

# School Improvement Council

## (Explanation of SIC)

### What is a School Improvement Council (SIC)?

An SIC is a broad-based body intended to advise the principal and school, and is focused on helping to achieve school improvement.

### Who serves on an SIC?

Parent, teacher, student (9th grade or above), and community member representatives serve on an SIC, as do the school's principal and other ex-officio members.

### Is every school required to have an SIC?

State law requires that every K-12 public school in South Carolina convene an SIC. The law states that it is the responsibility of the local school board to ensure SICs are constituted within each district. This includes career, vocational, and technical schools. Public charter schools may convene an SIC but it is not required by law.

### How many SICs members are there in South Carolina?

As of June 2016, there are approximately 14,000 individuals serving as SIC members on more than 1,100 School Improvement Councils throughout South Carolina.

### What do SICs do?

SIC duties focus primarily on the school improvement process. SICs:

- provide input and feedback during the development of the school's five-year renewal (improvement) plan and annual updates;
- assist in implementation of school improvement programs and activities;
- monitor and report on progress toward improvement goals in the annual *SIC Report to the Parents* and with the principal in the narrative to the *SC School Report Card*;
- provide other assistance as requested by the principal.

### How are SIC parent representatives chosen?

Parents are nominated and elected by the parents at their child's school. State law requires that parent elections be held by October 15 each year.

### How are SIC teacher representatives chosen?

Teachers are nominated and elected by teachers at their school. State law requires that teacher elections be held by October 15 each year.

### Why take the time to serve on an SIC?

- **Because** when parents are engaged in their children's education, their children do better in school and the quality of the school improves.

- **Because** parents bring wisdom to the Council. They have in-depth knowledge about their own children's strengths and needs as well as the perspectives of other families in the school.
- **Because** community members who are NOT parent of children in the schools still benefit from good schools in the form of a stronger local economy and property values.
- **Because** citizens who are NOT parents of children in the schools also have unique contributions to make to School Improvement Councils. Senior citizens, business people, members of the faith community, staff of social service agencies, and others all have knowledge, experiences and resources that can benefit their community's schools.

For additional information go to: <http://sic.sc.gov/Pages/FAQsAboutSICs.aspx>