



SCHOOL COUNSELORS OF FLORIDA

A DIVISION OF THE FLORIDA COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

November 2011

Attention School Counselors of Florida Members and Stakeholders,

The School Counselors of Florida (SCF), a division of the Florida Counseling Association (FCA), is in the process of potential by-law changes.

The proposed changes to SCF by-laws are as follows:

- ❖ Change of the division title to the *Florida Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling (FACAC)*.
- ❖ Adjust the bylaws to reflect a division that serves all professional counselors who work with children and adolescents.

What has happened to date:

- After initial proposal and discussion at the Leadership Development Conference in June 2011, the executive committee of the FCA approved the initiation of the bylaw change process.
- At a regular board meeting of SCF (via teleconferencing) in September 2011, the SCF executive council approved the initiation of the bylaw change process.
- During the SCF divisional meeting at the annual fall convention for FCA in October 2011, a discussion was held about the potential changes.

What is going to happen:

- SCF executive council will hold a series of three phone conferences for general SCF membership to call in to discuss the proposed changes.
- SCF will post final proposed changes 30 days prior to voting opens.
- SCF will post a small ballot for membership to vote.
- A decision will be made and announced at LDC, 2012.

For information about bylaw amendment procedures, view the information at the end of this message.

The purpose of these proposed changes is to increase the opportunity for practitioners who work with youth outside of the school setting to be represented by a professional organization. Additionally, the change in title and mission eliminates duplication of state associations representing school counselors in Florida. These changes will not exclude school counselors but instead include other counselors who work with children and adolescents. Moreover, it is the hope of the SCF executive council to create a division to promote collaboration between professional counselors and professional associations.

If you have any questions or concerns, call or email SCF at 407.900.4702 or scf@schoolcounselorsfla.org.

Article IX, Section 1 of SCF Bylaws: Outlines the steps for Amendments to Bylaws

Steps to take place:

- A. The Executive Council may propose amendments for approval by the Association.
- B. At least thirty days prior to Association action, the proposed amendment and the Executive Council's recommendation shall be made available to all members of the Association.
- C. Proposed amendments recommended by the Executive Council shall be acted upon Association by either of the following methods:
 - i. by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members voting at a scheduled meeting of the Delegate Assembly as required in sub-section (B) of this section; or by the
 - ii. by the affirmative note of at least two-thirds of the members voting in a small ballot, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been discussed at an Association meeting, unless the Council declares that emergency action is required.
- D. The Association may, by action at a scheduled Delegate Assembly meeting, provide that a proposed amendment not supported by the Executive Council be submitted for approval by mail ballot in accordance with (C)(ii) above.
- E. Once by-laws are amended, they must be approved by the SCF Executive Board and then must come to FCA Board for final approval.