

District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter



March 2023

UPCOMING DATES:

- **Full DAC Meeting—**
March 16, 2023
6:00—8:00pm
Tesla, room 116
and via WebEx
- **SAC Training—**
April 6, 2023
6:00—8:00pm
Tesla, room
116/129

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Welcome

Welcome to March and the promise of warmer days. The District Accountability Committee (DAC) and School Accountability Committees (SACs) need to continue to stay focused on what is best for all D11 students. Please continue to monitor the One Plan at your school and advocate for the safety and success of all students. Mark your calendar for the upcoming One Plan symposium dates of May 31 – June 2. The hope is that the SAC can participate at every school.

Panorama survey results should be available to all schools. Students have been struggling socially and emotionally, this data can help SAC discussions at your school. Looking at this data can help provide input to how the One Plan work is going this year and possible changes to action steps. Also, the 5 Essential survey was just administered for teachers and students. Get ready to discuss that data at your school level.

The DAC and its Subcommittees are continuing to work.

- The DAC enjoyed spotlighting grand friend, Kristin Brown. Tamara Forrest presented on Title funding and programs, LouAnn Dekleva presented on Community Liaisons in D11, and Superintendent Gaal shared more on his portfolio strategy.
- The DAC Budget Subcommittee provided input to the Board on the vacancy fund requests. They started a review of comprehensive budget proposals for each division to help in preparation of the Preliminary Budget Development Assumptions (PBDA).
- The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee spent time focused on district level Panorama survey data, graduation and dropout data, and the STAR data family report.
- The Training and SAC Support Subcommittee is starting to plan for the final SAC training scheduled on April 6. Look for more details about this final training for this school year.

Congratulations to Wilson Elementary School and West Middle School for their Family School Community Partnership (FSCP) bright spots highlighted at the February 8 Board meeting. They will also be presented with a certificate for their work from the D11 FSCP Celebrations Subcommittee.

The National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) has great resources to help with FSCP at your school. I recently attended a Webinar called *Highly Effective Family Engagement: 5 Habits to Start Now that suggested several ideas for schools to help with family engagement. Here are links to the presentation if you are interested:*

[View the video recording ;](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2nVBHeu2WA)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2nVBHeu2WA>

[View the Presentation PDF;](https://cdn.ymaws.com/nafsce.org/resource/resmgr/NAFSCE_ParentPower_Webinar_0.pdf)

https://cdn.ymaws.com/nafsce.org/resource/resmgr/NAFSCE_ParentPower_Webinar_0.pdf

As a DAC, we want to continue supporting our School Accountability Committees. Look at the suggested agenda items for your meeting from the SAC Handbook. Talk to your DAC representative. If there are areas your SAC needs support on, please let us know, we are here to help. We look forward to a productive March and a great Spring Break.

Regards,

Velvet Stepanek

Chair – District Accountability Committee

News & Notes



Judges Needed for District 11 Elementary Science Fairs & Regional Science Fair

Elementary students are preparing their hypotheses and beginning their research to bring the best science fair project to their science fair.

All that is needed are volunteers who wish to support their efforts by serving as science fair judges.

Please click on the link below to raise your hand and volunteer for one or more upcoming science fairs. A confirmation will be sent to you with details.

Thank you on behalf of our budding scientists!

<https://forms.office.com/r/zmLRYRM5gD>

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more”.

H. Jackson Brown Jr.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS: ENRICHING HEARTS AND MINDS

D11 aims to expand our low-to-no-cost after-school enrichment programs to 17 additional school sites. We understand that every family's schedule differs, and finding care for your child after school can be difficult. Our after-school programs are more than watching your child until you arrive; they incorporate fun learning

activities such as hands-on science experiments, art projects, educational games, and guest speakers from community organizations. D11 programs are currently available at Trailblazer ES, Monroe ES, Twain ES, Adams ES, Audubon ES, Freedom ES, Midland/West ES, King ES and Rudy ES. Check with your Principal to see if your school may be offering this service in school year 2023-2024.



News & Notes Continued

2023/2024 Kindergarten Registration

- Kindergarten Registration for the 2023/2024 school year began on March 1st.
- Tuition-free kindergarten offers more of a great thing! Full-day kindergartners benefit from more time to begin learning to read and write, to explore learning activities of all kinds, and to develop all-important academic and social skills.
- For enrollment information and to find specific enrollment dates and times for your school go to:
<https://www.d11.org/KindergartenRoundUp>



Read Across America

“The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you’ll go” - Dr. Seuss

- During the month of March our schools will be focusing on literacy and building a love of reading among our students in celebration of Read Across America.
- The official “Read Across America Day” was Thursday, March 2nd. Schools celebrated by having guest readers come to schools to read to students. It is always a fun day!



The latest from the Gifted and Talented Advisory committee GTAC

- Our goal this year is work on connection in our GT community.
- We aim to create easy access to foster parent to parent connection.
- We are launching the idea of a **champion program** with every school having a parent/ grandparent or guardian as a champion for the gifted and talented in their building.
- The champion is the main parent contact and supports their GT community, which includes other parents, but also teachers and the school itself. Parents who are interested in being a champion, please talk to your school's Gifted Resource Teacher
- We are asking the Gifted teachers for their help by reaching out to parents they would recommend to take on that role and engage them.
- The GTAC team is still figuring out the details and would love your input.
- The next GTAC meeting is on **March 9th from 12-12:45**. Join with this link

<https://cssd11.webex.com/wbxmjs/joinservice/sites/cssd11/meeting/download/6284e6e907f54b9eac8ae2ba596085c6?siteurl=cssd11&MTID=m789e703345721864f92a122c15fb036b>



Chicago 5Essentials Survey Completed for 2022-2023: 5Essentials

- The latest Chicago 5Essentials Survey was completed in late February. The Survey included teachers and students across the District. It was designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of each school.
- 5Essentials reports will be generated for D11 schools if their teachers and/or students met a response rate threshold of 50 percent. The reports will be available in late March or early April 2022.
- Check with your principal to see if your school met the response rate criteria and place this on your SAC agenda for April or May to review the results. Many schools included improvements in 5E results in their One Plan goals and strategies for 22-23, so checking the results is important.

Academic Master Plan Updates:

The Board of Education has received key updates on planning associated with the D11 Academic Master Plan in the last three Board Work sessions;

- **Wed, Feb 1st: AMP Update – Quality Neighborhood Schools** – this presentation provided an overall status update, a proposed quality neighborhood school definition and attributes, strategies for attainment and success criteria.
- **Wed, Feb 15th: AMP Update – High Schools** – this presentation included re-envisioned graduation requirements, proposed HS block schedule, roll out of Personal Financial Literacy and World Language subjects, school – based collaborative teaming and much more.
- **Wed, Mar 1st: AMP Update – D11 Graduate Profile, CTE, Quality Neighborhood High School** – this presentation provided further amplification on the Feb 15th presentation with a focus on supporting students with a plan for the future (Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)), Military and Technical Education two-year and four-year programs (MT24), and Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Postsecondary opportunities for increased access to career-based learning/apprentice and internships.
- These presentations, along with the recordings of the actual work sessions may be found on the Board's "Board Docs" web page at <https://go.boarddocs.com/co/d11/Board.nsf/Public>. Click on the "Meetings" tab and go to the proper meeting on the left side of the page to access the meeting presentation and recording of the meeting. **We strongly urge you to check these presentations out before the SAC Training Session on April 6th.**



SAC Training/Information Session Information and Updates

SAVE THE DATE: The next SAC Training/Information Session will be held April 6, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00PM at Tesla. **It will be important to attend this one in person as it will not be on WebEx.** Information on presentations and discussion topics will be sent out around mid-March 2022. One highlight will be extended breakout sessions with Area Superintendents for all SACs in their area to get acquainted and discuss issues of common interest – more to come.



Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs

- Spring STAR District Benchmark test (3rd – 11th grade): April 3 – April 14
- CMAS tests: April 10 – 28
- Colorado PSAT tests: April 12 – 14
- March 7, 2023 6:00 – 8:00 PM: D11 presentation on Postsecondary Options and D11 Opportunity Academies, Roy J. Wasson Academic Campus
- May 31 – Jun 2, 2023: D11 One Plan Symposium for School Year 23-24 – Save the Date, SACs will be invited to participate

SAC Agenda Planning – March (Theme: One Plan/USIP updates – if needed)

Every month we intend to provide a reasonable flow of SAC agenda topics that meet the broad responsibilities of School District 11 SACs. This is just a reference tool and individual SACs should tailor agendas appropriate to their school needs and emphasis. The following are some of the agenda topics that are recommended for March meetings:

- Review/discuss topics from the D11 SAC Handbook, Agenda Planning Guide for previous months which have not yet been addressed.
- Review/discuss relevant 1st semester achievement data including 2nd quarter STAR District Benchmark test results (including growth), middle of the year Acadience Reading test results (for READ Act), ACCESS for ELLs test results, 5E survey results, etc. and compare against One Plan/USIP goals for 2022-2023. Discuss possible One Plan/USIP adjustments (if needed).
- What strategies is the school using to assist students who are struggling the most, and are they working?
- Are PLCs/teams using Common Interim Assessments (CIAs) from Performance Matters? If so, are they helping to guide teaching?
- If not recently addressed, how is your school doing on PowerSchool implementation and use? Do all parents have access and are they using the system? Are all teachers efficiently using the system? Does your SAC monitor usage metrics with the principal monthly? Are they improving? If not, what strategies are you using to improve parent – teacher two way communication?

Good Things Happening in the District

The District—

- The Pikes Peak Regional Science and Engineering Fair is a judged competition open to any secondary student (grade 6-12) from Elbert, El Paso, Park and Teller Counties with individual or team projects in Science, Engineering, Math and Computer Science. District 11 was represented well on February 25, 2023. The following students received recognition for their work:

◆ North MS—

- * Congratulations to Vivian Wolkow (6th Grade) who won first place—Jr. Life Science, and the American Psychological Association Special Award for her project: "Does the tail remember what the head saw?"
- * Congratulations to teacher Tom Wolkow for guiding his student in their achievements

◆ Sabin MS—

- * Congratulations to Cristal Hernandez (8th Grade) who won Third Place—Jr. Life Science award, and a Master Prize List award for her project: "Pig Skin"
- * Congratulations to Delilah Epps (8th Grade) who won Third Place—Jr. Physical Science award for her project: "How can different papers hold up different masses?"
- * Congratulations to Alan Perez (8th Grade) who won a Master Prize List award for his project: "Marine microorganisms and the effect of plastics"
- * Congratulations to Vionica Lin (8th Grade) who won the U.S. Metric Association Certificate of Achievement Special award for her project: "Orchestra vs. Band—Who rocks the most?"
- * Congratulations to teacher Jeannie Meredith for guiding her students in their achievements

◆ Palmer HS—

Pikes Peak Regional Science and Engineering Fair

Palmer High School had a phenomenal showing at the Pikes Peak Regional Science and Engineering fair!

Cami Wolkow (9th grade) investigated the ability of fungi to clean antibiotics from the environment. In addition to about a dozen Special Awards, Cami was awarded 3rd Place in the Life/Environmental Science category and earned a spot in the Colorado State Science Fair in April.

Natalie Muro (9th grade) investigated buoys that capture wave energy and convert it to electricity. Along with her Special Awards, she earned 1st Place in the Life/Environmental Science category and a trip to Ft. Collins for State Science Fair. To cap off her night, Natalie was awarded the Senior Division Grade Prize (basically the best high school project) and an automatic bid to International Science Fair in Dallas.

This is a huge achievement for these students and an unbelievable start to their research careers at Palmer.



- * Congratulations to teacher Nathaniel Lohmann for guiding his students in their achievements

★ ALWAYS believe
that SOMETHING
WONDERFUL
is about to HAPPEN ★

Good Things Happening in the District (Continued)

The District (continued)—

- Our great D11 students spoke in front of City Council on February 28th in favor of excluding from the mobility study (project 105) in the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan an extension of Constitution Avenue from Union Boulevard to I-25 by an expressway.
- A gentleman who spoke after they did, commented, "You folks on this Council need to listen to the voices of the young people who spoke here today!"
- Amelia Chavez (Junior Palmer) and Zaid Momani (Junior Coronado) both attended Stratton Elementary and shared their insights about the importance of maintaining walkable neighborhoods and a learning environment at Stratton and Mann that aren't spoiled by pollution, noise, and dangerous passage for students going to and from school.
- They were poised, well-spoken, and persuasive and a great example of our D11 students getting involved in their communities and playing an active role in our democracy.
- And they helped successfully pass the initiative -- the City Council removed the Constitution Extension from the ConnectCOS Transportation Plan.



Good Things Happening in the District (Continued)

Coronado HS—

- All-State Choir Congratulations to Wren Fortier, Katie Shane, Yzabela Cardenas and Michael Watkins for being selected into the 2023 Colorado High School Choir.
- Auditions are extremely competitive and students attend from every county in Colorado for this coveted honor. Students sing a prepared solo and are scored on tone quality, intonation, accuracy of notes and rhythm, diction, dynamics, musicality, scales, intervals and sight reading.

Doherty HS—



Mitchell HS—

- Congratulations to the AFJROTC at Mitchell HS for bringing home two 1st place trophies!
- 1st place in Color Guard and 1st place in Exhibition

