are clearly identified. A generic "photocopying fee" should therefore prompt a simple question: **What exactly is my child receiving for this charge?**

What about donations?

Schools may request a voluntary contribution or donation, but voluntary must truly mean voluntary. A donation should never be presented in a way that makes parents believe it is mandatory.

Importantly, when a voluntary contribution or donation is requested, that amount cannot be included in the total amount payable on the school invoice. **Parents should never feel pressured to donate** or believe that their child's access to education depends upon donating.

Special school projects

There are circumstances where additional fees may legitimately be charged, particularly for special school projects.

Depending on the program, these can include expenses associated with specialized activities, outside specialists or coaches, certifications, coordination or the use of specialized facilities. However, being part of a special project does not eliminate the **school's responsibility for transparency**.

Parents should still be told:

- What they are paying for
- Why the contribution is required
- How much it costs
- What services or activities are included

2026 School Fees

cont.

Field trips and activities

Certain school activities can also involve legitimate costs to parents.

For example, activities taking place outside the school may involve transportation or other expenses, and activities involving outside organizations or individuals may also result in permitted financial contributions.

Again, these charges must follow the applicable rules and should be clearly explained to parents.

Lunch supervision

Lunch supervision is another area where specific rules apply.

At the preschool and elementary levels, fees must respect the requirements established by the Regulation, including rules related to the student's use of the service.

At the secondary level, there are circumstances in which a student who eats lunch away from school throughout the year cannot be charged a lunch-supervision contribution, provided the applicable requirements are met.

Parents who believe they are being charged for a service their child does not use should ask the school for clarification.

What about padlocks?

Padlocks are a good example of an item that can depend on the circumstances. If a school provides a lock that remains school property, the rules may differ from a lock that the student purchases and keeps. A security deposit may also be requested for school property that must be returned.

If you provide your child's own acceptable combination lock, ask whether any lock charge appearing on your invoice can be removed.

Governing boards have an important responsibility. School fees are not simply something parents should receive at the beginning of the year without oversight. **The governing board has an important role in reviewing and approving applicable financial contributions and school-supply lists.**

2026 School Fees

cont.

Parent representatives should ask questions before approving proposed fees:

- Is this something parents can legally be charged for?
- What is the actual cost?
- Is government funding already available for this expense?
- Is there a less expensive option?
- Is the charge clearly explained?
- What is the cumulative financial impact on families?

Governing boards must also consider accessibility when approving financial contributions and put measures in place to facilitate access for every student. **A child's ability to participate in school life should not depend on their family's ability to pay.**

EPCA's message to parents

A \$5 or \$10 charge may not seem significant on its own. But when multiple charges are added across several subjects, activities and children, back-to-school costs can quickly become significant for families.

Parents should feel comfortable asking questions. When you receive your school invoice, look at each individual charge, not simply the total. Ask:

- What am I paying for?
- Is this something parents can legally be charged for?
- Is this something the school is required to provide free of charge?
- Does the amount represent the permitted cost?
- Has the contribution been properly approved?
- And if something isn't clear, ask the school before assuming the charge is mandatory.

Understanding the rules helps parents, governing boards and schools work together to ensure that public education remains accessible to every student.

To clarify what is and isn't applicable, the Ministry of Education has provided guides on the next page.

2026 School Fees

cont.

MEMORY AID

Free education and certain financial contributions that may be required

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

For students entitled to free education up to the age of 18, or the age of 21 in the case of handicapped students,* **THE RIGHT TO FREE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES APPLIES TO:**

- **Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education**
 - Preschool education services
 - Instructional services
 - Complementary educational services
 - Special services (welcoming services, French-language instructional services and schooling in a hospital setting or at home)
- **Vocational Training**
 - Training services (teaching and orientation services)
 - Complementary educational services
- **Adult Education**
 - Training services (teaching and orientation services)
- **Administrative services, such as:**
 - Admission
 - Opening of a file
 - Administration of examinations
 - Training of staff

THE RIGHT TO FREE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DOES NOT APPLY TO:

- **Services provided within the scope of special school projects (Sports-Study, Arts-Study, international education, or concentration- or profile-type projects):**
 - certification by an outside body in order to carry out the project
 - the issuing to the student of a certificate by an outside body within the scope of the project
 - the school coordination required to allow the carrying out of the project
 - the participation of a coach or other specialist not acting as a teacher in a study program
 - the renting of a sports facility or of premises required for the carrying out of a project
- **Activities conducted outside the premises of the educational institution**
- **Activities conducted with the participation of a person who is not a member of the school board staff and that are similar to activities conducted outside the educational institution**

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

For students entitled to free education up to the age of 18, or the age of 21 in the case of handicapped students, enrolled in the youth sector or vocational training, **THE RIGHT TO FREE TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS APPLIES TO:**

- **Textbooks required for the teaching of programs of study**
- **Instructional materials required within the framework of activity programs and the teaching of programs of study, such as:**
 - tools, machine tools, instruments, chemical products and other scientific and technological material
 - balls, raquets, helmets and other physical education equipment
 - paint, pastels, clay and other art supplies
 - reeds for musical wind instruments, flutes and other musical instruments
 - novels and picture books, and reference material such as dictionaries, grammar guides, atlases, guides and encyclopedias, whatever the media
 - photocopied texts, reproductions of copyrighted material such as sheet music and any other reprographic material that replaces or supplements a textbook
 - solid and geometric form kits, counters, base 10 kits, dice, card games and other manipulatives
 - modelling clay, wood, plaster and other similar materials
 - computers, laptops, tablets, technological applications, graphing calculators, earphones and other technological tools
 - protective helmets, safety glasses, haimets and other protective items
 - sensory stimulation material intended in particular for students with handicaps, social maladjustments or learning disabilities
- **Maintenance of instructional materials**
- **The following materials:**
 - Materials for the organization of the class or the school, such as:
 - bins
 - locker shelves
 - storage boxes
 - tennis balls to be attached to the legs of chairs
 - Items to be supplied for health or hygiene reasons, such as:
 - paper tissues
 - wipes
 - cleaning products and disinfecting products for music instruments

THE RIGHT TO FREE MATERIALS DOES NOT APPLY TO:

- **Documents in which students write, draw or cut out**
- **Materials for personal use, such as:**
 - school supplies (e.g. pencils, erasers, day planners)
 - material for personal organization (e.g. pencil cases, school bags)
 - clothing items (e.g. school uniforms, physical education clothing)
- **The following materials:**
 - activity or exercise books or reprographic material replacing or supplementing an activity or exercise book, including those on a medium based on information technology
 - notebooks, pads of paper, pocket folders, binders and separators
 - standard calculators and scientific calculators
 - memory sticks
 - rulers, protractors, squares, compasses and other geometry tools
 - highlighter pens, markers, pens, coloured pencils, pencil sharpeners, scissors and glue
 - running shoes, dancewear and shoes, lab coats, aprons or shirts to protect clothing
 - uniforms, boots and other clothing required for vocational training
 - towels and blankets for rest periods
 - locks
- **Specialized material specifically required for the carrying out of a special school project, or for the maintenance of the material**

* Conditions for students 18 years of age or older are specified in the applicable basic regulation.

Votre gouvernement

Québec

MEMORY AID

Free education and certain financial contributions that may be required

STANDARDS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNING BOARDS RELATING TO CERTAIN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED

- The governing board is responsible for approving the financial contributions proposed by the principal (for services provided within the scope of special school projects, school activities, materials and supervision at lunch time), some of which are developed in collaboration with teachers.
- The governing board must implement measures to facilitate access by each student to all services, activities or materials for which a financial contribution is required.
- Before approving a contribution, the governing board must take into account any other contributions it has approved or that are being proposed.
- The financial contributions required must not exceed the real expenses incurred by the school, and must not be subject to financing already provided for in the budget rules.
- Every financial contribution required for services provided within the scope of a special school project, for any school activities or for materials must be the subject of a clear and detailed invoice, explicitly indicating what the contribution is to be used for.
- The total indicated on the invoice must not include any amount for a request for a voluntary contribution or a donation.
- No specific supplier or brand may be imposed with respect to materials, other than activity or exercise books.

Québec

EPCA
English Parents' Committee
Association of Quebec

Quick Tax Guide for English-Speaking Parents in Quebec

Did you know that you have a legal voice in how your property tax dollars are spent in Quebec?

With annual school tax bills landing in mailboxes and digital portals, right now is the most important time of the year to take action.

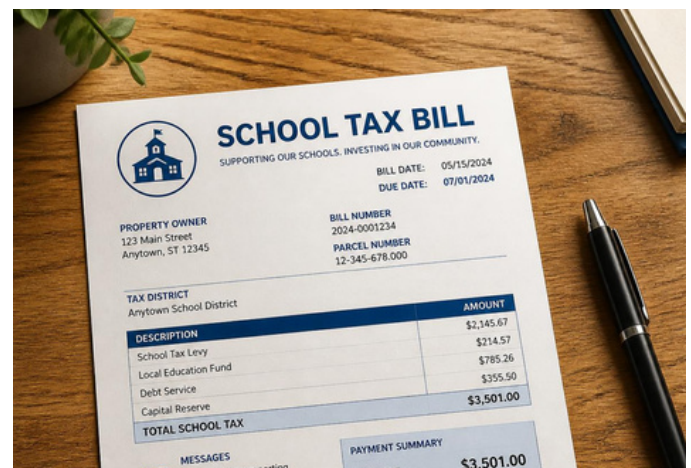
The provincial school tax rate is standardized at \$0.07899 per \$100 of property value (with the first \$25,000 exempt), meaning you pay the exact same amount regardless of language. **However, where that money goes matters.**

Why Your School Tax Choice Matters: It's More Than Just a Bill

While it is true that you pay the exact same amount regardless of which system you support, where you direct your tax bill has massive political and cultural consequences for our community.

When you choose to register your property taxes with an English school board, you are actively protecting our school system in four critical ways:

- **Defending Our Democratic Control:** When the Quebec government abolished French school boards and replaced them with government-controlled service centres, the English-speaking community successfully fought in court to keep our boards intact. Registering your taxes to an English board acts as an official "vote of confidence" that proves our community demands the right to manage our own schools through democratically elected boards.
- **Securing Your Right to Vote:** Your school tax designation determines your electoral list. If your taxes default to the French system, you cannot vote in English school board elections. Ensuring your taxes are directed to an English board guarantees your democratic right to vote for the commissioners who shape your child's education.
- **Funding Local Community Initiatives:** While basic classroom funding is distributed per student by the province, local school tax revenues help fund vital, non-standard regional initiatives. This revenue supports community-specific needs that provincial grants miss, such as local adult education, community facility maintenance, and specialized student resources.



Quick Tax Guide for English-Speaking Parents in Quebec

cont.

- **Proving Our Community Vitality:** Every single property owner who signs a School Tax Choice Form sends a clear, statistical message to Quebec City. Strong registration numbers give our English boards the political leverage they need to successfully negotiate for new school constructions, building expansions, and minority language resources.

Here is exactly what you need to know to ensure your tax dollars support English-language education in our province.

The Golden Rule: Look at Your Household Situation

How you register or pay your school taxes depends entirely on whether you currently have children enrolled in school.

1. You Have Kids in an English School Board 🏠

If you have at least one child registered in an English school board, your property taxes are **automatically redirected** to that board.

- **Your Next Step:** You do not need to fill out any transfer forms. However, you should register for an online billing account with your specific board using the 9-character Internet registration number found at the top of your recent paper bill.

2. You Do Not Have Kids in the School System 🏠

If you are a property owner without children—either because your kids have graduated, haven't started school yet, or you don't have children—your taxes may default to the French school system.

- **Your Next Step:** You have the legal right to support English education! You must download, fill out, and submit a **School Tax Choice Form** directly to your regional English school board.
- **The Hard Deadline:** To change your board designation for the upcoming school year, your form must be submitted **before April 1**.



Quick Tax Guide for English-Speaking Parents in Quebec

cont.

Quick Links: Find Your Board & Registration Portal

Click your regional board below to log into your account, find payment deadlines, or download your Tax Choice form:

📌 Island of Montreal (Central Tax Authority)

Properties on Montreal Island are billed centrally by the CGTSIM, whether your schools belong to the EMSB or LBPSB.

- Montreal Tax Portal: [CGTSIM Tax Account Login](#)
- Local Boards: [English Montreal School Board \(EMSB\)](#) | [Lester B. Pearson School Board \(LBPSB\)](#)

📌 Greater Montreal & Surrounding Regions

- Laval, Laurentians, & Lanaudière: [Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board \(SWLSB\)](#)
- South Shore & Montérégie: [Riverside School Board \(RSB\)](#), or [New Frontiers School Board \(NFSB\)](#)

📌 Regional & Rural Quebec

- Gatineau & Abitibi: [Western Quebec School Board \(WQSB\)](#)
- Eastern Townships: [Eastern Townships School Board \(ETSB\)](#)
- Quebec City & Mauricie: [Central Quebec School Board \(CQSB\)](#)
- Gaspé & North Shore: [Eastern Shores School Board \(ESSB\)](#)

Key Deadlines to Watch

- Bills under \$300: Must be paid in a single payment 31 days after the invoice is issued.
- Bills \$300 or more: Can be split into two equal installments.
- Payment Due Dates: Check your specific board's portal link above, as regional deadlines fall throughout August and September.



For more information on parental advocacy, visit the [English Parents' Committee Association \(EPCA\) Guide](#).

alloprof



Back to School with Alloprof!

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



As late August rolls around, families across Quebec are swapping beach towels for school supplies. The return to school brings a familiar buzz of excitement, but it can also stir up a little anxiety for both students and parents. You may be your child's primary support system, but you don't have to tackle the upcoming school year alone. Having the right tools and resources ready from day one can take the guesswork out of homework sessions, reduce stress, and transform pre-school jitters into true "can-do" confidence.



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What Is Alloprof?

Alloprof is a Quebec-based non-profit organization that offers a wide array of **free and engaging resources** designed to help **elementary and high school students** gain control of their academic success. The bilingual platform offers resources to learn, practice and review content they've seen in class.

- Students can dive into clear concept sheets, watch explanatory videos, or speed up their review with bite-sized crash courses.
- To reinforce classroom learning, kids can practice with interactive exercises or learn through educational games. When tests approach, comprehensive exam review guides and tips provide targeted practice.
- If your child ever gets stuck while doing homework or studying at home, they can get direct help through the Ask a Teacher platform. Five days a week, Alloprof teachers are available to answer school-related questions via chat, call or text.

All resources on the Alloprof platform follow the Quebec Education Program – what you'll find on the platform is exactly what your child is learning in the classroom!

Helping Parents Help Their Kids

Parenting during the school year is much easier when you have a dedicated partner in your corner. The Alloprof Parents platform offers practical advice, printable resources, and expert guides tailored to supporting you at home. To set up a smooth return at summer's end, explore strategies for a stress-free back-to-school experience. You can also use the ready-for-school list to double-check your preparations, and read through tips on how to get organized for back-to-school to build strong, lasting habits right from the start.

Interested in offering a workshop for parents through your school or school board? Contact Marine Khediguian at mkhediguian@alloprof.qc.ca to learn how we can further support your community.

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Navigating School Transitions

Academic milestones often bring bigger adjustments, but thoughtful preparation helps keep those transitions manageable.

- **Starting Elementary**

School: Help young learners feel comfortable stepping into the classroom with tips on preparing your child for elementary school.

- **Elementary to High School:** Support older kids facing bigger workloads and new environments by preparing for the transition from elementary to high school.
- **Changing Schools:** If your family is moving, learn how to help your child transition to a new school with ease.



Ready to Support You This School Year

Remember, academic success isn't about perfection or top marks; it's about effort, growth, and building resilience step by step. Every small achievement deserves to be celebrated! With a little patience, realistic goals, and Alloprof in your corner, both you and your child are well-equipped for a fantastic, rewarding school year ahead!

To get regular updates, tips, and new resources delivered directly to your inbox, sign up for our parent newsletter today.

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](#)

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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.