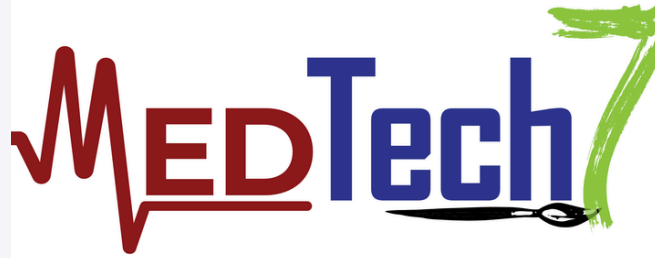


School Improvement Council (SIC)

The school improvement council is an advisory committee to the principal and school leadership comprised of parents, educators, and community members. Working together collaboratively, our SIC reviews and monitors school initiatives, student data, and programs to focus on the success of students and the school. SIC extends an invitation to all parents to take an active role by attending as many monthly meetings as possible.

Members

Ms. Freda McCanick, Principal
Sabrina Fields, Chair (Parent)
Carmilita Lawton, Co-Chair (Parent)
Tameka Eugene-Brown, (Parent)
Charalene Goodwin, Community Member
Ramon Karney, Community Member
Khara Bowlin, Staff Member
Wequenta Moss-Simmons, Staff Member
Thaddeus D. Smith, Ex-Officio Member
Yolanda Anderson-Miles, Ex-Officio Member
Gabriel Williams, Student Representative
Medicus Watson, Student Representative



WBECHS is the First Women in Cybersecurity High School Chapter in the State of South Carolina



School Improvement Council Report to the Parents 2025-2026



SIC Mission Statement

The mission of Whale Early College High School SIC is to support WBECHS in developing our community of learners into responsible, college and career ready citizens through fostering parent and community engagement and providing experiences that foster creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

Proud Title One School



From the SIC

Each month, the SIC convenes to discuss and present various initiatives aimed at enriching our students' lives. These initiatives are based on needs identified in the strategic renewal plan. This year, our focus areas were:

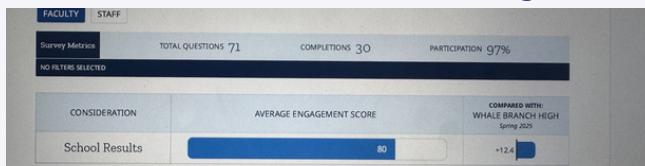
Advancing STEAM Education

WBECHS has proudly received the MedTech7 grant for the past two years and remains committed to expanding STEAM education. We aim to complete STEM certification and provide STEAM training for all teachers to ensure cohesive curriculum implementation. WBECHS has also completed Cognia re-certification, reaffirming our commitment to high-quality instruction. STEAM certification is essential, as MedTech7 funding supports staffing, instructional materials, and professional development for student success.

Cybersecurity and IT Focus

WBECHS is the first high school in South Carolina to establish a Women in Cybersecurity chapter. Our funding focuses on cybersecurity and information technology, providing students with both classroom instruction and hands-on learning experiences. These opportunities prepare students to earn industry-recognized IT certifications and enter the workforce in high-demand technology careers after graduation.

School Climate Survey



Based on the Spring 2026 Upbeat Survey results, Whale Branch High School demonstrated its three largest areas of improvement in Principal/Teacher Trust, Instructional Leadership, and Teacher Voice & Leadership. Principal/Teacher Trust and Instructional Leadership each increased by 33 percentage points compared to Spring 2025, reflecting significant gains in staff confidence that school leadership supports teacher wellbeing, communicates a clear vision for teaching and learning, and effectively uses data to guide instruction.

Additionally, Teacher Voice & Leadership improved by 27 percentage points, indicating stronger opportunities for teachers to provide input in decision-making, assume leadership roles, and actively shape the school's culture. Together, these improvements highlight meaningful progress in leadership practices and inclusive decision-making that positively impact staff morale and instructional effectiveness.

School Sponsored Activities & Programs Leadership Development

Our Warriors demonstrated strong leadership during the Model the Way Inc. Student Leadership Takeover, coordinated by our dedicated volunteer, Mr. Ramon Karney. Students assumed key leadership roles and actively participated in the daily operations of the school, engaging in decision-making, supporting staff responsibilities, and gaining valuable insight into how a school functions effectively. This experience strengthened students' leadership, collaboration, and problem-solving skills while building confidence and school pride. The Student Leadership Takeover reflects our commitment to developing student voice and leadership capacity, and we are proud of how our students represented our school community with excellence. In addition to the Leadership takeover, Mr. Karney also sponsors the afterschool AMP'D musical arts programs that allows students to learn the craftsmanship of music through keyboard lessons, studio recordings, etc.



SIC Goals

- Support initiatives that promote principal/teacher trust, instructional leadership, and teacher collaboration, contributing to sustained 90% or higher positive staff responses in these areas on the Upbeat survey and supporting the increase of the SC School Report Card climate score to 3.8.
- Promote structures that ensure meaningful teacher input in schoolwide decisions, including shared leadership teams and feedback opportunities, with the goal of increasing Teacher Voice & Leadership to 90% or higher positive responses on the Upbeat survey.
- Advocate for systems that improve teacher retention to 83.3%, with focused support for early-career teachers and high-need content areas, through mentoring, recognition, and professional growth opportunities.
- Continue and expand community events that highlight student talent and STEM skills, increasing family and community involvement, promoting school pride, and reinforcing a positive school climate that supports student achievement and teacher satisfaction.