

A SNAPSHOT COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR COMMUNITY/PARENT ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Revised 02/01/00

School Advisory Forum <i>(formerly known as School Advisory Committee or School Advisory Council)</i>	School Advisory Council <i>(formerly known as School Improvement Team)</i>	Parent Teacher Association <i>(PTA, PTSA)</i>
Primary communication link between school and community.	Has the task of writing the School Improvement Plan.	Child Advocacy Association. Works for the good of all children through local, state, and national legislative initiatives.
Can take up any issue at any time. Often is the vehicle used to share information about the School Improvement Plan and waiver proposals.	Has specific tasks to complete as they relate to the School Improvement Plan.	Gathers support for initiatives through their membership.
Everyone in the school community is a member, is entitled and encouraged to speak and has a vote subject to the bylaws of the individual school, area or district.	Only elected members, representing all stakeholders, may vote and in some schools only the elected members may speak at the SAC meetings.	Paid membership open to all.
Follows a process that has the ability of linking other schools through the Area Advisory Council and the District Advisory Council. Can link schools of the same level or geographic area.	Oversees the implementation of the School Improvement Plan.	Follows a process that has the ability of linking other schools through the County, State and National levels. Can link schools of the same level or geographic area.
Has set method of sharing successes and failures through area and district meetings. Allows schools to benefit from another school's experiences.	Successes and failures stay within the school. Sharing with the innovation zone in encouraged however, the SAC concentrates on its school's performance as measured by the School Improvement Plan.	Successes and failures are shared through County, State and National meetings, conferences, conventions and publications.
NETWORK !!!! Has the ability to address District wide concerns.	Issues must relate to the School Improvement Plan and be measurable.	Network through the PTA's county, state and national levels.
Open forum for global and community concerns.	No immediate action can be taken – academic objectives are first put into the School Improvement Plan.	Only members can vote on those issues brought before the school community via a PTA meeting.
SAF has the ability to address issues and concerns immediately. Those issues can relate to, but are not limited to, such topics as as: Boundaries, Charter Schools, Communication, Curriculum, Dress Code, ESE, ESOL, Legislation, Magnet Programs, Safety, Testing and Transportation.	Issues must relate to the School Improvement Plan and be measurable. Also responsible for specific school safety and discipline strategies, and School Advisory Council budget, and review of the School's budget.	Through their membership they have the ability to address issues and concerns as brought to the table by their membership.
Input into District policy/procedure and committees including but not limited to: Policy review, Code & Conduct, Boundaries, Site Selection, Schools of Excellence, Teacher Of The Year, Budget, Construction Review Committee.	Input into a school's budget, training, instructional materials, technology, staffing, student support services and other matters of resource allocation, including waivers as they relate to the School Improvement Plan.	In Broward County Public Schools, PTA is invited to bring their membership's position(s) to a variety of District committees including but not limited to: Policy review, Code & Conduct, Site Selection, Schools of Excellence, Teacher Of The Year, Construction Review Committee.
<i>Authority: School Board of Broward County Policies</i>	<i>Authority: Florida State legislature</i>	<i>Authority: charters issued by the Florida PTA and National PTA</i>

There are other parent and community groups throughout the District such as PTOs, Booster Clubs and Foundations. Please contact your school's Advisory Forum Chair for more information on these groups.