

Parent Advisory Councils in the Partner District

June 25, 2024

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Former President of Clayton PACed
SSD PAC Representative (Clayton)

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Anticipatory Questions

Is there a parent advisory council in your district?

What purpose does it serve?

What are the barriers?

Are all students represented?

As a school leader, how would you like to partner with families through a PAC?

Vision

Purpose

Agenda/Participant Outcomes from this session

- ❑ **Inclusion Activity**
- ❑ **What is the SSD Parent Advisory Council?**
 - ❑ District Parent Advisory Council (D-PAC)
 - ❑ The WHY?
 - ❑ The WHAT?
 - ❑ The WHO?
- ❑ **Reflections from a successful District Parent Advisory Council leader**
 - ❑ Christina Blankenship (Clayton PACed)
- ❑ **Tools available to help your school/district**
 - ❑ Toolkit
 - ❑ FACE Division
- ❑ **Question and Answer**

Inclusion Activity

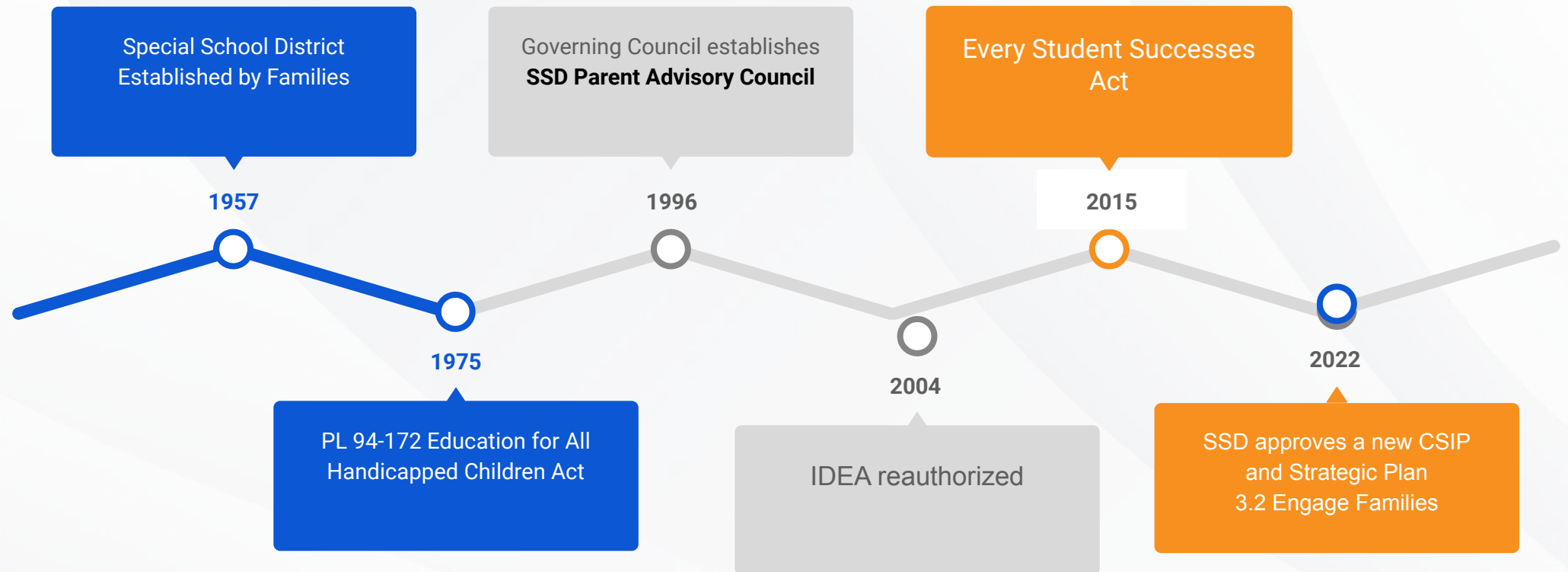


Wish Upon a Star...

Please introduce yourself by sharing this information with the group

- ★ Your name
- ★ Your role
- ★ Your school/district
- ★ And your wish for every student.

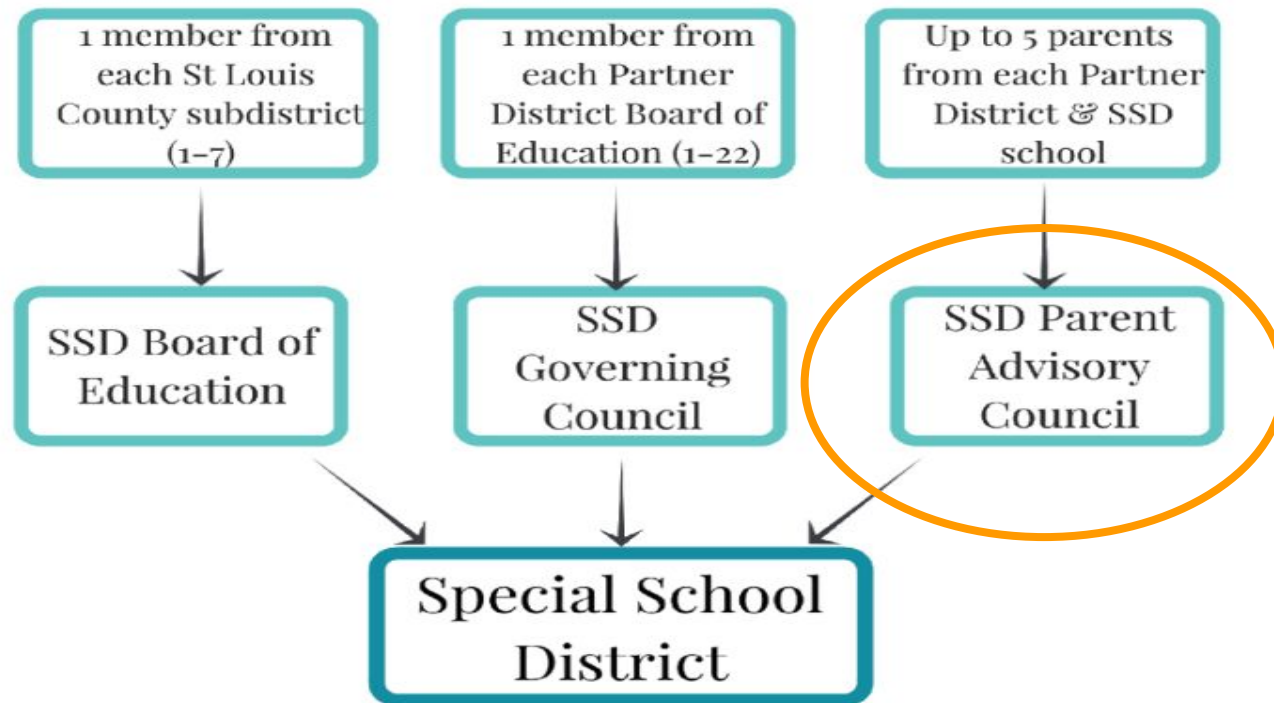
WHY - Parent Advisory Council - Brief History and Overview



Parents are **experts**, **partners** and **advocates** for all we do!

WHY - Parent Advisory Council - Brief History and Overview

SSD GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



SSD Parent Advisory Council

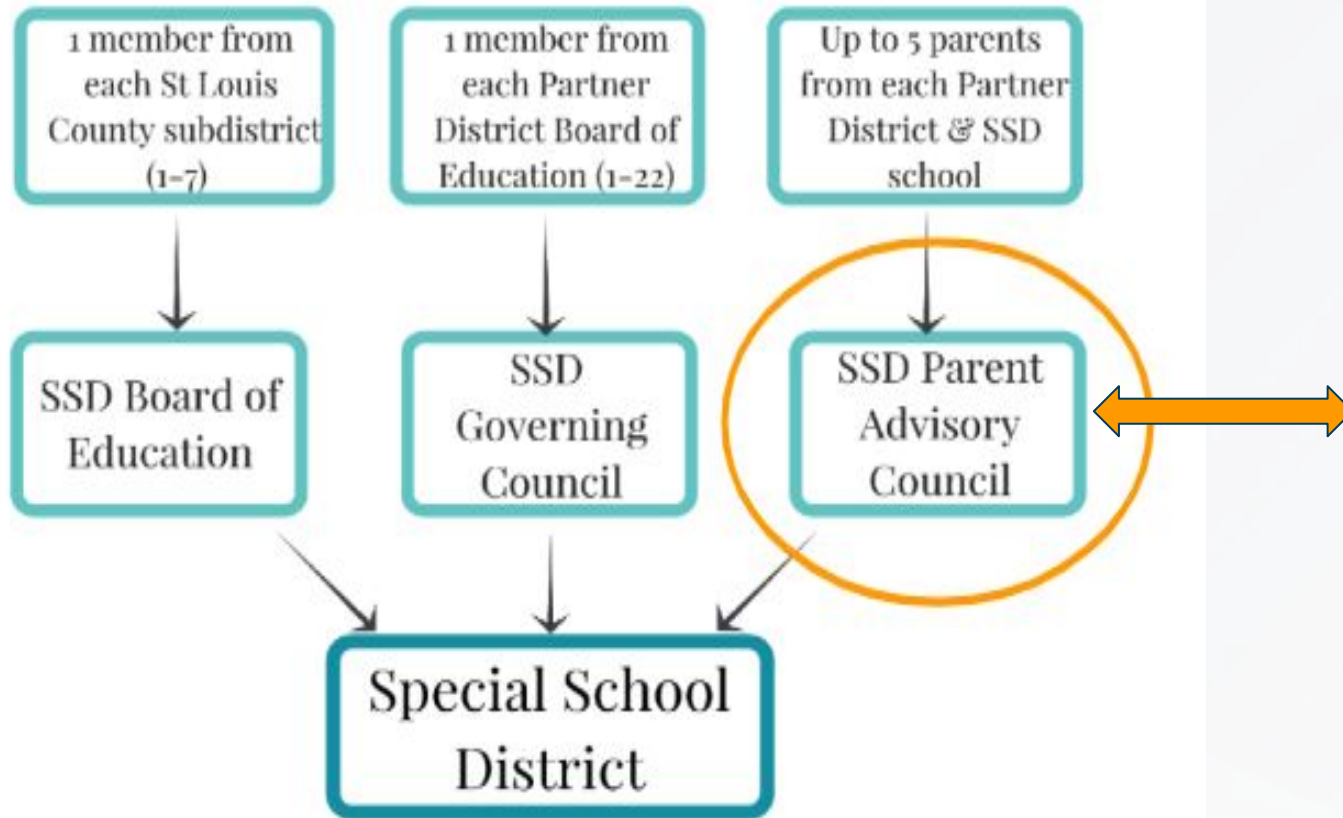
[SSD Parent Advisory Council Website](#)

[About the PAC](#)

[SSD PAC Resources](#)

WHO - Current Status of Representatives on the SSD PAC

SSD GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

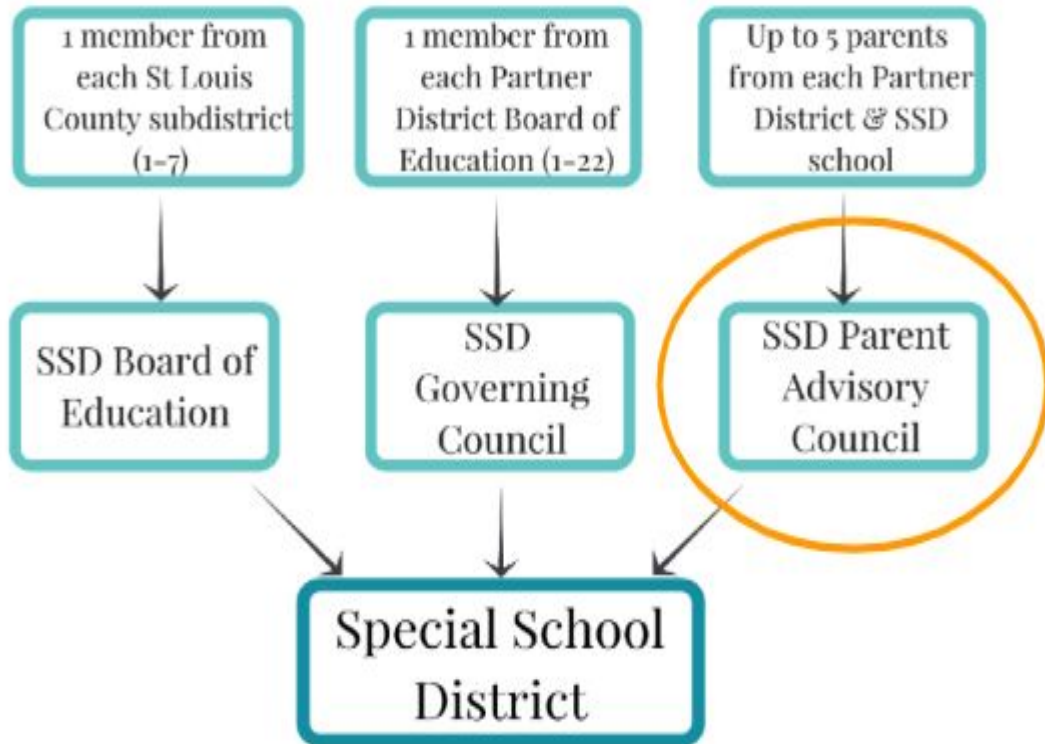


Districts Represented on SSD PAC

- Bayless
- Clayton
- Ferguson-Florissant
- Jennings
- Kirkwood
- Maplewood Richmond Heights
- Normandy
- Parkway
- Pattonville
- Rockwood
- Webster Groves

WHO - Current Status of Districts Parent Advisory Councils

SSD GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



District Parent Advisory Councils

- Affton
- Bayless
- Clayton
- Ferguson Florissant
- Hancock Place
- Hazelwood
- Jennings
- Kirkwood
- Lindbergh
- Maplewood Richmond Heights
- Mehlville
- Parkway
- Pattonville
- Ritenour
- Rockwood
- Webster Groves

FACTS

TABLE 1.1.1 Epstein's Framework of Six Types of Involvement for Comprehensive Programs of Partnership and Sample Practices

<i>Type 1 Parenting</i>	<i>Type 2 Communicating</i>	<i>Type 3 Volunteering</i>	<i>Type 4 Learning at Home</i>	<i>Type 5 Decision Making</i>	<i>Type 6 Collaborating With the Community</i>
Help all families establish home environments to support children as students	Design effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and their children's progress	Recruit and organize parent help and support	Provide information and ideas to families about how to help students at home with homework and other curriculum-related activities, decisions, and planning	Include parents in school decisions, developing parent leaders and representatives	Identify and integrate resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning and development

Active PTA/PTO or other parent organizations, advisory councils, or committees (e.g., curriculum, safety, personnel) for parent leadership and participation

Independent advocacy groups to lobby and work for school reform and improvements

District-level councils and committees for family and community involvement

Information on school or local elections for school representatives

Networks to link all families with parent representatives

Common Challenges

Parents want to argue, take charge to benefit their child, and simply take over.

The same parents attend everything.

Families are overwhelmed and don't have time to participate in anything else.

Offer training to enable leaders to serve as representatives of other families. Supporting two-way communication between themselves and others.

Intentionally recruit family leaders from all racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, grade bands, and ability levels.

Parents should be included in planning, times should be flexible, and materials should be shared widely.

ReDefining the Work

“Decision making” to mean a process of partnership, of shared views and actions toward shared goals **NOT** a power struggle between conflicting ideas.

“Parent leader” to mean a real representative, with opportunities and support to hear from and communication with other families.

WHAT - BENEFITS of Parent Voice and Decision Making

Improved
student
outcomes and
goal
attainment

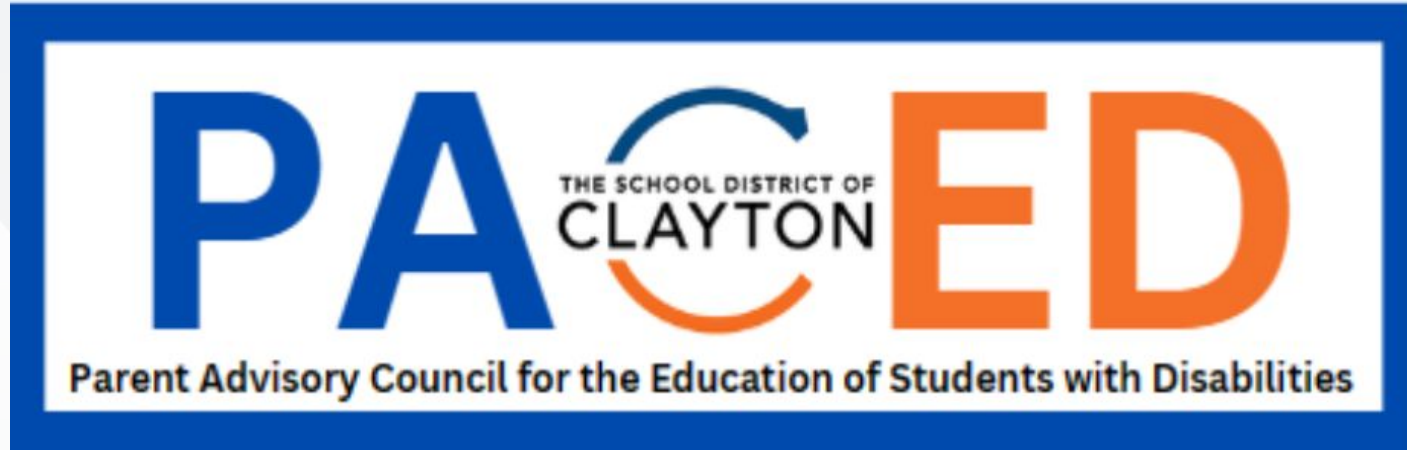
Improved
relationships with
students and
families. Families
are your
champions

Creative
problem
solving to
create an
inclusive
culture

Improved
communication,
connections,
and resource
sharing in the
school

Ongoing, can
support the
student
throughout
their school
career

Reflections from a Successful Parent Advisory Council Leader



<https://www.claytonschools.net/paced>

The Journey from Emotions, to Advocacy, to True Partnership.....



Seek first to understand:

- FLI (Family Leadership Institute)
- SSD FACE Division
 - Workshops & Events
 - Community Resources
- SSD Website
- SSD PAC
- Clayton PAC.ED

It is all about the POSSIBILITIES!



In the wake of the COVID.....

- Delivered “Care Packages” to families.
- Hosted Zoom “Social Hours” with families.
- Hosted regular update meetings with SSD and Clayton Administrators to address questions and concerns, as well as changes e.g. IEP documentation Form G.

Relationships, Relationships, Relationships.....

- Your District PAC should be a “safe space” for all families, students, teachers, staff, and administrators.
- We are all here to learn together and from each other.
- Our goal should always be to improve how we meet the education & school community needs of all students and their families.
- Consistent proactive engagement builds the strongest partnerships.

Successful PACs have a Sustainable Infrastructure.

- Know your numbers and other factors impacting families and students with disabilities in your District and building(s).
- Establish a Steering Committee - Diversity is essential!
- Develop a communications plan.
- District webpage presence.
- Establish a budget utilizing District funds set aside for Family Engagement.
- Set Meetings/Events - be prepared to pivot based on needs.
- SSD Zoom Account

It is all about the POSSIBILITIES!



Disability Awareness & Inclusion....

- Present to School Board three times a year (Oct/Dec/April).
- Regular information sharing with the community.
- Community Language Boards.
- Inclusion Book Party.
- 6th Grade Camp & Field Trip Reform.
- Video series.
- Inclusion Awards.

It is all about the POSSIBILITIES!

A Party for EVERYONE!
A Celebration of Kindness & Inclusion!



Sam Gross



May I Come to Your Party?
By Grace A. Wolf
Illustrated by Samuel J. Gross



Grace Wolf

January 21st 2024



Party Memories







**I bet you are
wondering...**

**How can we make
this happen?**

Check out our toolkit



District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Toolkit

The toolkit includes the following items:

1. **Building and Maintaining A DPAC** - provides individuals with the information needed to understand the purpose and function of the DPAC.
2. **DPAC Introductory Meeting Agenda** - provides an initial meeting agenda for staff and families considering the development of a DPAC.
3. **Slides for Initial DPAC Meeting** - customizable slides for facilitating your first DPAC meeting. The slides offer:
 - a. Meeting tools (agenda, norms, parking lot, etc);
 - b. Guiding the discussion about the purpose of the group;
 - c. Identifying leadership roles and responsibilities;
 - d. Recognizing the benefits of the DPAC;
 - e. Aiding the discussion regarding structuring your team; and
 - f. Accessing available district supports

Parent Advisory Council Introductory Meeting

{Please insert your
district logo here}

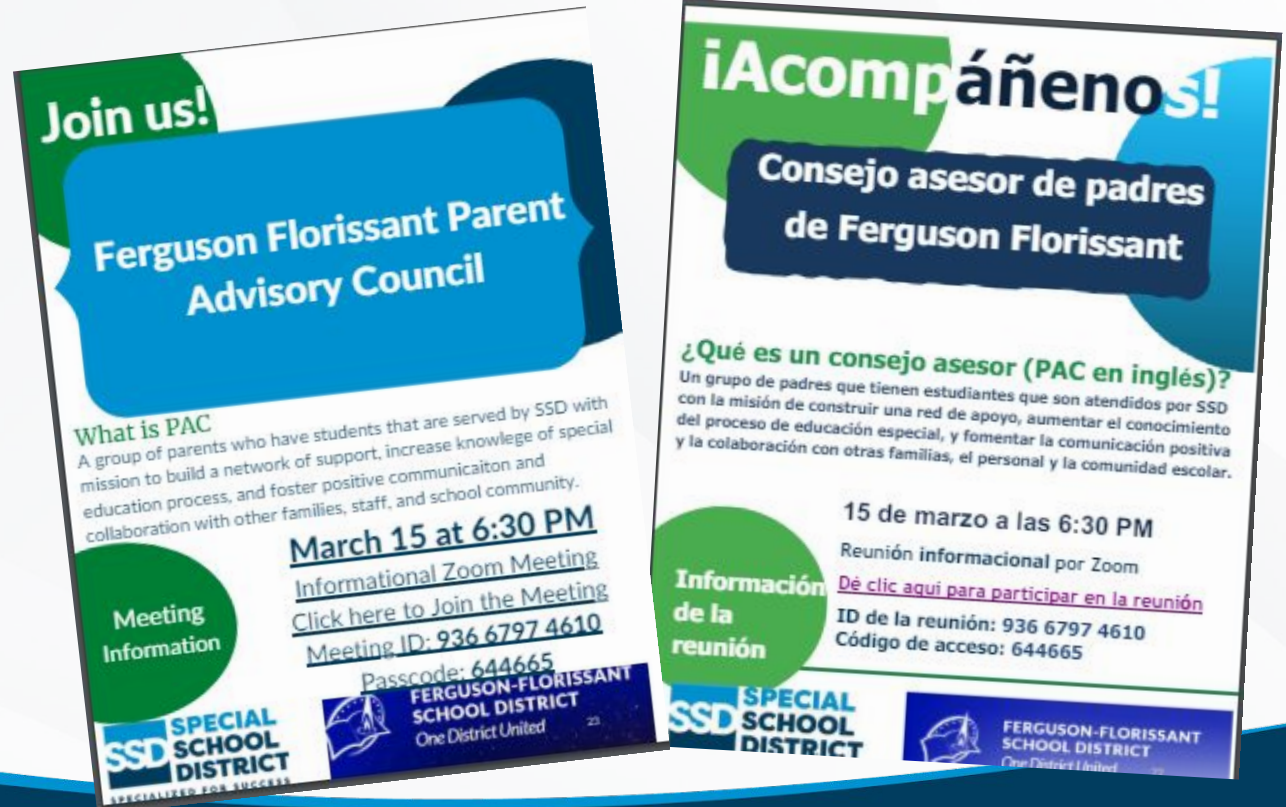


- ❖ Tools to support PAC meetings
- ❖ Purpose of PAC
- ❖ Leadership Structure of PAC
- ❖ Planning Time
- ❖ Next Steps

Today's
Meeting
Outcomes

SAMPLE ITEMS - insert images on this slide

1. Appendix of Sample Items - including the following items to help get you started:
 - a. Sample flyers
 - b. Sample invitations
 - c. Sample agenda
 - d. Sample descriptions
 - e. Technical supports available



Family and Community Engagement (FACE)

The **Family and Community Engagement** (FACE) program partners with families to support each student's academic, social, and emotional success. FACE staff provides direct support to families and the community through workshops, resources, referrals, consultation, a lending library, and our Family Resource Hub.



Questions?

Contact Information



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