



How Can One Join an SIC?

Parents, teachers, students, and community members interested in serving on their local SIC should contact their school's principal to learn more about standing for election or appointment to the SIC.

About the SC School Improvement Council

SC-SIC was established four decades ago to provide SIC member training, technical assistance, statutory accountability, and other operational support necessary for the success of the state's local SICs. A part of the Center for Educational Partnerships within the University of South Carolina College of Education, SC-SIC receives its funding through the South Carolina General Assembly. SC-SIC is assisted in its efforts by an elected statewide Board of Trustees composed of parents, educators, school board members, and other community leaders acting in an advisory capacity, much like a local SIC.

What's an SIC?

A School Improvement Council (SIC) is a broad-based advisory body made up of a variety of members of the school community. SICs work with principals and other educators in meeting the identified needs of their schools and to continuously work toward excellence.

What Do SICs Do?

In South Carolina, state law calls for each K-12 public school to have a School Improvement Council to assist in the following efforts:

- Provide input into the development of their school's Five-Year Improvement Plan
- Set annual goals to support successful implementation of the Five-Year Plan
- Monitor and report on progress toward SIC and school goals

- Write and publish the annual *SIC Report to the Parents*
- Work with the principal in writing the narrative for the annual *SC School Report Card*
- SICs serve a vital role in the lives of their schools but do not have any of the powers or responsibilities reserved for local school boards.

Who Serves On the SIC?

Parents of students in the school, teachers, and students in grades 9-12 are elected to the SIC by their peers. Other members of the community are appointed by the principal. Each SIC may also have any number of ex-officio members (of which the principal must be one) who serve based on their positions and/or responsibilities within the school community.

Why Are SICs Important?

In these times of mounting pressures and accountability, local schools need all the help they can get. SICs provide additional insight, unique perspective, and vital assistance to educators and students in helping schools reach their achievement goals. South Carolina was one of the first states to realize this when SICs were created by law in 1977. Through the years, SICs have brought additional resources, programmatic efforts, and other support to the state's 1,200-plus K-12 schools.

Repeated research has demonstrated that family and community engagement in schools lays the groundwork for improved student achievement, post-secondary school success, better student behavior, and increased appreciation and support of educational professionals. Good schools benefit the entire community. Everyone has an interest in an educated population, a stronger local economy, and sustained property values. For 40 years, South Carolina's School Improvement Councils have been proud to be on the frontlines of these efforts.