

Charter School Accountability Committee

A School Accountability Committee (SAC) can be utilized by the board to gather, analyze and report on academic performance data. Charter schools are required to have School Accountability Committees. The following is an excerpt of guidance for charter schools from the **Colorado Department of Education District Accountability Handbook**.

Are charter schools required to have School Accountability Committees (SACs)?

Yes, the requirements of the Education Accountability Act of 2009 apply to *all* Colorado public schools, including charter schools. For more information about the requirements of the SACs, please see 1 CCR 301-1, available on the web page for the Education Accountability Act: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/scripts/reforms/detail.asp?itemid=623952>.

What is the relationship between a charter school's governing board and its SAC?

Charter schools are administered and governed by a governing body in a manner agreed to and set forth in the charter contract. Charter schools may choose to have one or two members of their governing body serve on the School Accountability Committee in order to complete any of the required duties of the SAC.

Alternatively, governing boards may establish both a SAC and Finance Committee that report to the governing board on all tasks that are delegated to them, including making recommendations for the school's improvement plan and making recommendations on school spending priorities.

In the past, school advisory councils were not required in any school that had in place, prior to 2000, a committee or council that performed the same duties as were outlined in law. Does that grandfather clause still apply?

No, the grandfather clause was removed from legislation with the passage of the Education Accountability Act of 2009. The duties for SACs are outlined in 1 CCR 301-1, section 12.0, which can be located on the Department's Web site: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/scripts/reforms/detail.asp?itemid=623952>.

How are members of the SAC selected?

The Education Accountability Act of 2009 indicates that local school boards and the Institute must determine the actual number of persons on SACs and the method for selecting the members of the committees. (See section 22-11-401, C.R.S.) For charter schools, local school boards or the Institute may delegate these responsibilities to the charter school governing board, or negotiate an arrangement in the charter contract. Ultimately, it is the charter school's authorizer that determines how a school implements its SAC.