

SAC Best Practices



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Partnerships



Senate Bill 13-193 Increasing Parent Involvement in Public Schools

- Solicit parent participation on school and district accountability committees (SACs and DACs), including parents that represent the student population.
- Incorporate strategies on the Unified Improvement Plan to increase parent engagement in schools (Priority Improvement and Turnaround Schools).
- Each school district board of education shall adopt a district policy for increasing and supporting parent engagement in the public and charter schools of the district.
- Districts shall identify a family partnership point of contact for family engagement training and resources.





What is the purpose?

Spirit of SAC

The purpose of the SAC is to **inform, encourage and provide opportunities** for parent and community members to be involved in the planning and evaluation of the school's instructional program and quality improvement processes. The SAC makes **recommendations** concerning the school's Performance, Improvement, Priority Improvement, or Turnaround plan, and meets at least quarterly to discuss implementation of the school's plan and other progress pertinent to the school's accreditation contract with the Board of Education. **Final decision-making authority rests with the principal or other person or group receiving the recommendation** from the SAC (e.g., The Superintendent, District Accountability Committee ("DAC") or Board of Education).



Partnership Standards

Welcoming All Families

Communicating Effectively

Supporting Student Success

Speaking Up for Every Child

Sharing Power

Collaborating with the Community



Recruitment

1. **Recognize starting points**
 - Current strengths
 - Current challenges
2. **Identify who should participate (SPED, G&T, ELL, NSLP)**
3. **Partner with PTA, PTO, or other groups to identify potential parent and teacher leaders**
4. **Solicit input from teachers and other school staff**
5. **Identify a recruitment process**
 - **Elections, Communication**



Committee Composition

DAC Composition

- At least three parents of students enrolled in the district
- At least one teacher employed by the district
- At least one school administrator employed by the district
- At least one person involved in business in the community within the district boundaries

SAC Composition

- The principal or the principal's designee
- At least one teacher who provides instruction in the school
- At least three parents of students enrolled in the school
- At least one adult member of a PTSA
- At least one community member



Promising Practice Recommendations



- **Welcome all members**
- **Discuss and settle on protocols**
- **Set, and stick to clear, precise agendas**
- **Provide a specific job description of the roles, responsibilities, time frame, norms.**
- **Offer opportunities to work in subcommittees which have specific responsibilities**
- **Spend time team building, getting to know each other, sharing strengths and challenges.**
- **Share inviting and easily understood information in multiple formats - website, tweets, facebook, print, etc.**
- **Review Bylaws**
- **Maintain Accurate Information on School Website including Meeting dates, Agendas, Minutes and Contact information -**



SAC Responsibilities

Include, but are not limited to:

- Making recommendations to the principal concerning priorities for spending school funds.
- Making recommendations concerning the preparation of the school's Unified Improvement Plan (UIP).
- Assisting the district in implementing at the school level the district's Parent Engagement Policy.
- Assisting school personnel to increase parents' engagement with teachers, including parents' engagement in creating students' READ plans, Individual Career and Academic Plans, and plans to address habitual truancy.
- Publicizing opportunities to serve and solicit parents to serve on the SAC.



Best Practices - Reflection

What works well to engage parents at your high school, middle school and elementary schools?

Think about issues or challenges that impede parental engagement at each level – elementary, middle or high. How do we address those?

In what ways can your SAC create opportunities to reach out to your community members, organizations and businesses?

How can SAC meetings be a place for discussion to garner greater school support?



Housekeeping

- SAC and DAC are advisory committees, not a governing body.
- Both require Sunshine Laws: when 3 or more members of the committee meet to discuss SAC or DAC issues, the meeting is considered a public meeting and must have 24 hours notice.
- Charter school SACs also operate under state law, however, they report to their governing board, as well as the principal and district.
- A compliance officer does not exist. SACs are required to make a good faith effort toward compliance. The spirit of the SAC is encouraging productive parent and community partnership and engagement.
- Minutes need not be a word for word diary.



QUESTIONS?