



Networks for Success

One of the keys to sustainable success in the challenging climate of modern school is ability to develop and use support networks. As parents, students, teachers, support staff and administrators we do not live and work in a vacuum – there are other people around us who can both support us and benefit from our support. We can draw on each other’s knowledge and expertise, learn how others handled similar situations or pursued similar opportunities, we can share resources, lend a helping hand and provide encouragement and comfort in challenging circumstances. Support networks help improve our quality of life and expand our personal and professional boundaries, allowing us to achieve the results we could never achieve alone.

But in the same way as networks of relationships are vital for individuals, they are also important for organizations. Luckily, no matter where your school is located, there are always people in your community and beyond who are willing to help and support your school, bringing in programs, sharing expertise and providing resources. The SAC can take a lead on researching and mapping out resources, making connections and developing partnerships. Guided by the school’s vision and the action plan it has developed, the SAC is best placed to be strategic about building the partnerships to support the two, delivering sustainable solutions that meet the school’s needs.

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For additional information about the School Advisory Councils please visit www.philasd.org/sac, e-mail sac@philasd.org or call 215-400-4180.

If you are interested in becoming a SAC member, please fill out a SAC Nomination form online or ask for a paper copy at your school. If your SAC is currently not accepting new members, please find out about the next SAC meeting and come as a guest. You will be able to submit your nomination and run for election the next school year.



Make Your Voice Count!
Join a
{SAC}
School Advisory Council

SAC =

Vision
Teamwork
Commitment
Creativity
Results

Opportunity to Make Your School Better

www.philasd.org/sac



What is a School Advisory Council?

School Advisory Council (SAC) is an advisory body that ensures school-wide representation when discussing matters and making decisions that affect the whole school.

SAC invites all stakeholders to come to the table and share ideas that can help make the school a better place for all students. Providing a sounding board for diverse opinions and points of view, SAC becomes a platform for dialogue and collaboration between its members and the stakeholder groups they represent.

SAC is also a working group that is responsible for taking action and achieving results.

The exact number of members will differ from one SAC to another other, but the general guidelines are the same.

SACs have a total of 7 to 21 voting members, who include:

- School Principal
- At least 2 members of school staff
- A community member (or members) representing school partner organizations
- Parents who hold the majority (51% or more) of the seats on the SAC
- At least 3 students in high schools (optional for elementary and middle schools)

When forming a SAC for the first time, your school will have to decide on the exact composition of the SAC. As your SAC is formed, it will get a chance to revisit this decision and make adjustments.

Voting members of the SAC (except for the Principal and the President of the Home and School Association, wherever available) are selected through a democratic process and are expected to serve a two year term. Please visit www.philasd.org/sac for additional information about SAC membership and selection process, and fill out an online Nomination Form to join the SAC at your school.

Other individuals are welcome to participate in the SAC meetings, but only voting members will be able to make decisions and control the meeting agenda.



Vision

A vision has a real power to bring together diverse individuals, uniting them with a unique sense of purpose and commitment. It unlocks our creativity, creates a sense of direction and energizes us to take action and get results. Vision helps us focus our efforts, keeps us motivated and allows us to measure our progress along the way. Common vision also helps us align our work and move in lock step, supporting each other and

creating a critical mass necessary for true and sustainable change.

A School Advisory Council is a perfect tool for melting diverging opinions and points of view into a single vision shared and supported by the entire school community. And armed with the vision, SAC will provide a spring board and a support structure for action, from taking a lead on developing an action plan to identifying available resource, forming internal and external alliances and building partnerships which can help it turn the vision into reality.

From I to Us

To serve as a catalyst for action and an engine driving the work, the SAC needs to be united and work as a team. And while teamwork can be exciting and fun, many times it takes real work and a real commitment to make it so. Since we want you to have a positive and invigorating team experience, we are asking all SAC members to embrace the SAC Member Commitment as a first step and a pre-requisite to joining a SAC.

The Commitment helps us spell out how we can switch from the focus on personal identity, personal ideas and personal agenda to becoming a part of the team and supporting collective identity, collective ideas and collective agenda, which is one of the cornerstones of building an effective SAC.

