

District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter



February 2023

UPCOMING DATES:

- February 7, 2023
5:30—7:00pm
Training & SAC
Support Meeting
via WebEx
- February 16, 2023
6:00—8:00pm
Full DAC meeting
Tesla, Room 116
and via WebEx

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Welcome

Welcome to 2023! January has been a busy month with cold temperatures. The District 11 DAC and its subcommittees are dedicated to our work. Thank you to SAC members for your work at each of your schools.

Here are a few highlights of what was accomplished by the DAC in December and January:

- The DAC spotlighted the work of Lou Jauriqui, the Community Liaison at Wilson Elementary. Community Liaisons provide valuable services to promote family, school, and community partnerships that help launch student success. Thank you to Lou for her service and dedication to District 11.
- The DAC gained knowledge and asked questions about the status of the Academic Master Plan and met Chief Academic Officer, Tamara Acevedo.
- The Training and SAC Support Subcommittee hosted the third SAC Training Session on January 26. SACs learned more about post secondary options as well as offerings at each school level to help know options for students. Middle and high school SACs learned about Individual Career and Academic Plans and got a demo of Naviance. Elementary SACs learned about the pathway schools and how to market their schools. The final SAC Training Session is scheduled for Thursday, April 6, 2023. All SACs are encouraged to attend.
- The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee reviewed enrollment data, middle of the year (MOY) STAR data, Acadience data, looked more at Best First Instruction progress, and voted to recommend schools for accreditation with distinction.
- The DAC Budget Subcommittee worked on mid-year budget modifications and reviewed requests for use of the vacancy funds.

DAC members will continue to reach out to school SAC contacts at every school to get your input and build relationships. Every SAC input is important. We want to hear how your school is doing and what we can do to help support you.

This month SACs should be asking about MOY STAR test results. 5 Essentials parent survey data should be available to discuss. Also, do all families at your school have PowerSchool accounts? Discuss what your SAC can do to get the word out about the benefits of using PowerSchool to help students' success.

The D11 Family School Community Partnership (FSCP) Collaborative celebrated "bright spots" of family engagement at Rudy Elementary and Coronado High School at the January 10 Board meeting. We will visit these schools soon to present certificates and celebrate. We will continue to bright spot this work every month. Reach out about FSCP happening at your school.

Work is also being started to update the Family Engagement Policy for the District. The DAC and SACs will be asked to give input to this work. The DAC will continue to keep you updated.

Thank you to the support staff, teachers, and district administration for all the work you do to help support the DAC work.

Velvet Stepanek
Chair – District Accountability Committee

News & Notes



*“No act of
kindness, no
matter how small,
is ever wasted”
Aesop*



Colorado Springs School District 11 has many schools that offer unique and exceptional educational opportunities. If you would like your child to attend one of our schools that is not your neighborhood school, you may submit a Choice Open Enrollment Application to any of our schools.

- We have many pathways such as STEM, IB, and Dual Language Immersion. To learn more, go to: <https://www.d11.org/pathways>
- Are you interested in CTE programs? We have many to choose from, some of which earn college credit! To learn more, go to: <https://www.d11.org/Page/1954>
- Our Online Enrollment Guide can help you find schools and programs that best fit your family. To learn more, go to: <https://www.d11.org/EnrollmentGuide>

February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month

The Board of Education passed a resolution at its January 25, 2023 meeting designating February 2023 as Career and Technical Education Month.



- CTE Month 2023 recognizes the ongoing leadership and excellence from classrooms across the country and raises awareness around the crucial role that CTE has in readying our nation for economic success and workforce competitiveness.
- CTE classrooms are modern-day laboratories, where students and educators alike are developing the skills that will power the future of postsecondary and workforce readiness (PWR) success.

News & Notes (Continued)

The DAC accreditation subcommittee report:

- The State accredited schools with a School Performance Framework (SPF) rating based on CMAS, PSAT/SAT test results, regarding student growth, achievement and for high schools only postsecondary and workforce force readiness (PWR) are included.
- There are 4 possible ratings, the district has **26 schools rated Performance plan 53-100%**, 10 schools rated Improvement Plan 42-52.9%, 10 schools rated Priority Improvement Plan 34-41.9%, 4 schools rated Turnaround plan 0-33.9% and 8 schools that had insufficient data to receive a rating.
- The DAC Accreditation subcommittee makes recommendations to the Board of Education to accredit schools with the rating of **Accredited with Distinction**. We used the score of 74% (that is the score the state uses to accredit districts for the same rating), and recommended the following schools for this rating:

ACCREDITATION

Bristol Elementary SPF 94%

Taylor Elementary SPF 89%

Chipeta Elementary SPF 84%

Scott Elementary SPF 83.3%

Howbert Elementary SPF 82%

Trailblazer Elementary SPF 78.5%

Academy ACL SPF 74.5%

Stratton Elementary SPF 74.5%

Odyssey ECCO SPF 74.4%



The Board voted to accept the recommendation on 1/25. At the next Board meeting every school will receive recognition and a banner to display. Congratulations to these schools!

News & Notes (Continued)



2022-2023

***The Crystal Apple Awards Program
wishes to honor all District 11 teachers
for their efforts to provide meaningful education
to students in District 11.***

***Administrators/Parents/Students,
Please send your teacher's story in written form or video
to CrystalApple@d11.org.***

that incorporates these 3 questions:

- 1. In the classroom, how does this teacher meet the needs of all students?***
- 2. How does this teacher demonstrate professional collaboration?***
- 3. How does this teacher contribute to a positive school/parent/community partnership?***

***The District 11 Media Services will create a program
featuring some of the stories to air
during National Teacher Appreciation Week in May.***

***All stories and videos will be available to the community
on a 2023 Crystal Apple Awards website.***

Please submit your stories by March 31, 2023.

News & Notes (Continued)

News from the Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee (GTAC)

- GTAC members have been working hard towards the mission and vision of the committee. We are currently working on a series of short parent videos representing real life experiences in our GT community.
- We could use your help with scripting, filming or simply sharing your story. Please fill out form at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjiwmlHeGJ-1b7JsadWLFLOKghOV9XmUUsF8Osi9bDBlv1LA/viewform>
- The next meeting is on February 9th, 5.30-6.30pm via WebEx. The meeting link for the meeting can be found at: <https://www.d11.org/Page/17627>



Love The Bus Month



February is Love The Bus Month! This holiday appreciates the individuals and organizations involved in the operation of school buses, including the drivers! Thank you to everyone involved in transporting our students safely in District 11!

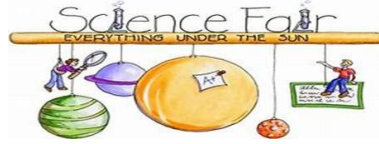


Technology Tips for Families page:

- Are your parents/guardians struggling to navigate parent access to D11 applications like PowerSchool, Schoology, Seesaw, Dream Box math, Naviance, etc.?
- Encourage them to seriously check out all the resources on the D11 Technology Tips for Families webpage <https://www.d11.org/Page/18636>.
- This page has links to a wealth of information for all levels. Discuss with your principal the feasibility of having Parent Academy technology nights for parents this spring and next fall to help parents support their students.

TECHNOLOGY

News & Notes (Continued)



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>



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Important PowerSchool Updates and More

- **Parent Portal (All Schools):**
 - ◇ Are your families engaging in the education of their student(s) via District provided supports?
 - ◇ How many of your parents/guardians have activated their Parent Portal accounts? [NOTE: Your Principal recently received this information for Jan 2023 from Tom Hunt in IT.]
 - ◇ Kudos to **Jackson ES** and **Steele ES**: more than 80% of their student’s parents have parent portal accounts! On the down side, three schools had 10% or less. Please get the word out to parents/guardians about the benefits and future opportunities of using PowerSchool’s Parent Portal to engage in the learning of their student (s).
- **Currently available in the PS Parent Portal:** current grades, report cards, schedules, assignments, attendance, standardized test results (e.g., CMAS), and some student plans (i.e., READ Act and ALPs).
- **Coming soon:** digital document delivery, transcripts, additional student plans, and digital document signature capabilities.
- **PowerSchool Parent Portal FAQ page:** Tom Hunt, D11 PowerSchool Project Lead, has added updates to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section to the D11 PowerSchool Parent Portal page (<https://www.d11.org/PowerSchool>).
 - ◇ A link to an anonymous feedback form for asking questions or providing feedback on both PowerSchool and Schoology is at the top of the page. The new FAQ section is on the right half of the page. Be sure to check out the answers to FAQs regarding data transfers between PowerSchool Parent Portal and Schoology. This FAQ section will be a key location for answering parent/SAC questions and providing updates. Be sure to check it frequently.

SAC News

SAC Training/Information Session Information and Updates:

- SAC Training/Information Session Jan 26th, 2023 6 – 8 PM at Tesla and via WebEx. The video recording of this session is available at: <https://www.d11.org/Page/17241> Password: 3MeD5b72
- In the session Velvet Stepanek, DAC Chair, provided an update on Family, School, Community Partnership Collaborative activities. Dr. Scott Mendelsberg, Area Supt Alternative Schools, CTE, and charters, and Duane Roberson, Director Career and Technical Education (CTE) gave an outstanding update on D11 Post- Secondary Options; Dawn Boden, Facilitator K-12 Counseling Services, and Leilani Mullins, Career and College Access Specialist, gave an excellent update on Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) initiatives plus provided a demonstration of the Naviance application used in 6-12th grade in D11 as a tool for college and career planning, including high school course planning.
- In a special breakout session, Nicole Ottmer, Personalized Learning Systems Coordinator, and Dr. Brandan Comfort, Area Supt. – West, gave an excellent update on the status of Pathway Schools in D11 and ideas for marketing your school and its unique strengths. One attendee commented, “This is the most new and useful information I have ever gotten at a SAC Training Session.” If you missed the session, checking out the session handouts package at <https://www.d11.org/Page/1904> is a must!

SAVE THE DATE: The next SAC Training/Information Session will be held April 6, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00PM at Tesla and via WebEx. Fliers on presentations and discussion topics will be sent out by early-mid March 2023.

Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs:

- ACCESS: The state test for English Language Learner (ELL) students (all eligible kindergarten – 12th grade students), is being given Jan 9th – Feb 10th
- Feb 23, 2023, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, Doherty HS: Major presentation on post-secondary options for 8 – 11th grade students and parents. Discover D11 Options including Career and Technical Education, Work-Based Learning, Concurrent Enrollment, ASCENT, CLEP, and more.
- March 7, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Roy J. Wasson Academic Campus: Major presentation on post- secondary options and D11 Opportunity Academies .

SAC Agenda Planning – February (Theme: Mid-year One Plan/USIP progress review):

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 February meetings:

- Review/discuss relevant 1st semester achievement data including 2nd quarter STAR District Benchmark test results (especially growth), middle of the year Acadience Reading test results (for READ Act), ACCESS for ELLs test results, etc. and compare against One Plan/USIP goals
- Review/discuss the school’s progress in reading, writing, math, social studies and science as appropriate. How are the teacher teams utilizing the data from District Benchmarks to support student growth?
- 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?
- Progress on Social Emotional Learning successes/challenges, and progress on student discipline and “safe learning environment” initiatives
- Review/discuss progress on parent engagement for student learning. Has your school implemented any new initiatives with a parent engagement focus this school year?
- 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 is your plan for increasing parent participation?

Good Things Happening in the District

The District—

- Many of our schools and educators have been nominated for The Best of the Springs 2023. If you want to vote, go to: www.thebestofthesprings.com
- Congratulations to everyone nominated!—



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Elementary School— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Freedom Elementary ◆ McAuliffe Elementary ◆ Stratton Elementary ◆ Trailblazer Elementary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Elementary Educators— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Angelica Givler, McAuliffe Elementary ◆ Emily Owen, McAuliffe Elementary ◆ Jessica Gilliam, Stratton Elementary ◆ Michelle Zilverberg, Freedom Elementary ◆ Virginia Stewart, Scott Elementary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Middle School— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Holmes Middle School ◆ Jenkins Middle School ◆ North Middle School ◆ Russell Middle School ◆ Sabin Middle School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Middle School Educators – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Amelia Kronser, Holmes Middle School ◆ Emmie Steinberg, North Middle School ◆ Katy Myers, Sabin Middle School ◆ Chris Smith, Sabin Middle School ◆ Lori Currier, Jenkins Middle School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best High School— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Coronado HS ◆ Doherty HS ◆ Palmer HS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best High School Educators – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Alexandra Madsen, Odyssey ECCO ◆ Elizabeth Montague, Doherty High School ◆ Jeff Hinton, Palmer High School ◆ Kristin Demarco, Mitchell High School ◆ Laura Grant, Mitchell High School ◆ Scott Hebrink, Doherty High School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Preschool— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Buena Vista Montessori Elementary ◆ McAuliffe Elementary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best High School Coaches – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Adam Palmer, Mitchell High School ◆ Coach Kalawe, Doherty High School ◆ Craig Decker, Doherty High School ◆ Gerald Freeman, Palmer High School ◆ Skylar Johnson, Doherty High School

Coronado HS, Doherty HS, Mitchell HS & Palmer HS—

- On January 25th these High Schools participated in a new athletic event of unified bowling squads. Chris Noll, Athletic Director indicates this is a way to expand the athletic programs and activities available to suit an even bigger population of students. Unified bowling provides the opportunity for students with intellectually disabilities to partner with other athletes in a sanctioned sport. The students will be able to take part in a state championship tournament next fall. The event took place at Peak Bowl. Unified soccer, not yet sanctioned, will start up in the district in the spring. Basketball and volleyball will hopefully follow suit.



Good Things Happening in the District

Doherty HS—

- Congratulations to senior Jakeem Cooper. He has been chosen as the Colorado state representative for Successful Career Students of Colorado. Jakeem will be presenting at the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) board meeting on February 8th, alongside the state representatives for the other Colorado Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs). Jakeem will be sharing the importance of ACE and how it has helped him develop his postsecondary workforce readiness skills.

Odyssey ECCO—

- Congratulations to Mrs. Madsen who was recently selected as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by The National Society of High School Scholars. She was nominated by a student for outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in the profession.
- On February 7th, from 5:30—7:00pm Odyssey ECCO will hold their 2nd annual Family Night at the Roy J. Wasson Academic Campus auditorium. They are partnering with The African American Youth Leadership Conference, for an evening of food for the body mind, and soul.

Sabin MS—

- Sabin MS teacher, Mrs. Canuel and Penrose ES teacher, Mrs. Bartley collaborated together to give Sabin students the opportunity to read to the upcoming elementary students at Penrose. This is just one of the new vertical mentoring programs happening at Sabin.



Are you a 5th grader looking to start at Sabin next school year? We are excited to have you here for our 5th grade open house!

Come to Sabin's
5th grade Open House!

When: February 16th

What time: 5:30-6:30

Where: Sabin Cafeteria

Come see the great things Sabin has to offer:
*Performing and visual arts
*STEM
*Counseling services
*Special education services
*Athletics and clubs
*GMP!

PIC-COLLAGE

Please share good things that are happening at your school—send to Trudy.Tool@d11.org