The DVD chapter on information to parents addresses the following topics:
- Parents’ concerns about how well informed they are about their children’s education
- Parents’ views on accessibility to information regarding their children’s school and education
- Schools’ responses and attempts to inform parents
- Parents’ frustrations with miscommunication and lack of information regarding their children’s schooling
- Parents’ expectations and assumptions regarding Canadian education
- Differences in curriculum, teaching, and assessment
- Schools’ roles and responsibilities to provide parents with information
- Strategies and success stories for helping parents understand the Canadian school system and their children’s education

Questions to consider before viewing:
- What information is essential for parents to make an informed choice about their children’s education?
- How might relationships between educators and parents be the same or different outside of Canada?
- How might relationships between educators and students be the same or different outside of Canada?
- What information should teachers have about their students and students’ families in order to provide a meaningful educational environment?

Questions to consider after viewing:
- What were the major areas of concern highlighted by parents and educators in this segment?
- Are your concerns similar or different to those mentioned in the DVD segment?
- How can information be more accessible to newcomer parents regarding these aspects of their children’s education?
Activity: Becoming Informed

Time: 15–30 minutes

Materials: Pen/pencil, “Getting Informed” worksheet

Objective: To identify strategies that will help you get information and stay informed about your child’s schooling and education.

Procedure: Complete the checklist on the “Getting Informed” worksheet. Answer the questions that follow.
## Getting Informed

Put an (X) in the appropriate box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My child’s teacher has made a home visit.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know the name(s) of my child’s teacher(s).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel welcome at my child’s school.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I understand the school’s policies and procedures.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The school explained provincial testing procedures.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The school holds information nights for parents.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am well acquainted with my community’s resources.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have access to translators and interpreters.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am a volunteer at my child’s school.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The behavioural and academic expectations that the school has for my child have been explained to me.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I have a concern or question I know who to contact and how.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer these questions

- How easily did you access the information about your child’s school?
- What information do you still need from your child’s school?
- What did you do to develop a relationship with your child’s school and teacher?
- What did you do to make sure you were well informed about your child’s academic progress?
- If you could go back in time, what would you do differently regarding your child’s education?