

SECTION II

Both the letter and spirit of the school improvement and accountability legislation are built upon the active involvement of parents, guardians, business people, and other community members in an effort to improve Florida's schools. The legislative intent is to return the responsibility for education to those closest to the students. That is the schools, teachers, and parents. Recognizing that the involvement of the community is vital to student success, the Commissioner of Education and the former Commissioner's Community Involvement Council established the Five Star School Award.

This symbol of achievement is presented each year to those schools that have shown evidence of exemplary community involvement. Eligible schools are designated annually and must be renewed each year. Schools that achieve this designation will receive the Florida Department of Education's highest award for community involvement.

In order to qualify for this award, a school must achieve 100% of the criteria in the categories of Business Partnerships, Family Involvement, Volunteers, Student Community Service, and School Advisory Councils. The school must also have a portfolio that documents the achievement of each criterion.

A school must have a grade of "C" or above for the 2008-2009 school year to qualify for the Five Star School Award.

Place a check mark in the blank preceding each criterion to indicate accomplishment.

I. Community/Business Partnership

- a. Each community/business/agency signs an annual, jointly developed plan of partnership activities.
ex. Form 84A. (Double check signatures, activities, & dates)
- b. Community/business/agency maintains an ongoing, active relationship with school.
ex. Pictures, Thank You letters, t-shirts, bags, box tops.
- c. Community/business/agency is involved in development and implementation of School Improvement Plan.
ex. Sign-in-sheet showing at least 1 community/business partner/agency attending meeting
- d. Community/business/agency partnership supports teaching and learning through the donation of human resources and goods/services or financial resources.
ex. Thank you letter w/ description, Donations of supplies, Guest Speaker, DARE
- e. School designates a community/business partnership coordinator.
ex. Letter from principal acknowledging coordinator
- f. School provides opportunities for community/business partners to receive orientation and training.
ex. Handbooks, Sign in sheets, Agenda, Flyers
- g. Community/business partnership coordinator and school staff receive training during the year on effective use of services by business partners.
ex. Handbooks, Sign in sheets, Flyers, minutes, Agenda
- h. School provides recognition of community/business partners.
ex. Thank you letters, OSVRA program

II. Family Involvement

- a. Active parent organization (PTA, PTO, Boosters, etc.)
ex. PTA news letter, PTA event Flyers
- b. Education opportunities are offered to families (e.g., Sunshine State Standards, literacy, career planning, parenting, homework assistance).
ex. Parent mailers, Drivers Ed., SAT prep, FCAT prep, Parenting guide
- c. Focus/discussion/support groups are offered to families (e.g., parenting, drug awareness, safety, and violence prevention, etc.).
ex. MADD, Flyers from ADA, Safety rules, Zero tolerance, CHADD

- d. Joint parent and student training (e.g., academic skills, family reading, violence prevention, financial aid) is available.
 ex. Financial Aide, workshops, Health Expo, Open house, Student Handbook
- e. Family outreach activities are offered through collaborative or facilitated activities (e.g., neighborhood meetings, tutorial services, off-site programs).
 ex. College or Career night, Breakfast w/ Dad, Family nights, Fun runs
- f. A minimum of 60% of families are involved in a positive way in the school more than once during the year.
 ex. Sign in sheets, attendance records, Flyers
- g. Evidence of a variety of communication techniques with families by teachers and school staff.
 ex. mailers, emails, Alert System, letters, Flyers, News letters, Calendars
- h. Ensure that welcome signage is near the entrance and any other interaction with parents creates a climate in which parents feel valued and welcome.
 ex. Pictures of Foyer, Pics. of school sign outside
- i. Provide parents with current information regarding school policies, practices, and both school and student performance.
 ex. Newspaper articles, FCAT results, open house, Handbooks

III. Volunteers

Meets criteria of Golden School Award. These include:

- a. A minimum of 80% of the school staff have participated in school-based volunteer training during the school year.
 ex. Training/Workshops/orientation Flyers, Handbooks, Sign in sheets, minutes
- b. School volunteer coordinator has been designated to provide leadership for the school volunteer program through recruitment, placement, training, and supervision of participants.
 ex. Training Flyers, Sign in sheets
- c. Total number of hours in volunteer service equals twice the number of students enrolled in the school. (Any volunteer activity that contributes to student improvement may be counted.)
 ex. Print out of volunteer report
- d. School provides recognition of volunteers.
 ex. Thank you letters, OSVRA

IV. Student Community Service

- a. School provides opportunities to students for service learning that focus on identified community needs (e.g., renovating a park, working at election polls, feeding homeless).
 ex. ↗
- b. A minimum of 50% of students are involved in community activities (e.g., pen pals to shut-ins, food drives, cross school tutoring activities).
 ex. ↗

V. School Advisory Council

School Advisory Council/School Decision Making

- a. A minimum of 8 meetings are held per year. Average 80% attendance of members.
 ex. Sign in sheets (excel)
- b. Annual presentation of School Improvement Plan to school community after public notice to all stakeholders (school marquee, flyers, etc.) is made.
 ex. Copy of SIP, signs, Flyers, letters, emails
- c. Evidence of ongoing training and/or development of the School Advisory Council is available.
 ex. Minutes highlighting training/workshops
- d. School Improvement Plan reflects one new idea that involves the community in its implementation.
 ex. Copy of SIP w/ new idea highlighted
- e. School Advisory Council participated in the development and/or interpretation of the needs assessment data.
 ex. minutes from meeting
- f. Training provided for staff and SAC members on collaborative partnering and shared decision-making.
 ex. prevention Flyers, sign in sheets, minutes.