

School Advisory Council Annual Survey

2022-23

Thank you for participating in the inaugural annual SAC survey! It is greatly appreciated.

The annual survey:

- Provides a clearer picture of SACs in the province;
- Gathers ideas for professional development;
- Identifies areas of concern for SACs; and,
- Allows Regional Centres for Education (RCEs) and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) to access the raw survey data for their region for their own planning and informational purposes.

Summary

RCE/CSAP	# of Schools	# of SACs	# of SACs Responded	Response Rate	# Schools with No SAC	Notes
AVRCE	42	33	31	94%	7	2 joint SACs
CBVRCE	38	36	30	83%	2	
CCRCE	66	63	59	94%	2	1 joint SAC
CSAP	22	21	16	76%	0	1 joint SAC
HRCE	135	135	126	93%	0	
SSRCE	25	23	23	100%	2	
SRCE	20	19	19	100%	0	1 joint SAC
TCRCE	22	21	20	95%	0	1 joint SAC
Total	370	351	324	92%	13	6 joint SACs

- The survey was open from November 16, 2022 – March 31, 2023 (19 weeks and 2 days).
- The average size of an SAC is 8 members and there are approximately 2500 SAC members throughout the province.

GNSPES

- We heard that some SACs do not have access to a GNSPES account or are unsure if they have one.
- It is important to have a GNSPES account as these are relied upon to share important information.



Please reach out to your RCE/CSAP contact if you do not have a GNSPES email or are unsure.

Vacancies

- We learned there are nearly 420 vacancies on SACs across the provinces.
- On average, 41% of SACs have a full member complement, while 59% do not.
- We heard that community members are the most difficult member category to fill, followed by staff.
- We heard of many ideas and plans to fill vacancies:
 - “Continuing to reach out to community organizations”
 - “Trying to recruit extended family members and daycare providers”
 - “Posting in school newsletter”
 - “Placing an ask on local community boards, at local churches”
 - “Using school website, alert, Twitter and Facebook”
 - “Sending letters home along with phone message to the parents”

Many reported an overall lack of interest despite recruitment efforts

Diversity

- When asked if the SAC reflects the diversity of school communities, the most common answer was “yes” in most regions. However, it was not a strong majority.
- We heard that 141 SACs have SAC Agreements that allow for designated seats to reflect the diversity of your school community.
- Here is some of what we heard about designated seats:
 - “One community member must be from the African Nova Scotian community.”
 - “The opportunity exists but lack of individuals responding to the invitation.”
 - “No designated seats, but considerable effort made to ensure diverse community representation on the SAC.”
 - “We have discussed making adjustments to our agreement to be able to encourage more diversity but have not taken any actions yet.”
 - “We struggle to maintain a capacity of volunteers with our existing structure.”

Comments on Professional Development

- “Feedback from SAC members indicates that they have little time outside of meetings to give as most work and have families. They are happy to attend meetings to hear what is happening at school and provide feedback/advice as necessary within their role.”
- “The role of the SAC and how SACs can use their voice in regional and provincial policy development.”
- “I feel strongly that SAC members could benefit from PD on teambuilding, group dynamics, making evidence-based decisions, making decisions collectively, etc.”
- “I would like to learn more about how we can support our Principal with strategies on achieving goals in the student success plan. If we could have some examples of highly effective SACs in the region and what they do for their school. **It would be great if the SACs could have a place to collaborate and learn from one another.**”
- “How to best allocate the funds distributed to the SAC.”
- “How to engage new members.”

Resources

- We will continue to review the results of the survey to support planning and resource development.
- Currently, there are professional development videos available on the EECD website about the role of SACs and SAC Funding: [School Advisory Councils | Education and Early Childhood Development \(ednet.ns.ca\)](https://www.ednet.ns.ca/school-advisory-councils).
 - This website also houses templates, Qs and As, and one-pagers on a variety of topics related to SACs.
- If you are looking for other information, the SAC Handbook may be of use: [sachandbook.pdf \(ednet.ns.ca\)](https://www.ednet.ns.ca/sachandbook.pdf)

Thank you again!