

Successful Schools Benefit EVERYONE

Good schools benefit the whole community, including taxpayers who do not currently have children in school, by:

- Increasing property values.
- Attracting good paying jobs that create more customers for local businesses.
- Graduating students with skills that local employers need to compete in a 21st century economy.

A stronger local economy strengthens the whole community by raising living standards and by encouraging our children to stay and serve the community where they grew up.



Just as everyone benefits from good schools, everyone shares responsibility for making sure that schools and students have what they need to succeed. SIC members use their relationships in the community to connect their school with resources to meet those needs.

SC-SIC Helps SICs and Schools Achieve Excellence

The South Carolina School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) provides local SICs with information, training, and assistance, most of which is free of charge, about things like:

- Holding SIC elections.
- Meeting SIC membership requirements.
- Helping schools meet improvement goals.
- Helping parents get involved in their children's learning.
- Finding community partners.
- Writing the *SIC Report to the Parents*.
- Applying for the Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence.

Contact us by phone or email, or visit us online at sic.sc.gov.



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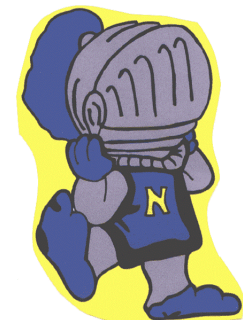
North Elementary School

**Working Together to
Give Every Child an
Opportunity to Succeed!**

North Elementary School Improvement Council

**SIC Chair:
Ms. Jamekia Ford**

**Principal:
Mrs. Keishea M. Mickles**



What Is an SIC? How Can I Serve?

A School Improvement Council (SIC) is an advisory body to the principal and school. State law requires that every K-12 public school have an SIC that includes:

- At least two parents elected by parents.
- At least two teachers elected by teachers.
- At least two students elected by students (required only for grade nine and above).
- The principal and other ex-officio members.

SIC elections must be held by October 15th each year. Some schools hold elections at the beginning of the school year; others hold elections in late spring for the coming school year. **Contact your school's principal for specific details about SIC elections and community member appointments at your school.**

Although you must be a member to vote on SIC matters, SIC meetings are open to all interested persons in the community. SICs also rely on volunteers from all parts of the community to carry out their activities. **Contact your school's SIC chair to see how you can help!**

What Kinds of Things Do SICs Do?

SICs are focused on school improvement. SIC members participate in writing the school improvement plan by sharing their knowledge about student, family, and community needs and suggesting ideas for effective change. Under South Carolina's new Read to Succeed law, SICs also advise their school on plans to improve student reading levels.

SICs carry out many different kinds of activities that help schools meet their improvement goals. For example, SICs may decide to work together with their schools on:

- Using new and effective ways to get more parents involved in their school and student learning.
- Bringing in volunteers, funds, goods and services, or other needed resources from the community to the school.

Examples of specific SIC projects and activities that have been recognized by the Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence can be found at sic.sc.gov.

SICs also write an annual *Report to the Parents* about their school's progress and assist the principal with the narrative for the *SC School Report Card*.

Kids Do Better in School When Parents Are Involved

Experts who study education have found that children do better in school when a parent actively participates in their education.

Serving on an SIC is one way that parents can get involved. SIC parents are not expected to be experts in how to run a school or a classroom. While your school does need advice from educational experts, it also needs practical information from parents about the special needs and strengths of children and families at your school. This knowledge helps your school make better decisions that lead to improved student achievement.

SIC parent members also benefit from the opportunity to learn more about their school and to build relationships with the principal, other parents, teachers, and community members.

Family Engagement Tip: Teaching children that education matters is one of the most important ways that every parent can get involved.

Parents can do this by setting high expectations for their children, discussing shared hopes and dreams for the future, and holding their children responsible for doing their best.