

SC-SIC Council News



"Civic Engagement at Work for Public Education"

Volume 40, Issue 5, 2021

Anderson County School District Two Named SIC Advocate of the Year for 2021

Anderson County School District Two was named the 2021 *SIC Advocate of the Year* in an online awards ceremony hosted by the SC School Improvement Council.

The *SIC Advocate of the Year Award* recognizes exemplary efforts on behalf of School Improvement Councils across

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Flowertown Elementary School Improvement Council Named Winner of 2021 Riley Award for SIC Excellence

The School Improvement Council of Flowertown Elementary School in Dorchester School District Two has been named the recipient of the 2021 *Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence*.



The award was announced in a virtual awards ceremony held May 1 by the SC School Improvement Council.

The ceremony is available for online viewing on the [SC-SIC website](#).

The annual *Riley Award for SIC Excellence* was created in 2002 to highlight the significant contributions made to public education by the over 13,000 School Improvement Council members who volunteer in every public school in the state. The award is named in honor of the former SC Governor and U.S. Secretary of Education and his late wife, recognizing the couple's longstanding commitment to quality public education.

"The Flowertown Elementary SIC has done outstanding work that is very much deserving of this statewide honor," said SC-SIC Board of

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Message from the Executive Director

Tom F. Hudson



Well, we are at the end of another school year. As we have approached summers in the past, I have encouraged School Improvement Councils to use this time to think about the direction their work will take in the coming year. I have also suggested summer as an ideal time to think about SIC training for the coming fall.

And while those points are important, we are not wrapping up an ordinary school year; 2020-21, like 2019-20 before it, was a year fraught with challenges, filled with many unknowns, and full of opportunities for growth that were not for the faint of heart. I do not believe I can state more strongly the admiration and gratitude I have for our state's educators, who are truly a credit to their profession. Nor can I thank parents enough for their vital role in helping to overcome the hurdles to learning that the pandemic placed in our collective way. If there is anything of these past 14 months that we have imparted or embodied to our children and students, I think it can be best expressed in one word: resiliency.

That word can also be ascribed to our state's School Improvement Councils. Created and in place specifically to aid their schools in achieving shared goals, SICs have had to monitor and adjust, and find new paths to best be of service to their school communities. If I have heard it from one school administrator, I have heard it from quite a few, our School Improvement Councils filled a very special and impactful role(s) in these past months of challenge, serving as active advisors and direct conduits to families to strengthen meaningful two-way communication. So, School Improvement Councils, thank you. Thank you for what you do day-in and day-out, whether it is during a once-in-a-century global pandemic or not.

And there is more work to do. Back in February, I emailed our state's school superintendents encouraging them to look

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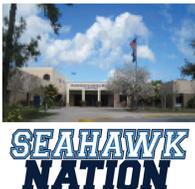
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Hilton Head Island High SIC Recognized for Annual Report to the Parents Excellence

The School Improvement Council (SIC) of Hilton Head Island High School (Beaufort County School District) has been named the recipient of SC-SIC's fourth annual *Award of Merit for SIC Report to the Parents Excellence*.

	Hilton Head Island High School SIC Annual Report to Parents & Community 2019-2020	
October 2020		
 <p>Hilton Head Island High School 70 Wilborna Road Hilton Head, SC 29926 843-689-4800</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What is the SIC?</p> <p>In South Carolina, a School Improvement Council is an advisory council to the principal and school on issues related to school improvement. By law, every K-12 public school in South Carolina must have an SIC that is made up of parent, teacher, student (grades 9-12), and community member representatives. The principal is an ex-officio member of every SIC. A SIC may create additional ex-officio positions such as the school's Teacher of the Year, PTA or PTO President, past SIC Chair, or a representative of the school's Title I Advisory Committee.</p>	
<p>HHHS Administration</p> <p>Principal: Steve Schidrich</p> <p>Assistant Principals: Klinton Aites Kristen Karszes Mike Lorenz</p> <p>Athletic Director: Joe Monmonier</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Purpose of the SIC Annual Report</p> <p>Each year the SIC and our administration is charged with preparing an Annual Report to the Parents/Community in accordance with South Carolina law. The purpose of this report is to serve as an overview of the school year's progress towards goals and objectives outlined in the School Improvement Plan. Inside this letter you will find many facts, success stories and an overview of our school improvement goals through which we work to close the achievement gap and improve our academic standing. We at HHHS are fortunate to have teachers and staff who go above and beyond for our students and their families. Our community and school continue a strong show of support, compassion and cooperation. I am proud to serve as a parent leader in the HHHS community and personally ask that you consider becoming involved in our efforts to make our school the best it can be. There is no greater reward than serving our children and their education.</p>	
<p>SIC Goals</p>		
<p>Goal 1: Increase community awareness of HHHS <i>Actions taken to achieve Goal 1:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted a Welcome Breakfast & Introduction of new Principal to our Hilton Head Mayor, Town Manager, Town Council members and other community members Facilitated a Hilton Head Island High School newspaper produced by students and teachers to be distributed to all residents of Hilton Head <p>Goal 3: Increase Parental Involvement <i>Actions taken to achieve Goal 3:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted a job fair for the students by the parent guest speakers highlighting a wide variety of career opportunities Hosted Parent Workshops prior to the SIC meetings on topics including mental health, standardized testing, college scholarships and admission, FAFSA application, drug and alcohol abuse 	<p>Goal 2: Oversee the projects afforded to HHHS via Referendum funding <i>Actions taken to achieve Goal 2:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established an Architectural Oversight Committee Hosted an open forum with the District to discuss the location and plans for the future school building 	

The 2021 *Award* was announced during an on-line awards ceremony May 1.

The Hilton Head Island High SIC previously ranked as one of the five finalists for SC-SIC's annual *Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence* in 2019 and 2018.

State statute requires that each SIC in South Carolina prepare and disseminate a *Report to the Parents* each spring to inform their school communities of the school's and SIC's work and progress toward established improvement goals. View the HHHS *Report* [here](#).

"This award is intended to recognize *Report to the Parents* content, clarity, and design appeal, as well as to stress the importance of the *SIC Report to the Parents* to school communities," said SC-SIC Executive Director Tom F. Hudson. "We

congratulate the Hilton Head Island High SIC on its outstanding efforts to excellently fulfill this required aspect of state law."

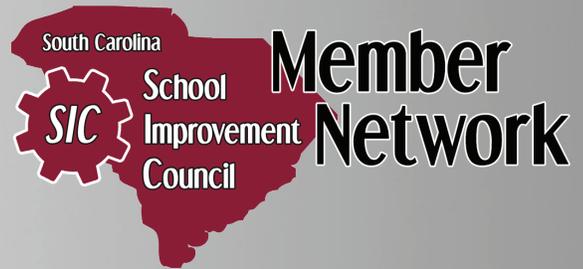
Over the past six years, SICs have been asked to not only produce these *Reports* for their local communities but to also post them electronically as part of their accountability process to SC-SIC's online *Member Network*. There, *Reports* are readily available to anyone wishing to read more about their School Improvement Council's work and efforts to achieve progress for their schools and students.

Staff and state Board of Trustees members of SC-SIC review all *SIC Reports to the Parents* posted to the *Member Network* and through discussion and consensus determine an annual award recipient.

More information about the [SIC Report to the Parents](#) can be found on the SC-SIC website.

Attention SC-SIC Member Network Users!

SC-SIC *Member Network* users should be aware that all accounts and passwords will be reset on July 1. Following that date, designated users will have to reactivate or apply for a user account and new password to update their SIC's member information for the 2021-22 school year. Visit the SC-SIC [Member Network](#) or contact SC-SIC Digital & Web Director Claudia Parnell at cparnell@mailbox.sc.edu if you need further assistance or information.



Calling All SICs: Remember to Upload Your Report to the Parents!



Each SIC is required by state law to write and distribute the *Report to the Parents* by April 30 of each year. This is an excellent opportunity to share with the community the progress your School Improvement Council has made on the five-year *School Improvement Plan*. SC-SIC asks that each Council upload their *Report* by June 1. That deadline is coming up! [Member Network users can share a PDF of the Report with the world by uploading it to the SC-SIC Member Network.](#)

SC-SIC presents an annual *Award of Merit for SIC Report to the Parents Excellence*. The *Award* is judged from all SICs that upload their *Report* to the SC-SIC *Member Network*. This year, the School Improvement Council of Hilton Head Island High School (Beaufort County School District) was honored for their outstanding *Report*. Congrats HHIHS!

Flowertown Elementary Wins Riley Award

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Trustees Chair Bob Grant. “The work of our School Improvement Councils – particularly in times like we’re facing now – is vital to make positive and lasting change for our schools, our students, their families, and our state. This SIC is a strong example of such impactful work.”

The Flowertown Elementary SIC was previously a finalist for the *Riley Award* in 2020 and 2019.

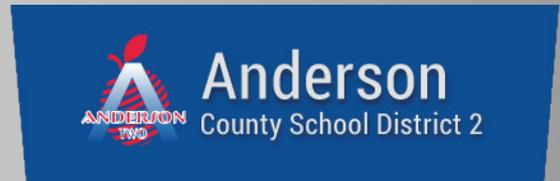
Presented with Honorable Mentions for their work last school year were: Eastside High SIC (Greenville County Schools); Millwood Elementary SIC (Sumter School District); Myrtle Beach Middle SIC (Horry County Schools); and W.C. Sullivan Middle SIC (Rock Hill Schools).

Anderson Two SIC Advocate of the Year

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South Carolina by individuals and others actively supporting and promoting the work of SICs within their spheres of influence. Previous recipients of this *Award* have included Principals and Principal/SIC Chair teams, SIC District Contacts, School Board members, state education leaders, legislators, and others.

This is the first year that this *Award* has been presented to a South Carolina school district honoring work to further empower its School Improvement Councils.



“Anderson Two was selected for this Award in recognition of its commitment this past year to strengthening its SICs and building their capacity to better fulfill their roles in family-school-community relations. This was particularly vital during the challenges of the pandemic,” said SC-SIC Executive Director Tom F. Hudson.

Hudson stated that district Principals effectively utilized their SICs to better inform school closing and reopening plans, and SIC members district-wide were encouraged to share their voices regarding development of school spending plans of ESSER II funds for addressing educational losses and supporting health and well-being related to the impacts of COVID-19. Also of note was the establishment of a district-wide stakeholder team – including parent SIC members from each school – to serve in an advisory capacity to the district’s Interim Superintendent on a variety of topics.

More information on SC-SIC’s programmatic efforts can be found on its [website](#).

From the Executive Director

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to their districts’ SICs for help in leveraging family/community input on the utilization of over \$3 billion in one-time federal coronavirus relief funds allocated to South Carolina’s K-12 schools. In that email, I noted this: “If we are to effectively bridge the ever-widening gaps in opportunity for our students, we must strive to bring all groups to the table – particularly those most deeply affected by the pandemic – and engage them as active co-creators of the measures we take to support our children’s learning and development.” School Improvement Councils are – and have been for nearly 45 years – uniquely poised to assist in such efforts.

On Thursday, June 3, beginning at 5:30 pm, SC-SIC and the Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC) will host a virtual workshop addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on K-12 education, as well as the role of SICs and community organizations in generating discussions and input from families to better inform district and school spending decisions. Guests will include Mr. Ryan Brown, Chief Communications Officer, SCDE; Ms. Felicia Robinson Jones, SIC Chair, Belton Middle School; and Dr. Terry Peterson, Senior Fellow to The Riley Institute at Furman and Co-Chair, Afterschool Alliance. The workshop will be available to the first 100 participants, so please watch the websites of both SC-SIC and CFEC for further details.

I wish for you and yours a happy and healthy summer! See you in the fall!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bee'.

SC-SIC and CFEC



FEDERAL COVID RELIEF FUNDING FOR K-12 EDUCATION: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY VOICE IN DISTRICT AND SCHOOL DECISION-MAKING.

Join us on Thursday, June 3 at 5:30pm to learn more about the over \$3 billion in one-time federal relief funding to South Carolina to address the impacts of COVID-19 on K-12 education and the role of SICs and community organizations in generating discussions and input from families to inform district and school spending decisions.

In addition to SC-SIC and CFEC staff, guests will include Mr. Ryan Brown, Chief Communications Officer, SCDE; Ms. Felicia Robinson Jones, SIC Chair, Belton Middle School; and Dr. Terry Peterson, Senior Fellow to Riley Institute and Co-Chair, Afterschool Alliance.

You can pre-submit questions about COVID-19 funding for education for the live discussion portion of the webinar at <http://bit.ly/Covid19ReliefQuestions>.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85917997288?pwd=NOYzdUttN1IRY3pqZHVqSzdmS05FUT09>
Meeting ID: 859 1799 7288 . Passcode: 047631
One tap mobile +16465588656,,85917997288#,,,,*047631# US (New York)
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**Thursday, June 3
5:30pm - 6:30pm**

**Meeting capacity
limited to first 100
participants**

For more information, contact Karen Utter , CFEC Project Director, at utter@email.sc.edu.

CFEC is housed in the College of Education at the University of South Carolina and is funded through grant U310A180058 from the U.S. Department of Education.