

Memo

To: BVSD Board of Education
From: BVSD District Accountability Committee
Date: April 5, 2017
Re: 2017 DAC Recommendations on the District Unified Improvement Plan

To fulfill the DAC responsibility:

C.R.S. 22-11-302(1)(b) – To advise its local school board concerning preparation of, and annually submit to the local school board recommendations regarding the contents of, a district performance, improvement, priority improvement, or turnaround plan, whichever is required based on the school district's accreditation category. In advising and preparing the recommendations, the school district accountability committee shall make reasonable efforts to consult in a substantive manner with the school accountability committees of the school district and shall compile and submit to the local school board the school performance, improvement, priority improvement, and turnaround plans submitted by the school accountability committees pursuant to sections 22-11-403 to 22-11-406.

2017 DAC Recommendations on the District Unified Improvement Plan

Based upon the 2016-17 draft UIP shared with the DAC on April 4, 2017, the DAC is making the following observations and recommendations:

- The UIP appears to be aligned and consistent with the Strategic Plan, and is district-supported.
- DAC applauds the stronger root cause analysis in the draft UIP that builds from the Education Northwest report. The DAC also appreciated the opportunity to participate in analysis of root causes across BVSD schools.
- DAC would also like to acknowledge the work that district staff has done in 2016-2017 to communicate with DAC about the UIP throughout the school year, and would like to carry this routine forward in future years.

In anticipation of the final version of the 2016-17 UIP, DAC recommends the following:

- DAC recommends that district leadership and the Board of Education continue to align spending priorities/budgeting with the UIP action plan. In referring back to our earlier spending priorities recommendation memo (dated Jan. 3, 2017), the DAC recommended a focus on social emotional supports and supports for vulnerable populations, specifically FRL, ELL and students with an IEP. DAC notes a disappointing lack of growth in these populations across the district. The draft UIP does not necessarily call out specific actions to address these needs and monitor progress.
- While root cause analysis has been strengthened, the action plan does not align with the identified root causes. For example, “materials and curricula are lacking for ELL students” is identified as a root cause, but none of the action steps addresses this specific issue. The draft version of the action plan seems to focus heavily on general solutions rather than specific ones.
- DAC encourages concise and measurable progress monitoring (“SMART goals”) and a more detailed description of what successful outcomes look like. DAC membership views the UIP as a living document, and believes that well-defined targets, interim measures and implementation benchmarks will assist with strong outcomes. Furthermore, if DAC is to continue providing check-ins on UIP progress throughout the school year, these kinds of items need further definition. To that end, we encourage the district to continue to strengthen identification of benchmarks and the creation of feedback loops.
- DAC continues to encourage district leadership to provide the DAC with an updated version of the UIP in early fall 2017 for preliminary feedback.

