



SCHOOL NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SNAC) Best Practice

Purpose:

All Community Learning Center sites must have an active School Neighborhood Advisory Committee (SNAC). The purpose of a SNAC is to work alongside each other as a cooperative entity that utilizes the assets and strengths of the CLC community. The success of the CLC rests in having a broad base of stakeholders who share a common vision, goals, and outcomes for children, families, and their neighborhood. These grassroots groups (SNACs) oversee the full-service community school initiative and are based on some fundamental premises including:

- Members join those who live, work, worship, affiliate, or have children attending the neighborhood school to discuss the happenings and dreams of the neighborhood, school, and community.
- Neighborhoods provide formal and informal assets that strengthen natural networks leading to successful community development.
- Parents, youth, and neighborhood residents best understand the environment in which they live and what services and supports are most needed, therefore being essential in decision making.
- Professionals are most effective when they work as partners with families and neighborhoods.
- Positive outcomes for youth, families, and neighborhoods occur as a result of active and sustainable involvement by all partners.

School Neighborhood Advisory Committees must make a sustained commitment to achieving the three core CLC goals:

- Successful Students
- Thriving Families
- Strong Neighborhoods

The SNAC will always be in various stages of development as new members are added and as individuals change. CLC School Community Coordinators and site leadership team, with assistance from CLC Community Builders, will provide coaching on best practice strategies throughout these developmental stages.

Suggested Guidelines:

Membership and Participation

- To ensure various perspectives are offered, committees should work toward a diverse group representing the neighborhood, parents, youth, educators and other school personnel, neighborhood residents and associations, local business owners, community leaders, and service providers.
- Membership of the group invites individuals to share power in decision making, facilitation, share gifts and talents, and collaborate on projects.
- SNAC may be maintained as "open groups" with no rigid appointment processes, or limits on membership numbers. The membership may be fluid and inclusive so that it can adapt, change, and evolve over time as interest grows, relationships develop, and outcomes change.

Functions of the SNAC

- With trusting relationships, identify and nurture school and neighborhood assets. Starting with what is strong, not what is wrong, and progressing at the speed of trust.
- Group creates and collaborates on common vision and goals which are to be reflected in the site's annual plan.
- Strategic connection of assets and strengths lead to accurate delegation of actions to meet the needs of the school and neighborhood collectively.
- Meet regularly, and involve all members in the ongoing development of assets, supports, and opportunities to mobilize positive outcomes for youth, families, and the neighborhood.

SNAC Reporting

- An agenda will be developed with input from all members prior to SNAC meeting.
- SNAC meeting minutes will be maintained and distributed to all stakeholders. Minutes will include who participated and reflect the discussion and decisions that were made at each meeting.
- Agendas and meeting minutes must be saved in the CLC site's Google Drive.