

Memo

To: BVSD Board of Education
From: BVSD District Accountability Committee
Date: January 3, 2017
Re: DAC Recommendations on District Spending Priorities
2016-2017 School Year

To fulfill the DAC responsibility:

C.R.S. 22-11-302(1)(a) – To recommend to its local school board priorities for spending school district moneys. Whenever the school district accountability committee recommends spending priorities, it shall make reasonable efforts to consult in a substantive manner with the school accountability committees of the school district. The local school board shall consider the school district accountability committee's recommendations in adopting the school district budget for each fiscal year pursuant to article 44 of this title.

Details on 2016-2017 SAC Survey:

Forty-two SACs participated, an increase of 17% over last year's survey. A prioritized ranking system was introduced this year, where respondents ranked priorities from "Most Important" to "Least Important." Last year, SACs simply selected whether an item was a priority, without ranking its relative importance.

2016-2017 Findings on Spending Priorities

Of the eight priorities presented, two emerged as clear leaders in the "Most Important" category, across all school levels and district areas. Furthermore, these two priorities have now been identified by DAC as top priorities for three consecutive school years.

In both of the top priorities, DAC members across all school levels believe strongly that identification, intervention and investment early in a student's career is crucial. DAC encourages the board to seek a firm commitment from District leadership on implementing both priorities and asks district leaders to report back to DAC on specific initiatives.

- **Social-Emotional Supports.** Social-emotional supports were the top spending priority, with a majority of SACs, especially at the elementary school level, identifying licensed counselors as the number one need. DAC acknowledges that social-emotional supports can also consist of support programs, classroom instruction, extracurricular activities and a supportive school climate.
- **Equity.** DAC views equity as directing the effective use of resources to ensure success of all learners to their maximum potential. DAC members believe that more robust data collection and informed decision-making are needed to achieve this outcome. With an eye toward district-wide historical performance trends over time, the DAC and constituent SACs remain concerned that the performance of certain student populations is not consistently meeting achievement and growth expectations and the district has not identified measures that adequately track this gap, nor programs that successfully reduce it. As in the past, DAC strongly recommends linking spending on these populations to efficacy, ensuring that district money is spent on proven strategies.