

District Accountability

(DAC)

SEPTEMBER 2022



UPCOMING DATES:

- September 15, 2022, DAC meeting, 6:00—8:00pm, in person, Tesla room 116 and via WebEx
- September 29, 2022 SAC Training 6:00—8:00pm, in person, Tesla room 116 and via WebEx

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News & Notes	2
Updates to SAC	4
Good Things	8

Welcome

On behalf of the entire District Accountability Committee (DAC), welcome to the start of the 2022-23 academic year. It’s amazing that *Colorado Springs School District 11* is 150 years old. This is a year for celebrations of our past and a renewed focus on improving academic outcomes for all D11 students.

The DAC intends to continue to publish monthly newsletters. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep various District 11 stakeholders informed and open channels of communication between our parents, community members, schools, and district.

Each newsletter will contain one or more of the following sections:

- *News & Notes* – Relevant happenings in the district; information on upcoming meetings, events, and deadlines.
- *Updates to School Accountability Committee (SAC)* – Planning guide and helpful tips for your monthly meetings.
- *Good Things* – Highlight some of the incredible things happening at our schools.

One of the primary charges tasked to the DAC by the Board of Education (BOE) is to work with and support every D11 school in the development of an effective and highly functional SAC. We plan to accomplish this goal with our quarterly SAC Training Sessions (the first one is on September 29, 2022), updates through this newsletter, two way communication with the DAC, and one-on-one sessions with individual SACs (if necessary).

The DAC is once again highlighting information on Family, School, and Community Partnerships in this newsletter and our SAC trainings. Just as a space launch relies on a team of people working together to plan and complete a mission, families, schools, and communities can work together to launch children’s learning. When families, schools, and communities work together throughout the year on their shared mission, student learning takes off. SACs have an opportunity to be part of the team on the mission at each school.

Many SACs participated in the One Plan symposium back in the spring. Every school developed major improvement strategies and action plans that the entire school community should know about. The One Plan is a living document that SACs should be discussing at every meeting to keep them centered on how students are doing and how do we know.

Finally, the DAC serves as an advisory body to the BOE. Everything we recommend and accomplish is centered around the “Students First” approach. We will continue to do that by leveraging our partnership with parents, community members, schools, district administration, and BOE. On behalf of the DAC, I would like to thank all the volunteers for their dedication, service, and commitment to the betterment of D11. Please do not hesitate to contact us if your SAC has comments, questions, or concerns.

Velvet Stepanek
Chair – D11 District Accountability Committee

News & Notes

NEWS & notes

*“We make a living
by what we get;
but we make a life
by what we give.”
Winston Churchill*

PowerSchool (the School Management System) and related modules:

- The D11 PowerSchool system received numerous fixes and upgrades over the summer. All modules should be operational. The Hoonuit module should now contain the schools One Plan and all relevant data including student academic, attendance, discipline and early warning data. Training is also available for parents and staff. See your principal for more information on training opportunities.
- **Please make it a top priority** to advocate for getting all of your students, parents, and teachers set up with active accounts and regularly using the PowerSchool system. Principals have access to reports on who has active accounts at your school, who is using the system and how often. Use this information to monitor/support your school's progress toward full implementation.



State Test Results for Spring 2022



COLORADO
Department of Education

- Each year, Colorado schools and districts receive performance ratings to let them and their communities know how well they are doing. These reports are called the District Performance Frameworks (DPFs) and School Performance Frameworks (SPFs). The overall ratings assigned are based on achievement and growth on state assessments, along with such postsecondary measures as graduation rates, drop-out rates, college entrance exams and college matriculation rates. The ratings help the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and State Board of Education (SBE) make decisions about how to help struggling schools.
- Colorado state test results for Spring 2022, including growth data, are now available to schools and CDE School Performance Framework (SPF) scores and ratings (school plan types) will be made available to schools on Sep 2, 2022 (to the public on Sep 8, 2022). Because of the many limitations associated with the spring testing in 2021 and 2022, the results need to be used with caution and compared with related District Benchmark data. CDE has added information on the number of students represented in each median growth percentile (MGP) calculation. [Note: In 2022, the Frameworks are referred to as School and District Transitional Frameworks.]

Test results for individual students will also be available soon for parents to review. A great paper for understanding individual student results is available at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/understandingscorereports22>.

News & Notes (Continued)

Accreditation Status and School Accountability for 22-23:

- For SACs, Your school's accreditation status and plan type will be based on your 2022 transitional SPF results, however the accountability clock will not start for schools newly on plan types Priority Improvement and Turnaround. It will be useful to study both your school's SPF and student growth data for 21-22 and previous years. That data should be available from your principal for review, and also available on the CDE website. Here are links to some of the CDE information and also CDE aids and fact sheets for interpreting the data;
- CDE generated State Accountability Data Tools and Reports page – provides descriptions of latest tools and reports and links to all key tools and reports: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/schoolviewdataandresults>
- 2019 Annotated School Performance Framework Report (2022 version coming soon), http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/2019-annotated-spf_final_081419
- Colorado Growth Model Fact Sheet, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/coloradogrowthmodelfactsheet22>

Note: Links to additional great resources are available in the Great Reference Links section of the 2022 D11 SAC Handbook.

Low-to-no-cost After School Enrichment Programs

- After school enrichment programs have begun at Trailblazer ES, Adams ES, Audubon ES, Freedom ES, Midland/West ES, King ES and Rudy ES
- The enrichment programming begins at the end of the school day, and runs until 5:30 pm on school days. Programming will not be available on school breaks, non-student contact days, weather days, or over the summer
- Your child must be currently enrolled as a kindergarten-5th grade student at the school you wish to participate in. Kindergarteners and new students who are enrolled and beginning school in the fall of 2022 at the school may also sign up.
- For questions, please contact your school principal.



SAC Updates



School Accountability Committee Training (SAC 101)

- Our DAC chair, Velvet Stepanek, has created a 10 minute, narrated PowerPoint video that covers the roles and responsibilities of SACs (our SAC 101 training).
- It would be a great start to your first SAC meeting of the year. It is available at <https://www.d11.org/Page/1904>.
- The PDF version of the slides, with active links to additional resources is available at <https://www.d11.org/Page/1904>.
- The DAC team will work directly with new SAC chairs to provide guidance and assistance as needed. If you have SAC questions or need assistance please contact Trudy Tool at trudy.tool@d11.org and she will forward your request to the correct person.
- We also plan to include SAC 101 training in the first SAC Training Work Session on Sep 29th. [Note: Want to be a “SAC member in the know”, check out the CDE acronym list at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeacronyms>, and in the SAC Handbook.



2022 SAC Handbook and 2021 SAC Budget Handbook are available on the DAC webpage



- The D11 SAC handbook has been updated for 22-23 and provides all the by-laws and requirements for a school SAC along with an agenda planning guide, links to useful references, and relevant contact information.
- The SAC Budget Handbook is also being updated for 22-23 and contains information on all school budget accounts and how they are used at the school level. The 22-23 versions of these handbooks can be found at <https://www.d11.org/Page/5868> (available soon).

SAC Updates

Colorado Department of Education (CDE) District Accountability Handbook



- The CDE District Accountability Handbook, updated Aug 2022, is also available at <https://www.d11.org/Page/5868>. This latest version leads with a great introductory summary on the transition back to full accountability in 22-23 and all the changes for the 22-23 school year.
- It also provides detailed information on all District Accountability Committee and School Accountability Committee requirements and best practices from the CDE perspective.

First SAC Training Work Session Thursday, Sep 29, 2022, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

- This first SAC Training Work Session for school year 22 – 23 will be conducted in-person at Tesla and virtually via WebEx.
- The session will also be recorded and made available on the DAC webpage. We hope to provide links in advance to briefing materials and handouts.
- The final agenda is still in development but we hope to have Superintendent Mr. Michael Gaal welcome the group and provide an update on his vision for District 11, provide an update on Family/Community/School Partnership Collaborative activities and provide breakout sessions on a) SAC 101, b) One Plan/USIP processes and data support, and c) Family Engagement.
- More information will be sent out at a later date.



SAC UPDATES (Continued)



“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart!”
Elizabeth Andrew

Key Deadlines of Interests to SACs



- Aug 22 –Sep 9, 2022: Grades 1-3 Beginning of Year (BOY) Acadience Reading test, Aug 22 – Oct 14 for Kindergarten
- Sep 2, 2022: All schools get preliminary SPF and rating from CDE (available to the public on Sep 8th).
 - ◆ Schools with an SPF rating of “Improvement” or better must complete the final draft of One Plan/USIP and submit it to Education Insights before Oct 1, 2022.
 - ◆ Education Insights and team will review all updates, recommend changes if needed and submit updated USIPs to CDE by Oct 25, 2022.
- Sep 6 – 19, 2022: Grades 3-11 fall District Benchmark test
- Sep 14, 2022: Board of Education Public Hearing on USIPs for Priority Improvement and Turnaround schools already “on the clock”.
- Sep 29, 2022: First 2022 SAC Training session 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Tesla, and via WebEx
- Nov 2022: Board of Education Public Hearing on USIPs for schools receiving first time Priority Improvement or Turnaround ratings in 2022.

DAC is Here to Assist

- If your school is having difficulty finding a School Accountability Chair, please reach out to Velvet Stepanek, DAC Chair at: vstepanek@msn.com or Trudy Tool, DAC Administrative Support at: Trudy.Tool@d11.org and a DAC Member can be assigned to help with recruitment or meeting ideas.



SAC UPDATES (Continued)

SAC Meeting Agenda Planning



SAC Meeting Agenda Planning

- Every month we intend to provide a reasonable flow of SAC agenda topics for the month 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 the September 2022 SAC meeting;
 - ◆ SAC orientation (if not done in Aug.)
 - ◆ Review SAC Handbook for school year 2022-23
 - ◆ If not done in Aug, review school “One Plan”/USIP status and instructional focus for 22 – 23. Update drafts generated during spring 22 “One Plan” symposium based on spring state test results, e.g. CMAS, PSAT/SAT, SPF score etc., and Administration feedback – finalize USIP for Oct 17, 2022 submission to CDE if needed.
- Review school “One Plan”/USIP monitoring and evaluation strategy (School planning teams should review and update Action Steps, Evidence and Artifacts at least monthly)
- Review District/state assessment plans/actions for school for 22-23

SAC Chair Information and Meeting Dates/Times

- * If the principal/school has not sent in their SAC Chair name and contact information for their school for the 2022-2023 school year, please do so as soon as possible. We would like to have the best SAC Chair pool for the first training on September 29th. Send SAC Chair name, email address, phone number and the meeting dates and times to:

Trudy.Tool@d11.org



Good Things Happening in the District

District—

- Happy 150th Birthday to District 11! In 1858, the search for gold brought many pioneer residents to the Pikes Peak Region. The first school in Colorado Springs was organized by Mary Mellen "Queen" Palmer, wife of city founder William Jackson Palmer, in 1872. Classes were first held in a home on the northeast corner of Cascade Avenue and Bijou Street, rented by Mrs. Palmer for the school. The District kicked off the sesquicentennial celebration by having an event at Garry Berry stadium. More history and celebrations will take place throughout the school year.
- On August 19th, Dr. Kenneth Burnley, Superintendent for D11 from 1987 to 2000, was honored at the Milton E. Proby Cultural Heritage Room. The tribute to Dr. Burnley highlighted his passion for teaching, learning and what he called his never-ending journey to impart and receive knowledge.
- The D11 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) has come together with D20's and D49's SEACs for a resource fair open to all in the Special Education community. The fair will take place on September 17, 2022, from 10am—2pm at Skyview Middle School.

Coronado HS—

- Coronado will be holding a Parent Academy: Helping your Student Start Strong, on September 1st in the Coronado Media Center. The goal of this academy is to help parents better understand how to utilize PowerSchool, Schoology and other programs.

Doherty HS—

- On August 13th, the 11th annual Thomas B. Doherty High School Never Alone Foundation held a 5k benefit run in conjunction with a high school cross country scrimmage of 16 local teams to help raise funds to support the foundation.



Edison ES—

- Edison received a check for \$4,000 from the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. Edison is very lucky to have such an amazing partnership with this organization. Their generous donations and relationships they have built with the students and staff continues to make a difference in the Edison community



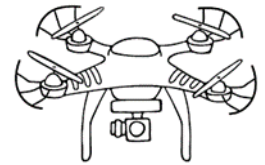


Galileo School of Math & Science—

- Galileo had a back to school barbeque with well over 400 people showing up for burgers and hot dogs. What a great way to start the school year.
- Josiah Chacon, has been chosen to be the KidCaster for the next Air Force Falcons home game. Josiah has been a natural leader at Galileo participating in the W.E.B (Where Everyone Belongs) team. This team helps younger students, and new students learn the pride of being a Galileo Bulldog. Way to go Josiah.

Palmer HS—

- Two students from Palmer High School, Amina and Sophia, who are involved in the ACE Mentor Program of Colorado, were chosen for a two-week internship with the architect firm RTA Architects. They got to experience first hand many exciting things including developing concepts, studying models and learning to fly a drone!



Steele ES—

Steele Elementary School built a garden the weekend of August 20th with the help of PTA, parents, and kids! What a great community partnership! It looks great!

