

What is a School Advisory Council? The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a school-based group intended to represent the school, the community, and those persons closest to the students. The group shares responsibility for guiding the school toward continuous improvement. The district school board is responsible, by Florida law, for establishing an advisory council for each school in the district and shall develop procedures for the election and appointment of advisory council members. Each SAC shall include in its name the words "school advisory council." For further information, please see: Section 1001.452(1)(a), Florida Statutes.

What is the role of the School Advisory Council? The School Advisory Council is responsible for final decision making at the school relating to the implementation of the provisions of the annual School Improvement Plan (SIP). The SAC assists in the annual preparation and evaluation of both the SIP and the school's annual budget. For further information, please see: Section 1001.452(1)(a), Florida Statutes.

Who serves on the School Advisory Council? Beginning July 1, 2008, it is a requirement that the majority of the members of the School Advisory Council are persons who are not employed by the school district. A SAC should be composed of the principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers, education support employees, students, parents, and other business and community citizens who are representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school. Certain members are elected by their peers, while business and community members are appointed, and the principal automatically serves. Only students in secondary schools serve on a SAC. For further information, please see: Section 1001.452(1)(a), Florida Statutes.

Reasons for Participation:

The School Advisory Council perpetuates communication between our school, its faculty, staff, administration, parents, students and community members. This communication allows all members of the overall school community to take an active and effective role in maintaining and improving our school. It is important that we form a partnership between school, students, parents and the community that supports it.

Council Role:

The School Advisory Council is a body of volunteers that meets to give input, suggestions and to provide new ideas to support the school and the administration. This council represents the diverse population of the school community, which includes parents, guardians of students and other people that live and work in the immediate school community. The council provides the community the means to give input for educational issues and the school the means to receive information and assistance from its community members. The council serves as a bridge between school and community. This connection establishes better communication and encourages school and community members to actively participate in the educational process.

Philosophy:

R. B. Hunt wants all children to be lifelong learners. The school believes that all children can learn and that as a community we must work together to further these goals. In sharing these responsibilities, we can educate our children to the highest level. It will be our varied experiences and contributions from all community members that will allow every child to learn individually what they need and want to learn. It is both the right and the responsibility for all the school community members to communicate information to help the educational needs of all children and the School Advisory Council is dedicated to this end.

FL Statue 229.58 requires that all school districts establish School Advisory Councils to increase communication between schools and their communities and, to enable parents and students to assume "a more responsible and active role" in education programs.

St. Johns County School District has authorized the establishment of individual school improvement teams in district schools to serve in an advisory capacity to the principal and to assist in the development of the educational program and in the preparation and evaluation of the school improvement plan (policy #2.04).