



School Improvement Council Assistance

Back to School 2001

SICA Expansion Benefits SICs

More assistance for individual councils, a new publication, and increased training opportunities covering more topics are among the benefits School Improvement Councils will enjoy this year through School Improvement Council Assistance (SICA). These benefits for Councils result from the South Carolina General Assembly increasing the amount of funding provided for SICA through the Education Improvement Act.

Regional Offices Open

Three regional offices are now open in the Upstate, Pee Dee, and Low Country. A part-time coordinator (see page 2) will staff each office. The regional coordinators are available to conduct training and provide technical assistance for individual councils upon request. They will work with the local SIC District Contacts to provide services on a district level and will be a local resource to the districts in support of their SICs. Staff at the SICA Columbia office at USC's College of Education will continue to provide services and training statewide.

Parent & Community Involvement: Everybody's Getting into the Act (#402)!

School Improvement Council members have always known the importance of parent and community involvement in our schools. The basic make-up of a Council – parents, teachers, administrators, students, and community members – illustrates that all members of the greater school community are stakeholders in school improvement. State Superintendent of Education, Inez Tenenbaum, has made parent and community involvement a priority in her administration. And during the 2000 legislative session, the SC General



Deputy Superintendent of Education, Chip Jackson, accepts certificate of membership in the National Network of Partnership Schools from State and District Facilitator, Mary Nesbitt

Assembly passed Act 402, the Parental Involvement in their Children's Education Act, which charges school personnel, superintendents, and school boards to promote and increase opportunities for parents and community to be actively involved in schools.

(see **Involvement** pg. 4)

"The Basics" - The NEW Handbook for Effective School Improvement Councils in South Carolina includes:

- Roles and Responsibilities
- How to Organize
- Dates and Deadlines
- Elections
- Officer Duties
- Strategies for Planning
- Bylaws
- SIC Self-Assessment Profile

To order one for every SIC member – **FREE**, call 1-800-868-2232. Check the SICA web site for a preview.

New Publication

The Handbook for Effective School Improvement Councils: *"The Basics"* is available upon request for all SIC members. *"The Basics"* outlines the required roles and responsibilities of the SICs and how to organize to accomplish the tasks. It also contains the requirements for membership, how to conduct elections, officers and their duties, and the characteristics of effective SICs in South Carolina. Also included is an updated copy of the *SIC Self Assessment Profile* which helps SICs identify actions that make them more effective operating as a group or team, functioning to accomplish their responsibilities, and having district support for their efforts.

"The Basics" is the first in a series that will be published by SICA as the Handbook; it is three-hole punched for easy inclusion in a notebook, and is organized with space for notes on each page. It is free to all SIC members, school and district personnel who work with SICs, and other citizens interested in school improvement.

Expanded Web Site

Make copies of sample reports and bylaws, get to know the SICA staff and Board of Trustees members, reproduce back issues of the SICA News for new members, check out a video, or make plans for regional training and the annual conference. Every SIC now has access to a wide variety of information and resources through the SICA web site – www.ed.sc.edu/sica/sica.html - which is part of the USC College of Education site.

The SICA web site is regularly updated to keep members aware of new training opportunities, the latest publications, and links to other educational organizations

(see **Expansion** pg. 4)

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SICA Welcomes New Staff

School Improvement Council *Assistance* is pleased to announce the addition of three new part-time staff members. Thanks to an increase in funds from the SC General Assembly, we can now provide more training and assistance for the more than 16,000 members of School Improvement Councils around the state.



Beth Fincher – Upstate Regional Coordinator for Oconee, Pickens, Anderson Districts 1-5, Greenville, and Spartanburg Districts 1-7. Call Beth toll-free, 1-877-519-4764.

Beth Fincher hails from Pickens County and is the former Public Relations Specialist for the Pickens County School District – so she knows the Upstate and she knows schools. A graduate of Clemson University, Beth has served on the East End Elementary School Improvement Council and was also President of the PTO. Beth and husband, Greg Fincher, are the parents of two sons, who got her elected Team Mom with Easley Little League.



Lisa P. Turner – Pee Dee Regional Coordinator for Sumter Districts 17 and 2, Florence Districts 1-5, Dillon Districts 1-3, Marion Districts 1, 2 and 7, and Marlboro. Call Lisa toll-free, 1-866-690-2283.

A native of Marion, Lisa P. Turner is the daughter of educators and a glimpse at her resume reveals someone dedicated to life-long learning. In addition to a BA in English and History from Spelman College, and a BMA in Media Arts from the University of South Carolina; Lisa has studied in Germany, France, Mexico, and the University of Texas Law School. She taught high school in New York City. Lisa is also the executive director of the Healthy Schools/Healthy SC Network.

Barbara Purvis – Office Assistant, Columbia



Barbara Purvis grew up in a military family and has lived throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. She later joined the Air Force and served as a military broadcaster, working for the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, and the Air Force Service Information and News Center.

Barbara works part-time as a freelance writer and records French literature available for downloading on the internet.



Jennifer Robinson continues as the Low Country Regional Coordinator for Charleston, Dorchester Districts 2 and 4, Berkeley, and Colleton. Call Jennifer toll-free 1-877-519-4765.

SICA is proud of our professional and dedicated staff!

SIC ACTION

TIMELINE

AUGUST

- Chair and principal convene the SIC
- Organize to conduct elections
- Prepare nomination process
- Publicize nomination and election dates

SEPTEMBER

- Receive nominations for SIC positions
- Conduct elections for teachers, parents, students
- Nominate, select, recommend community members for appointment
- Convene SIC, elect officers, review by-laws, make committee assignments
- 25 - SIC District Contact Meeting, SCASA offices, Columbia

OCTOBER

- 4 - SIC State Meeting via ETV Broadcast, 7 to 8 PM
- 15 - Deadline for elections to be completed
Publicize SIC election results
- Convene SIC, elect officers, review bylaws, make committee assignments
- Assist in the preparations for the School Report Card distribution

DATES to Remember: 2001-2002

October 4 – SIC State Meeting via SCETV

October 15 – Deadline for SIC elections

November 1 – School Report Cards distributed to districts

November 15 – Deadline for SIC membership information to be sent to SICA

November 15 – School Report Cards distributed to schools/parents

January 31 – SIC State Meeting via SCETV

February 1 – Deadline to distribute Report to the Parents written by SIC

February 15 – Deadline for SIC to assist in revision of School Improvement/Renewal Plans for schools rated Unsatisfactory on the School Report Card

March 2 – Annual SIC Conference, Sheraton Convention Center, Columbia

May 2 – SIC State Meeting via SCETV

May-June – Assist in writing narrative for School Report Card

SIC District Contacts Named

Each district superintendent has named a District Contact to coordinate services and training for SICs, using *SICA* as a resource to the district and each school's council. SICs are encouraged to notify your SIC District Contact of your meetings, solicit information from them about the district, and seek their assistance to fulfill the council's role and responsibilities.

Abbeville, Dr. Mike Campbell; **Aiken**, Dr. Frank Roberson; **Allendale**, Ms. Tammy Butler; **Anderson 1**, Mr. John Pruitt; **Anderson 2**, Dr. Dawn Busa; **Anderson 3**, Ms. Gail Southard; **Anderson 4**, Ms. Anne Purser; **Anderson 5**, Ms. Carol Vickery; **Bamberg 1**, Dr. Rick Starr; **Bamberg 2**, Dr. Watson Cleckley; **Barnwell 19**, Ms. Mary Ashley-Livingston; **Barnwell 29**, Ms. Virginia Williams; **Barnwell 45**, Ms. Carolyn Williams; **Beaufort**, Mr. John Williams; **Berkeley**, Dr. Carlton Sapp; **Calhoun**, Mrs. Ann Caddell; **Charleston**, Ms. Candice Bates-Quinn; **Cherokee**, Mrs. Elizabeth Ivey; **Chester**, Dr. Anne Holladay; **Chesterfield**, Mrs. Pat Hendrickson; **Clarendon 1**, Ms. Cathleen Skelley; **Clarendon 2**, Ms. Connie Dennis; **Clarendon 3**, Dr. David Sherbine; **Colleton**, Mr. Charles Gale; **Darlington**, Ms. Maureen Thomas; **Dillon 1**, Ms. Joan Page; **Dillon 2**, Dr. Flossie Bartell; **Dillon 3**, Ms. Cynthia LeGette; **Dorchester 2**, Mr. Michael Windham; **Dorchester 4**, Ms. Joyce Davis; **Edgefield**, Mr. David Mathis; **Fairfield**, Ms. Sandra Williamson; **Florence 1**, Mr. John Sullivan; **Florence 2**, Mr. N. Charles Hyman, Jr.; **Florence 3**, Dr. Sharon Askins; **Florence 4**, Ms. Bertha McCants; **Florence 5**, Mr. Randy Smiley; **Georgetown**, Ms. Patricia Hammel; **Greenville**, Mr. Jack Blodgett; **Greenwood 50**, Ms. Martha Vincent; **Greenwood 51**, Ms. Arelene O'Dell; **Greenwood 52**, Mr. Gerald Robinson; **Hampton 1**, Mr. Danny All; **Hampton 2**, Mrs. Louise Deloach; **Horry**, Ms. Joan Grimmett; **Jasper**, Mrs. Gwendolyn Smith; **Kershaw**, Dr. Mary Norwood; **Lancaster**, Dr. Patricia Burns; **Laurens 55**, Mrs. Nancy Thompson; **Laurens 56**, Dr. Laura Koskela; **Lee**, Mr. Randall Burns; **Lexington 1**, Ms. Jane Brailsford; **Lexington 2**, Dr. Venus Holland; **Lexington 3**, Dr. Wanda Whatley; **Lexington 4**, Dr. Linda Hawkins; **Lexington 5**, Mr. Buddy Price; **Marion 1**, Mr. Cleo Richardson; **Marion 2**, Dr. Julie Strickland; **Marion 7**, Ms. Jane Pulling; **Marlboro**, Mr. Tommy Clark; **McCormick**, Dr. Deborah Williams; **Newberry**, Dr. Cynthia Downs; **Oconee**, Mr. Gregg Bibb; **Orangeburg 3**, Dr. Kenneth Jenkins; **Orangeburg 4**, Ms. Rosa Kennerly; **Orangeburg 5**, Mrs. Emmie Thirwell; **Palmetto Unified**, Ms. Kathy Jackson; **Pickens**, Ms. Mary Babb; **Richland 1**, Mrs. Sharon Earle; **Richland 2**, Dr. Richard Inabinet; **Saluda**, Ms. Mary Quattlebaum; **Spartanburg 1**, Dr. Thomas White; **Spartanburg 2**, Mr. Deryle Hope; **Spartanburg 3**, Mr. Pete Pillow; **Spartanburg 4**, Ms. Kim Hunter; **Spartanburg 5**, Mr. David Henderson; **Spartanburg 6**, Mrs. Debra Bishop; **Spartanburg 7**, Mr. Al Jeter; **Sumter 2**, Dr. Sulyn Elliott; **Sumter 17**, Mrs. Virginia Brown; **Union**, Mr. Curtis Dunbar; **Williamsburg**, Ms. Priscilla Holloway; **York 1**, Mr. Corbett Gibson; **York 2**, Ms. Barbara Parrish; **York 3**, Dr. Gwen Kodad; **York 4**, Dr. Chuck Epps; **SC DJJ**, Ms. Meda Cobb.

For Your Information . . .

Hand Middle School Recognized

Time Magazine has recognized Hand Middle School in Richland District One as a School of the Year. Chosen from more than 100 nominations from across the nation, Hand and the other winning schools have one thing in common: great expectations. To learn about Hand Middle School, Principal Jeanne Stiglbauer, Reverend Cole Weathers and others in the community, visit www.time.com, click on "more education stories" then "schools of the year".

School Forms Translated into Other Languages – FREE

If your school has a growing population of students – and parents – for whom English is their second language, you need to know about a new service from the South Carolina Department of Education. You can get a variety of forms in 22 languages from the Translation Library™ of Educational Policy and Compliance Forms at no cost. The Translation Library is divided into five sections: Health, Medical, Immunization; School Site Administration: National School Lunch Program; Special Services; and a Clearinghouse of State Specific Documents. These forms will enhance your ability to communicate with ALL the parents in your school. For more information contact **Ruta Couet, Foreign Language and English for Speakers of Other Languages Consultant, SC Department of Education, 803-734-8383; RCOUET@sde.state.sc.us.**

SC Students Show Improvement

The statewide focus on school improvement is bearing fruit. South Carolina students have made significant gains in the last year – and they've got the test scores to prove it. More than half of fifth, eighth and eleventh graders scored above the national average on the TerraNova test of reading, math, and language skills. High school seniors raised their SAT scores by 12 points, the largest increase in the country. A record 85.2 % of first graders tested "ready" for first grade – up 13% since 1995, the year before the three-year phase-in of full-day kindergarten. Scores on the high school exit exam improved by three points, the largest improvement in a decade. The hard work is paying off! To learn more about how SC schools are improving, visit the **NEW State Department of Education website, www.myschools.com**

Laptops for Principals and Superintendents

Thanks to a \$1.7 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, every SC school principal and district superintendent is eligible to receive a new, state-of-the-art laptop computer – and training on how to use it. Training will help the principals and districts to better understand how new technology can enrich teaching and learning, and utilize resources and data more effectively. To learn more about the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's education grants and their commitment to improving access to advances in health and learning for all people, visit www.gatesfoundation.org.

Don't Wait – Get Ready for the Report Card

The School (and District) Report Card will be official this November. A requirement of the 1998 Education Accountability Act (EAA), the Report Card is intended to rate schools and districts based on *one* criteria: PACT scores. This year only schools with grades 3-8 will be rated using this criteria (exams for high schools are still being developed, and criteria other than PACT are used for schools with grades below third grade). Other criteria will be used in place of the PACT to rate high schools.

The SC Department of Education will make the ratings public November 1 as required by the EAA, and distribute the Report Cards to the districts during the two-week period November 1-14. Schools are required to distribute them to parents by November 15.

The Report Card will contain information about how different groups of students scored on Math and English/ Language Arts for each grade and how the school compares to other schools like them. The SIC can help the school by learning what the information means and then helping others to understand it too.

The district's Public Information Officer and the school principal have received training this summer about how to prepare for the distribution of the report card and how to get the public ready to understand what it means. Here are some ways the SIC can assist this effort:

- Sponsor several information sessions with lots of Q&A opportunities.
- Lead workshop sessions at PTA/O meetings about the contents.
- Include brief definitions about a few of the indicator items in each issue of the school newsletter.
- List some of the information included in the Summer Data Collection in the school newsletter; consider a "Did You Know?" or "FYI" column.
- Volunteer to participate with the school staff and/or district staff when large group meetings are being scheduled.

- Offer the Public Information Officer the opportunity to distribute flyers or brochures or other printed material to the school community.

Each school principal received a copy of the *Accountability Manual* from the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) that was charged with the responsibility of developing the Report Card format and the information to be included on it. The EOC produced and distributed a *Communications Tool Kit* to district and school administrators this summer. It contains reproducible information sheets plus strategies for helping others understand the information on the report card.

Expansion (continued from pg. 1)

and resources. Under publications, new SIC members can get copies of the back issues of the newsletter that would help them understand the current discussion about the Report Card and how the SIC is involved. There are also sample bylaws for elementary, middle and high school SICs; these are useful when revising current bylaws or for new schools creating their bylaws for the first time.

In addition to publications, a list of training opportunities is kept current for regional and state workshops, seminars, and conferences designed for SIC members and sponsored by SICA. Events sponsored by other organizations that may be of interest to SIC members are also listed.

Other Services

A *video lending library* is available to all SICs to use for themselves, their school and community. Using a video may be a helpful tool to introduce topics and strategies about instruction, child development, or effective parent-teacher conferences that will stimulate discussion and study as part of the school improvement or renewal planning. The list of videos and the lending agreement are on the SICA web site; contact the SICA office to borrow one for your school.

School Improvement Council Assistance
Get to know us. . . .

Assistance is in our name.

Involvement (continued from pg. 1)

To achieve that goal, Superintendent Tenenbaum created the Office of Parental and Community Partnerships (OPCP) at the State Department of Education and named Frank White the director. The State Department of Education also joined the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) at Johns Hopkins University. While everyone seems to agree that parent involvement is important, few seem to agree on just how to make it a reality. NNPS research provides the basis for a systematic approach schools and districts can use to facilitate parent involvement.

School Improvement Council *Assistance* (NNPS member since 2000) and the Office of Parental and Community Partnerships formed a partnership and co-sponsored a conference last May to introduce the newly named District Parental Involvement Liaisons to NNPS. Mary Nesbitt, State and District Facilitator for NNPS, provided the keynote address and also brought along official certificates naming the SC Department of Education a State Member of the National Network of Partnership Schools.



National Network of Partnership
Schools

Johns Hopkins University
3003 N. Charles Street, Suite 200
Baltimore, MD 21218

nnps@csos.jhu.edu

410-516-8800

www.partnershipschools.org

To ensure collaboration among state level agencies and organizations in promoting parent and community involvement, SICA and the OPCP have co-convened a state level Partnership Team. "Strong state level partnerships will provide schools and districts with the support and resources they need to put their parent involvement practices into action," said Frank White.

Mark Your Calendar!



School Improvement Council *Assistance* is pleased to present the following trainings and conferences to assist your school in reaching its full potential.

Call for more information: 800-868-2232 or 803-777-7658.

Annual SIC District Contact Meeting

SIC District Contacts from all 85 school districts are encouraged to attend and get updated on roles, responsibilities, deadlines, the database and more.

September 25, 2001

SC Association of School Administrators,
Westpart Blvd., Columbia
Registration at 9:00 AM
Contact SICA for more information.

Education Oversight Committee on Report Cards

The Education Oversight Committee will host a live one-hour program featuring a panel of business and education leaders explaining the purposes of the school and district report cards and video clips of successful programs throughout the state using data to support increased student achievement.

October 7, 2001

7:00 PM – SCETV

Prevent Child Abuse SC Hosts 26th Annual Conference

“Nurturing Kids: They Don’t Grow on Trees” features national and local speakers including Victor Vieth, Dr. Rick DeLaney, and Dr. Allison DeFelice.

September 26, 27 & 28, 2001

Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Columbia
Call Jill Smith at 803-733-5430 for more information.

Can We Talk?

Facilitator Training with Dominic Cappello, author of TEN TALKS PARENTS MUST HAVE WITH THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT DRUGS AND CHOICES. This expanded training will give you the skills and materials to conduct *Can We Talk?* parent-child communication workshops. Registration limited to 20.

November 13 – 14, 2001

Columbia location to be determined. There is no charge for this training.

Contact Kelli Kenison, 803-695-9955 or CanWeTalkSC@aol.com

SIC State Meeting

Tune in for the SIC State Meeting. “The Basics” of Councils will be the topic, with a special emphasis on the Report Card.

October 4, 2001

7:00 - 8:00 PM via ETV Satellite - Channel 302

This is a LIVE broadcast! Call 1-800-768-0167 to participate.

REMINDER: Be sure to schedule the broadcast with your school’s media specialist to ensure that the SIC has access to the receiver and the channel is set ahead of time or you will not be able to tune in.

October 12, 2001

7:00 - 8:00 PM via ETV Satellite - Channel 322

Repeat broadcast of SIC State Meeting.

SICA Annual Conference

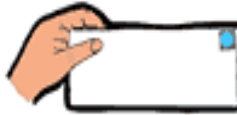
Dr. Howard Johnston, Professor of Secondary Education at the University of South Florida will present the keynote address. Dr Johnston uses solid research and humor to address the changing nature of the American family and how school practices can encourage or interfere with family participation and school success.

March 2, 2002

Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, Columbia

Registration materials will be available in early January.

And The Winner Is. . .



The SC Association of School Administrators promotes achieving Accountability Through Schools of Promise. A Flagship School of Promise provides at least three of the fundamental resources which include: Mentor – an ongoing relationship with a caring adult; Protect – a safe place to learn and grow; Nurture – a healthy start and a healthy future; Prepare – a marketable skill through effective education; and Serve – an opportunity to give back through community service.

2001 Schools Of Promise Flagship Winners

Anderson 4: Pendleton Elementary; Pendleton High. **Anderson 5:** Homeland Park Elementary; South Fant Elementary; Westside High. **Georgetown County:** Andrews Elementary. **Greenville County:** Parker Academy of Fine Arts and Humanities. **Horry County:** St. James Middle. **Lexington 2:** Busbee Middle. **Lexington/Richland 5:** Irmo Middle. **Marion 2:** Mullins High. **Oconee County:** Orchard Park Elementary. **Richland 1:** A.C. Flora High; A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary; Southeast Middle. **Richland 2:** Bethel-Hanberry Elementary; Bookman Road Elementary; E.L. Wright Middle; Rice Creek Elementary; Ridge View High; Windsor Elementary. **Spartanburg 3:** Cannons Elementary. **Spartanburg 5:** Wellford Elementary. **Spartanburg 7:** Carver Junior High; Cleveland Elementary; Pine Street Elementary. **Sumter 2:** Lakewood High. **Union County:** Buffalo Elementary; Excelsior Middle; Foster Park Elementary;

Jonesville Elementary; Lockhart Schools; Monarch Elementary; Sims Junior High; Union High. **Williamsburg County:** W.M. Anderson Primary. **York 3:** Belleview Elementary; Castle Heights Middle; Ebenezer Avenue Elementary; Ebinport Elementary; Independence Elementary; Lesslie Elementary; Mount Gallant Elementary; Northside Elementary; Oakdale Elementary; Richmond Drive Elementary; Sunset Park Elementary.

2001 Healthy Schools Awards

These schools have been recognized as being proficient in two or more of the eight component areas of a healthy school including health and physical education, social and emotional health, nutrition and health services, staff wellness, and a healthy and safe environment.

Eight Category Winners: Crayton Middle, Richland 1; Denny Terrace Elementary, Richland 1; Lake Murray Elementary, Lexington/Richland 5; A.C. Moore Elementary, Richland 1; Northside Elementary, Colleton; Pineview Elementary, Lexington 2. **Seven Category Winners:** H.E. Bonner, Berkeley; Seaside Elementary, Horry; Broad River Elementary, Beaufort. **Six Category Winners:** Carver Elementary, Florence 1; Pine Street Elementary, Spartanburg 7. **Five Category Winners:** Leslie M. Stover Elementary, Kershaw; Hyatt Park Elementary, Richland 1; Pendleton High School, Anderson 4. **Four Category Winner:** Birney Middle School, Charleston; **Two Category Winner:** Rock Hill High School; York 3.

SICA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Betty Gregory - Columbia, SC
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Tom Richardson - Moncks Corner, SC
Imogene Steele - Lancaster, SC
Robert Zuercher - Myrtle Beach, SC

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