

SIC District Contact Digest

Volume 1, Issue 1



Sowing the Seeds that Grow SIC Networks

While not much active gardening is going on in the ground as we approach mid-winter, it is the perfect time for District Contacts to cultivate new connections between SICs in their districts.



The benefits of district or area-wide SIC networks are plentiful. SICs benefit from opportunities to share information and ideas on how to address common school improvement concerns. SICs can coordinate their efforts to maximize their impact on student achievement across the district. Emerging SIC leaders can find more experienced mentors. And all SICs benefit from a greater sense of community and mutual support.

Bringing SIC leaders together on a regular basis also provides the district with opportunities to engage in two-way communication with stakeholders so that SICs are aware of district priorities and initiatives and districts can better assess and address SIC needs.

Several SC districts already hold monthly, quarterly, or annual SIC meetings. Advance planning is important to a successful initiative. Reach out to principals and SIC chairs in your district first to find out what kind of format and topics interest them most, and what times and locations are best. Serving a lunch or dinner as part of the event always helps boost attendance.

*continued on page 2
See "Growing SIC Networks"*

It's January: How Are Your SICs Doing?

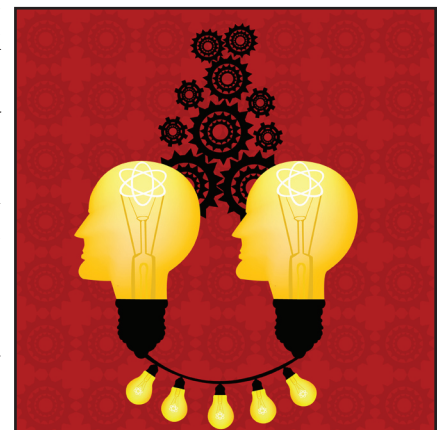
State law deadlines for SIC elections and membership reporting have passed. SICs should be well into the process of identifying school needs, developing goals that are aligned with the school's five-year strategic plan, and planning SIC activities. Now



*continued on page 2
See "How Are Your SICs Doing?"*

SC-SIC Celebrates the New Year with New Resources

Check out the SC-SIC Home page (sic.sc.gov) and take a look at our new "Effective SIC Meetings Toolkit" as well as new ideas for SIC goals and projects related to the South Carolina *Read to Succeed* act. These are in addition to the SIC Elections Toolkit, SIC Bylaws Toolkit, the SIC Activity Resources, and the new SIC Handbook that debuted this fall.



SIC Trainings That Go Beyond “The Basics”

A big thank you to those districts that have either hosted an SC-SIC Basics training or conducted one themselves. We have been pleased with the turnout for these trainings - particularly in those districts that offered a meal with the training session! If you would still like to schedule a Basics training, it's not too late! Just email us at sic@mailbox.sc.edu with your proposed dates.

SC-SIC also offers advance training in several topic areas including SIC Leadership, Communications and Advocacy, and SIC Goal-Setting. You can find descriptions of these trainings on the SC-SIC website. Contact SC-SIC today to schedule a training for your district!



“It looks like you’ve been well trained.”

Growing SIC Networks

continued from page 1

Our field work has also uncovered the importance of encouraging middle and high school SICs to build vertical networks with their feeder schools. The transition to middle and high school is a time when many parents become less active. One strategy to combat this problem is for middle and high school SICs to partner with feeder school SICs on activities that will help families prepare for the transition to the next level. The relationships and the welcoming environment created by these kinds of activities encourage parents to continue their involvement in their new school and SIC.

How Are Your SICs Doing?

continued from page 1

is a good time for District Contacts to reach out to individual SICs in their districts by email, phone, or in person to assess SIC progress and needs. District Contacts are especially well placed to connect SICs with available district and SC-SIC resources. You can also arrange for individualized onsite technical assistance for SICs through the SC-SIC office.

The SC-SIC Annual Meeting will be held again in Columbia in late March - we will be notifying you of a firm date shortly. District Contacts are encouraged to start thinking about how to encourage SIC member participation in this event. For example, does the district have Title I family engagement funds or other monies available to help defray the cost of registration and transportation? Could the district provide bus transportation for SIC members to travel to Columbia on that date? How might the district promote this as a networking opportunity or team-building day for all SICs from their district?

Please contact our office by email or phone with any questions or suggestions on topics and speakers for the Annual Meeting. We always welcome your input!