

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCILS FAQ'S

1. 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 that share responsibility for supporting the school's continuous improvement. The district school board is responsible, by Florida law, for establishing an advisory council for each school in the district and developing procedures for the election and appointment of advisory council members.

2. Why were School Advisory Councils established?

The law that created SACs was enacted in 1991 by the Florida Legislature out of concern about the effectiveness of public schools. For further information, please see Section 1001.452(1)(a), Florida Statutes.

3. Why should parents and community partners be a part of the School Advisory Council (SAC)?

- ❖ *Make suggestions and recommendations relating to the school improvement plan (SIP) and the school's annual budget*
- ❖ *Become more knowledgeable about the school's decisions*
- ❖ *Contribute to solving community-related issues that affect the school*
- ❖ *Serve as a communication link between SAC, the community and the school*

4. Who serves on the SAC?

A SAC should be composed of the principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers, education support employees, students (only in middle/high schools), parents, and other business and community citizens who are representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school. In alignment with Best Practices in Inclusive Education (BPIE), BSI encourages the inclusion of parents of children with disabilities on SACs, as well as teachers or support employees whose primary role involves working with students with disabilities, in an effort to achieve representation of an entire school community.

5. How often does the SAC meet?

NBE's SAC currently meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (September – May) at 6:00 PM. The day and time for monthly meetings are discussed and determined during the first meeting of each school year.

6. If you are not an active member on the SAC, are meetings still open to the public?

Yes; all School Advisory Councils are required to operate under the FL. Sunshine Law.

7. What are some differences between a SAC and a PTA/PTO?

- ❖ *SACs must include all stakeholders: this includes the school principal, parents/family members, school staff, community members, and students (for middle and high school only).*
- ❖ *SAC meetings must be focused on strategic conversations around the school improvement plan and/or annual budget instead of fundraising and/or event planning. Strategic conversations require examining school data and brainstorming solutions to issues affecting the school.*
- ❖ *Each school's SAC has allocated funds from the district.*
- ❖ *For schools that receive a school grade of "A," or an improved letter grade, the SAC's and school staff must agree on how school recognition funds will be dispersed.*