

STATUTES THAT CREATE & DEFINE SAC, ELECTIONS, MEMBERSHIP, MEETING GUIDELINES, SIPS & FUNDS

Following excerpts are "excerpts" of FL state statutes...this is meant to serve as a guide for referring to complete statutes: <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/>

1001.452 DISTRICT AND SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCILS

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.--(a) The district school board shall establish an advisory council for each school in the district and shall develop procedures for the election and appointment of advisory council members. Each school advisory council shall include in its name the words "school advisory council." The school advisory council shall be the sole body responsible for final decisionmaking at the school relating to implementation of the provisions of ss. 1001.42(16) and 1008.345. A majority of the members of each school advisory council must be persons who are not employed by the district. Each advisory council shall be composed of the principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers, education support employees, students, parents, and other business and community citizens who are representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school. Career center and high school advisory councils shall include students, and middle and junior high school advisory councils may include students. School advisory councils of career centers and adult education centers are not required to include parents as members. Council members representing teachers, education support employees, students, and parents shall be elected by their respective peer groups at the school in a fair and equitable manner as follows:

1. Teachers shall be elected by teachers.
2. Education support employees shall be elected by education support employees.
3. Students shall be elected by students.
4. Parents shall be elected by parents.

The district school board shall establish procedures for use by schools in selecting business and community members that include means of ensuring wide notice of vacancies and of taking input on possible members from local business, chambers of commerce, community and civic organizations and groups, and the public at large. The district school board shall review the membership composition of each advisory council. If the district school board determines that the membership elected by the school is not representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school, the district school board shall appoint additional members to achieve proper representation. The commissioner shall determine if schools have maximized their efforts to include on their advisory councils minority persons and persons of lower socioeconomic status. Although schools are strongly encouraged to establish school advisory councils, the district school board of any school district that has a student population of 10,000 or fewer may establish a district advisory council which shall include at least one duly elected teacher from each school in the district. For the purposes of school advisory councils and district advisory councils, the term "teacher" shall include classroom teachers, certified student services personnel, and media specialists. For purposes of this paragraph, "education support employee" means any person employed by a school who is not defined as instructional or

administrative personnel pursuant to s. 1012.01 and whose duties require 20 or more hours in each normal working week.

(b) The district school board may establish a district advisory council representative of the district and composed of teachers, students, parents, and other citizens or a district advisory council that may be comprised of representatives of each school advisory council. Recognized schoolwide support groups that meet all criteria established by law or rule may function as school advisory councils.

(c) For those schools operating for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs, district school boards may establish a district advisory council with appropriate representatives for the purpose of developing and monitoring a district school improvement plan that encompasses all such schools in the district, pursuant to s. 1001.42(16)(a).

(d) Each school advisory council shall adopt bylaws establishing procedures for:

1. Requiring a quorum to be present before a vote may be taken by the school advisory council. A majority of the membership of the council constitutes a quorum.
2. Requiring at least 3 days' advance notice in writing to all members of the advisory council of any matter that is scheduled to come before the council for a vote.
3. Scheduling meetings when parents, students, teachers, businesspersons, and members of the community can attend.
4. Replacing any member who has two unexcused consecutive absences from a school advisory council meeting that is noticed according to the procedures in the bylaws.
5. Recording minutes of meetings.

The district school board may review all proposed bylaws of a school advisory council and shall maintain a record of minutes of council meetings.

(2) DUTIES-- Each advisory council shall perform such functions as are prescribed by regulations of the district school board; however, no advisory council shall have any of the powers and duties now reserved by law to the district school board. Each school advisory council shall assist in the preparation and evaluation of the school improvement plan required pursuant to s. 1001.42(16). With technical assistance from the Department of Education, each school advisory council shall assist in the preparation of the school's annual budget and plan as required by s. 1008.385(1). A portion of funds provided in the annual General Appropriations Act for use by school advisory councils must be used for implementing the school improvement plan.

1001.42 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS, ACCOUNTABILITY, MONITORING SAC MEMBERSHIP

POWERS AND DUTIES OF DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

IMPLEMENT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.-- Maintain a state system of school improvement and education accountability as provided by statute and State Board of Education rule. This system of school improvement and education accountability shall be consistent with, and implemented through, the district's continuing system of planning and budgeting required by this section and ss. 1008.385, 1010.01, and 1011.01. This system of school improvement and education accountability shall comply with the provisions of ss. 1008.33, 1008.34, 1008.345, and 1008.385 and include the following:

(a) School improvement plans.--The district school board shall annually approve and require implementation of a new, amended, or continuation school improvement plan for each school in the district.

(b) Public disclosure.--The district school board shall provide information regarding the performance of students and educational programs as required pursuant to ss. 1008.22 and 1008.385 and implement a system of school reports as required by statute and State Board of Education rule which shall include schools operating for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs, and for those schools, report on the elements specified in s. 1003.52(19). Annual public disclosure reports shall be in an easy-to-read report card format and shall include the school's grade, high school graduation rate calculated without GED tests, disaggregated by student ethnicity, and performance data as specified in state board rule.

(c) School improvement funds.--The district school board shall provide funds to schools for developing and implementing school improvement plans. Such funds shall include those funds appropriated for the purpose of school improvement pursuant to s. 24.121(5)(c).

(19) LOCAL-LEVEL DECISIONMAKING

(a) Adopt policies that clearly encourage and enhance maximum decisionmaking appropriate to the school site. Such policies must include guidelines for schools in the adoption and purchase of district and school site instructional materials and technology, the implementation of student health and fitness standards, staff training, school advisory council member training, student support services, budgeting, and the allocation of staff resources.

(b) Adopt waiver process policies to enable all schools to exercise maximum flexibility and notify advisory councils of processes to waive school district and state policies.

(c) Develop policies for periodically monitoring the membership composition of school advisory councils to ensure compliance with requirements established in s. 1001.452.

(d) Adopt policies that assist in giving greater autonomy, including authority over the allocation of the school's budget, to schools designated with a grade of "A," making excellent progress, and schools rated as having improved at least two grades.

24.102 – STATE LOTTERIES (TITLE IV EXECUTIVE BRANCH)

24.121 Allocation of Revenues & Expenditure of Funds for Public Education

5.(c) A portion of such net revenues, as determined annually by the Legislature, shall be distributed to each school district and shall be made available to each public school in the district for enhancing school performance through development and implementation of a school improvement plan pursuant to s. 1001.42(16). A portion of these moneys, as determined annually in the General Appropriations Act, must be allocated to each school in an equal amount for each student enrolled. These moneys may be expended only on programs or projects selected by the school advisory council or by a parent advisory committee created pursuant to this paragraph. If a school does not have a school advisory council, the district advisory council must appoint a parent advisory committee composed of parents of students enrolled in that school, which committee is representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school, to advise the school's principal on the programs or projects to be funded. Neither school district staff nor principals may override the recommendations of the school advisory council or the parent advisory committee. These moneys may not be used for capital improvements, nor may they be used for any project or program that has a duration of more than 1 year; however, a school advisory council or parent advisory committee may independently determine that a program or project formerly funded under this paragraph should receive funds in a subsequent year.

(d) No funds shall be released for any purpose from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to any school district in which one or more schools do not have an approved school improvement plan pursuant to s. 1001.42(16) or do not comply with school advisory council membership composition requirements pursuant to s. 1001.452(1). The Commissioner of Education shall withhold disbursements from the trust fund to any school district that fails to adopt the performance-based salary schedule required by s. 1012.22(1).

(e) All components of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program shall be funded annually from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund. Funds shall be allocated to this program prior to application of the formula for equitable distribution to public schools, community colleges, and state universities. If shortages require reductions in estimated distributions from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund, funds for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program shall be reduced only after reductions in all other distributions are made.

(f) Each school district shall, on a quarterly basis, make available to the public and distribute, in an easy to understand format, the expenditures of lottery funds allocated to the school district.

1008.36 FLORIDA SCHOOL RECOGNITION PROGRAM

(1) The Legislature finds that there is a need for a performance incentive program for outstanding faculty and staff in highly productive schools. The Legislature further finds that performance-based incentives are commonplace in the private sector and should be infused into the public sector as a reward for productivity.

(2) The Florida School Recognition Program is created to provide financial awards to public schools that:

- (a) Sustain high performance by receiving a school grade of "A," making excellent progress; or
- (b) Demonstrate exemplary improvement due to innovation and effort by improving a letter grade.

(3) All public schools, including charter schools, that receive a school grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 are eligible to participate in the program.

(4) All selected schools shall receive financial awards depending on the availability of funds appropriated and the number and size of schools selected to receive an award. Funds must be distributed to the school's fiscal agent and placed in the school's account and must be used for purposes listed in subsection (5) as determined jointly by the school's staff and school advisory council. If school staff and the school advisory council cannot reach agreement by November 1, the awards must be equally distributed to all classroom teachers currently teaching in the school.

(5) School recognition awards must be used for the following:

- (a) Nonrecurring bonuses to the faculty and staff;
- (b) Nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment or materials to assist in maintaining and improving student performance; or
- (c) Temporary personnel for the school to assist in maintaining and improving student performance.

Notwithstanding statutory provisions to the contrary, incentive awards are not subject to collective bargaining.

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT SCHOOL RECOGNITION & IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

SECTION 1 - EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT

Funds provided in Specific Appropriation 7 are provided for the Florida School Recognition program to be allocated as awards of up to \$75 per student to qualified schools pursuant to section 1008.36, Florida Statutes.

If there are funds remaining after payment to qualified schools, up to \$5 per unweighted student shall be allocated to be used at the discretion of the school advisory council pursuant to sections 24.121(5) and 1001.452, Florida Statutes. If funds are insufficient to provide \$5 per student, the available funds shall be prorated.

8/31/2009 -- Author's note-- \$0 funds for 2009-2010 are "remaining" for School Improvement use. Some districts may choose to fund SI - check your district. Pinellas and Osceola School District + \$5 for this year only.

286.011 SUNSHINE LAWS (TITLE XIX PUBLIC BUSINESS)

Public meetings and records; public inspection; criminal and civil penalties.

(1) All meetings of any board or commission of any state agency or authority or of any agency or authority of any county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution, at which official acts are to be taken are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times, and no resolution, rule, or formal action shall be considered binding except as taken or made at such meeting. The board or commission must provide reasonable notice of all such meetings.

(2) The minutes of a meeting of any such board or commission of any such state agency or authority shall be promptly recorded, and such records shall be open to public inspection. The circuit courts of this state shall have jurisdiction to issue injunctions to enforce the purposes of this section upon application by any citizen of this state.

(3)(a) Any public officer who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a noncriminal infraction, punishable by fine not exceeding \$500.

(b) Any person who is a member of a board or commission or of any state agency or authority of any county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision who knowingly violates the provisions of this section by attending a meeting not held in accordance with the provisions hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083

(6) All persons subject to subsection (1) are prohibited from holding meetings at any facility or location which discriminates on the basis of sex, age, race, creed, color, origin, or economic status or which operates in such a manner as to unreasonably restrict public access to such a facility.

1012.01 - SCHOOL PERSONNEL - DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

(2) INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL.--" ... (ETC.....see statutes for complete language...)... Included in the classification of instructional personnel are the following K-12 personnel:

(a) Classroom teachers.--Classroom teachers are staff members assigned the professional activity of instructing students in courses in classroom situations, including basic instruction, exceptional student education, career education, and adult education, including substitute teachers.

(b) Student personnel services.--Student personnel services include staff members responsible for: (ETC.....see statutes for complete language...)... Included in this classification are guidance counselors, social workers, career specialists, and school psychologists.

(c) Librarians/media specialists ... (ETC.....see statutes for complete language...)

(d) Other instructional staff.-- (ETC.....see statutes for complete language...)

(e) Education paraprofessionals. (ETC.....see statutes for complete language...)

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL.--(ETC.....see statutes for complete language...) ...Broad classifications of K-12 administrative personnel are as follows:

(a) District-based instructional administrators.-- (ETC.....see statutes for complete language...)

(b) District-based noninstructional administrators.-- (ETC.....see statutes for complete language...)

(c) School administrators.--Included in this classification are:

1. School principals or school directors who are staff members performing the assigned activities as the administrative head of a school and to whom have been delegated responsibility for the coordination and administrative direction of the instructional and noninstructional activities of the school. This classification also includes career center directors.

2. Assistant principals who are staff members assisting the administrative head of the school. This classification also includes assistant principals for curriculum and administration.

LEGAL OPINIONS – PERTAINING TO SAC

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL'S COMPOSITION
FLORIDA ATTORNEY GENERAL -- ADVISORY LEGAL OPINION
NUMBER: AGO 2008-16 --- DATE: APRIL 8, 2008**

...Accordingly, I am of the opinion that section 1001.452(1)(a), Florida Statutes, in requiring that the composition of the school advisory council reflect the "ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school," refers to the ethnic, racial, and economic balance of the geographic area served by the school rather than the district at large or the actual student population attending the school served by the advisory council. Furthermore, I am of the opinion that while the composition of the advisory council must represent each ethnic, racial, and economic community, there need not be a precise percentage or ratio of each community category equal to the percentage of the general population served." ~ Bill McCollum, Attorney General

**SUBJECT: LEGAL OPINION--BONUSES FOR SAC MEMBERS
OPINION No.: 00-03, FROM: RONALD G. STOWERS**

No. The Florida Attorney General has written an opinion that funds may not be used to pay a stipend to any member since a School Advisory Council is not a "project" or "program." ([click here for opinion](#))

**SUBJECT: SUNSHINE LAW PENALTIES, SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NUMBER: AGO 2001-84 -- DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2001**

...Accordingly, I am of the opinion that members of school advisory councils, which are created pursuant to section 229.58, Florida Statutes, are subject to the criminal penalties for knowingly violating the Government in the Sunshine Law." Robert A. Butterworth, Attorney General

**SUBJECT: FEE FOR RECORDS PROVIDED TO [SAC] MEMBER
NUMBER: AGO 99-46 -- DATE: AUGUST 5, 1999**

A school district is under no statutory obligation to provide copies of public records free of charge to individual members of a school advisory council, but a school district may formulate a policy for the distribution of such records....Accordingly, it is my opinion that a school district is under no statutory obligation to provide copies of public records free of charge at the request of an individual member of the school advisory council, but a school district may formulate a policy for the distribution of such records. ([read entire opinion for more guidance](#)) Robert A. Butterworth, Attorney General

**SUBJECT: SUNSHINE LAW--FACULTY ON SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL
NUMBER: INFORMAL -- DATE: MARCH 14, 1994**

You ask whether the Government in the Sunshine Law applies to members of a school advisory council who also serve as faculty members or school administrative officials or who are parents.

Yes, but with limitations & guidance, ([long opinion with various scenarios](#))

**SUBJECT: E-MAIL AS A PUBLIC RECORD AND AS A MEETING
NUMBER: AGO 2001-20 -- DATE: MARCH 20, 2001**

"...Based on the discussion above, it is my opinion that the e-mail communication of factual background information from one city council member to other council members that does not result in the exchange of council members' comments or responses on subjects requiring council action does not constitute a meeting subject to the Government in the Sunshine Law."

Robert A. Butterworth, Attorney General
([click here for opinion](#))

**SUBJECT: SUNSHINE LAW, PARTICIPATION BY ELECTRONIC MEANS
NUMBER: AGO 2002-82 -- DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2002**

Accordingly, it is my opinion that physically-disabled members of the City of Miami Beach Barrier-free Environment Committee may participate and vote on board matters by electronic means if they are unable to attend as long as a quorum of the members of the board is physically present at the meeting site."

Richard E. Doran, Attorney General
([click here for opinion](#))

**SUBJECT: SUNSHINE LAW, USE OF INTERNET TO CONDUCT MEETING
NUMBER: AGO 2001-66 -- DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2001**

Accordingly, I am of the opinion that airport authority members may conduct informal discussions and workshops over the Internet provided proper notice is given and interactive access to members of the public is provided. Such interactive access must include not only public access via the Internet but also designated places within the authority boundaries where the airport authority makes computers with Internet access available to members of the public who may not otherwise have computers with Internet access. Notice of such discussions should include the locations where such computers with Internet access will be available. For meetings, however, where a quorum is necessary for action to be taken, physical presence of the members making up the quorum would be required in the absence of a statute providing otherwise. Internet access to such meetings, however, may still be offered to provide greater public access." ~ Robert A. Butterworth, Attorney General - ([click here for opinion](#))