

SIC District Contact Digest

Volume 1, Issue 2



Making Hay While the Sun Shines

As the 2015-16 school year comes to a close, we want to thank all of our SIC District Contacts for their hard work on behalf of their School Improvement Councils over the past year.

We hope the summer months will bring a relative level of sanity to your work schedule. Summer also provides a window of opportunity to step back and assess how SICs in your district functioned over the past year and what their needs are for the coming year.



A good place to start is to review the data posted to the *Member Network*. This past year's membership data will display as "current" until June 30. How many SICs reported their membership? Were they in compliance with state law requirements for the number and type of different stakeholder representatives? Do they know what to do if they were not? You can see the reasons an SIC's membership is not in compliance by clicking on the *Compliance* icon at the top of the page

for each school. Is there a common type of error? Did your SICs post this year's annual *Report to the Parents*? Did the *Report* include a discussion of SIC goals and results?

All of this information can be found within the *Member Network*. If you need help in finding this data, please contact SC-SIC Digital & Web Director Claudia Parnell at 800-868-2232 and she will be happy to walk through the process with you.

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See "Reviewing Your SICs"

SIC Summer Trainings Are Available!

Many School Improvement Councils hold elections in the spring so that they can plan during the summer and hit the ground running in August.

If schools in your district have already elected or appointed new Council members or have returning members interested in more advanced SIC trainings, let us know. We schedule trainings throughout the summer.

Staff are also available to meet with principals individually or in small groups for training and technical assistance on how to start or revitalize their schools' SICs.

Deadline to Upload SIC Report to the Parents to SC-SIC Member Network is June 1

There are two deadlines that apply to the annual *SIC Report to the Parents*.



State law requires that schools distribute the *Report* to the community no later than April 30 each year. As of this date, therefore, all *Reports* should be completed and circulated according to district and school policies.

SC-SIC's deadline for posting the *Report to the Member Network* is June 1 annually. District Contacts can monitor schools' compliance with this deadline

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See "Report to the Parents Upload Deadline"

Don't Forget to Reset Your SC-SIC *Member Network* Password in July!



All 2015-16 passwords for school and district accounts on the SC-SIC Member Network will be disabled as of July 1, 2016 for security reasons. Returning SIC District Contacts and principals, or their designees, can apply for their new password for the 2016-17 school year after that date. New District Contacts and principals will need to apply for a new account. Principals who will be moving to a different school in the fall should also apply for a new account after July 1.

District Appointment of DCs to Be Made This Summer

In late June, a letter will be sent out to superintendents across the state asking them to designate a member of their district staff as their SIC District for the 2016-17 school year and encouraging them to have their DCs schedule training sessions for their local SIC members. We ask you to inform your superintendent to expect such a letter and to ask them to respond by the deadline which will be included in the District Contact nomination form that will accompany the letter.

Reviewing Your SICs

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While failure to meet these basic reporting requirements can serve as a red flag in terms of the level of an SIC's overall functioning, it is not always an accurate indicator of how active or effective an SIC has been as a driver of school improvement. Once students have left the building, reach out to your principals and find out their perspective on how their SICs functioned. Remind them that we at SC-SIC are about continuous improvement - we believe in meeting folks where they are at and helping them get to where they want and need to be. We can provide principal training in small groups or meet individually with principals that do not have active SICs in place to help them make plans for getting a Council up and running in the fall.

It's also important to reach out to your 2015-16 SIC Chairs for their perspective on their Council's strengths, challenges, and needs. They can provide you with valuable information about what worked and what is needed to move SICs and family engagement forward in your district.

We will be busy here at SC-SIC throughout the summer developing new tools, training, and technical assistance initiatives for the fall. Please feel free to reach out to us with feedback and suggestions on how we can better meet the needs of SICs and District Contacts during the coming year - and find out about our training and technical assistance offerings for the coming year!

Report to the Parents Upload Deadline

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by logging in to the *Member Network* and reviewing the column labeled "Report to the Parents 2015-16." Schools that have a green check in this column have successfully uploaded their *Reports* to the *Member Network*. Compliance reports can also be accessed without a password using the public "Read Only" function found on the *Member Network* home page.

For further assistance, contact Claudia Parnell at cparnell@mailbox.sc.edu.