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DoDDS-Europe

*School
Advisory
Committee
(SAC)*



**Heidelberg
District Superintendent's
Office**

*Promoting Student Achievement,
Preventing Student Failure...*

What is a School Advisory Committee (SAC)?

A SAC is a forum for communicating recommendations, concerns or advice to the principal on educational matters.

Is the SAC a school board?

Even though the SAC does have a significant impact on improving school programs, it is not a school board. It is an advisory committee.

Who is on the SAC?

Depending on the size of the school, a SAC is composed of an equal number of elected parents and professional educators in the school.

When are the elections?

Elections are normally held at the end of the school year; however, elections may also be held at the beginning of the school year.

What issues can be dealt with by a SAC?

- Review school policy and advise principals on curricula and budget issues.
- Recommend solutions to a problem.
- Determine feasibility of implementing new programs.

- Use opinion polls to help develop proposals.
- Keep the community aware of plans and programs initiated at the school.
- Hold forums on particular topics and invite community members to present views.
- Hold open houses.
- Invite qualified speakers to address specific subjects.
- Participate in briefings on school accreditation and school task groups.
- Participate on the School Improvement Leadership Team.

A SAC meeting should not:

- Engage in political campaigns or issues.
- Become a pressure group.
- Decide on curriculum or schools textbooks.
- Be a forum to air employee grievances.
- Report independently to the public.
- Function as a school board.
- Participate in negotiations between DoDDS and its employees.
- Engage in fund-raising activities, or assume functions of other activities, like the PTSA, etc.

If issues are not acted on by the local school, can they be elevated to higher levels in the system?

Yes. If a principal is not able to implement change based on advice submitted by the SAC, it can be passed on through channels to the superintendent, the area superintendent, or the director in DoDEA. Issues should also be passed on to the IAC. In addition there is a higher level SAC committee called the Advisory Committee for Dependents Education (ACDE).

Should community support issues be discussed by the SAC?

No. An Installation Advisory Committee (IAC) is formed from members of each SAC for each community. The IAC meets and gives recommendations and advice to the commander on the community support given to the schools.

References:

- DoD Instruction 1342.15, dated 27 March 87; Subject: Educational Advisory Committees and Councils
- Department of Defense Dependents Schools Pamphlet, dated August 1993; Subject: Educational Advisory Committees and Councils