

SCHOOL DISTRICT 11

UPCOMING DATES:

- **December 7, 2021**
5:30—7:00pm
T&SS Meeting
via WebEx
- **January 11, 2022**
5:30—7:00pm
T&SS Meeting
via WebEx
- **January 20, 2022**
Full DAC Meeting
6:00—8:00pm
Tesla Educational
Opportunity Center and via WebEx
- **January 27, 2022**
SAC Training
6:00—8:00pm
Tesla Educational
Opportunity Center and via WebEx

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District Accountability

(DAC)



DECEMBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022

Welcome

The District 11 DAC and its subcommittees are dedicated to our work as we reach the halfway point of the 2021-22 academic year. It's been a challenging year but we continue to press ahead. We are looking forward to supporting our Board of Education (BOE) and the new members.

Thank you to the new DAC members who have joined since the start of the school year. We welcome your input. The DAC is still looking for an English Language Learner (ELL) parent/guardian and a business owner from the community. Please reach out to me if you are interested.

Here are a few highlights on what was accomplished in the month of November:

- The DAC gained knowledge about the math curriculum review for Kindergarten-8th grade from Paul Bunge, Philip Hutcherson, and Karol Gates from Curriculum and Instruction. We will continue to hear more as input for choosing new math curriculum continues.
- The Training and SAC Support Subcommittee hosted the second SAC Training Session on November 4th, 2021. Keller Elementary shared the successes and lessons learned from the Tech Night for parents. John McCarron and Melissa Smead handled questions on PowerSchool, Schoology, and other tech tools. Finally, Diversus presented on *Parents, Let's Talk Youth Mental Health*. The third SAC Training Session is scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2022. We continue to offer in person options as well as WebEx. All SACs are encouraged to attend.
- The DAC Budget Subcommittee started the process of reviewing the 2021-22 mid-year budget modification requests. The subcommittee will continue this process in December and provide a comprehensive recommendation to the BOE.
- The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee looked at an overview of the Unified Insights platform in PowerSchool that will provide information on attendance, behavior, and early warning signs. The subcommittee also got to see information available from an additional tool that produces an Executive Insite Report. The purpose of the report is to tell a demographic story of 11 insights for an area such as the entire district or a school. Schools could use this tool to find out more of the demographics of their community.
- The DAC Charter School Review Subcommittee presented the final report on Life Success International Academy application to the BOE on November 10. The BOE will make a final decision about the charter school on December 1. Thank you again to Vicky McLaughlin, Thomas Moore, and LynDel Randash for their work on this review.

We are continuing as a DAC to support the work of SACs at every school in District 11. SACs should be continuing to discuss their OnePlan at every meeting. Ask the questions: Is there any progress on major improvement strategies? Are the action steps being updated? We're all working together for the success at every school, the OnePlan is an important part of that success.

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

On behalf of everyone at the DAC, I wish you a safe and joyous holiday season!

Velvet Stepanek
Chair – District Accountability Committee



*"Help one
another: there's
no time like the
present and no
present like the
time".
James Durst*

News & Notes

I Matter—Providing Free Mental Health Support for Colorado Youth



New free youth mental health program
(Source: CDE Scoop Newsletter Dec 1, 2021)

I Matter, a state program that provides up to three free counseling sessions for any Colorado youth, has been immensely popular since it began in late October with more than 700 counseling appointments scheduled or completed as of Nov. 18. Currently, I Matter has contracts with 64 clinicians to provide the services and continues to grow the provider list.

Youth and their parents can visit the I Matter platform to take a confidential online survey about their mental health and schedule sessions with a licensed behavioral health clinician, primarily via telehealth. All Colorado youth ages 18 or younger—or 21 and younger if receiving special education services—are eligible to receive free services. Youth 12 and older can sign up for counseling sessions without a parent or guardian's consent. **(For More Information, Contact: Elizabeth Owens, CDHS, Phone: 303-906-2360, Email: elizabeth.owens@state.co.us)**

D11 Gifted and Talented Among the Best Programs in Colorado

- The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) recently reviewed the Gifted and Talented program (GT) in School District 11 and ranks it among the best programs in the State.
- The five-year Gifted Education Monitoring (GEM) process is a rigorous review that aims to increase the Achievement and growth of GT students and educators.
- The recent GEM review ranks D11 at a 90% compliance rate showing significant growth from previous reviews.
- The GEM review took into consideration feedback from 118 D11 stakeholders that consisted of GT teachers, general education teachers, administrators, students, parent/guardians and community members
- There were three practices that contributed to D11's GEM growth:
 - * The GT programs serve the diverse needs of students at all schools with the understanding that different schools have different GT student needs
 - * GT programs are developing culturally relevant instruction so students see themselves reflected in the learning materials
 - * D11 is working to update the Gifted and Talented Education department for a more equitable distribution of employees
 - * D11 has four Gifted Magnet Program (GMP) schools, early access for highly advanced students and a variety of other resources
- The D11 GT programs serve as a model for other schools and districts around the state.

To learn more about the GT program go to: <https://www.d11.org/gt>

News & Notes (Continued)

Opportunity to Provide Feedback



- The D11 Curriculum and Instruction Office would like to share with the community standards, curriculum and instruction items by sharing current state standards and revision updates.
- There is an upcoming opportunity for the public to comment and/or provide feedback online prior the state standards revisions being voted on by the Colorado State Board of Education.
- Offer public comment for Colorado State Standards revision prior to January 2022.

The website is: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/casgroup1process>

PowerPass Virtual Library Card - Opportunity for additional Access

- Students can use their D11 PowerPass Virtual Library card to enjoy all that Hoopla has to offer!
- Hoopla is a digital media library service that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows across many digital devices.
- To check it out go to: <https://hoopladigital.com>



Save phone data.

Hoopla - Download songs, movies, shows, graphic novels, and more.

<https://hoopladigital.com>

SAC NEWS/NOTES

SAC Training/Information Session Information and Updates

- SAC Training Nov 4, 2021: The video recording of the Nov 4th SAC Training session is available at <https://www.d11.org/Page/17241>. The link for the Nov 4th session is on the bottom half of the page. Be sure to check out the excellent presentation by the Keller ES team on their parent/student technology training nights, a model for all elementary schools to follow.
- SAVE THE DATE: The next SAC Training Session will be held at the Tesla building Thursday Jan 27, 2022, 6:00 – 8:00PM and also via WebEx. We will be looking at bringing you updates on data and tools that can assist in monitoring One Plan/USIP action item results, especially academic results, as well as updates on Concurrent Enrollment, dual credit, and District Career and Technical Education (CTE) initiatives. Information on presentations and discussion topics will be sent out by mid January 2022.



SAVE THE DATE:

The next SAC Training will be Thursday, January 27, 2022, 6:00—8:00pm Tesla Educational Opportunity Center and via WebEx

Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs

- Any budget/funding recommendations for 22-23 must be submitted to DAC by Feb 1, 2022
- READ Act: DIBELS Next Middle of Year (MOY) testing for K-3 (Nov 29 – Dec 17).
- Galileo K-12: District Benchmark second quarter ELA and Math tests (grades 2-11) will be Nov 29th – Dec 17th.
- ACCESS, the state test for English Language Learner (ELL) students (all eligible kindergarten – 12th grade students), will be given Jan 10th – Feb 11th, 2022.
- The Cognitive Abilities Test, CogAT, will be given to all 2nd grade students Jan 24th – Feb 11th, 2022. This test is used in identifying gifted and talented students for special instruction support.

SAC NEWS/NOTES (CONTINUED)

SAC Agenda Planning – December/January (Themes: Catch-up and Safe Learning Environment plus budget and funding priorities for school year 22-23)

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 the December and/or January SAC meetings:

- Review/discuss safe learning environment for the school (safety, discipline, attendance, response to COVID-19 events, etc.). Your principal has current discipline and attendance statistics, broken down by poverty and ethnicity subcategories, for the entire school in summary format which should be shared periodically with the SAC to discuss trends. What is the chronic absenteeism rate for your school and how is it being mitigated?
- Review/discuss the school's focus on parent strategies for individual student support as well as teacher/parent communication. Are teachers using the communications capabilities in Schoology, PowerSchool and other platforms to communicate effectively with parents and students? Note: Check out <https://www.d11.org/techtips> for more ideas and resources.
- Review/discuss with the principal the school's implementation of the educator evaluation system and alignment with instructional goals. Note: D11 has been working on significant changes in the approach to teacher evaluations for school year 21-22.
- Review results of available performance monitoring data, e.g. Winter Universal Screener/District Benchmark and Middle of the Year (MOY) Acadience data, and compare to "One Plan"/USIP goals/targets.
- Review/discuss school budget alignment with "One Plan"/USIP goals and identify school funding shortfalls, e.g.;
 - Instructional resources to meet multiple learning environments and close COVID related learning gaps
 - Technology resources needed for student learning/testing
- Training needed for effective use of PowerSchool, Schoology, Seesaw, etc.

Note: Budget/funding recommendations must be submitted to DAC by Feb 1, 2022 to be considered for the school year 22-23 budget.



*"It takes each of
us to make a
difference for all
of us".*

Jackie Mutcheson

Good Things Happening in the District

District—

- The District 11 Cultural Art Show will be taking place now through December 12th from 3:00—7:00pm at the ENT Center for the Arts (5225 N. Nevada). There are pieces from a Twain ES Dia de los Muertos project and several others from around the District!
- Thank you to our outgoing Board Members Shawn Gullixson, Jim Mason and Chris Wallis. Your dedication to D11 is much appreciated. Congratulations to returning Board member Julie Ott and new Board members Sandra Bankes, Al Loma and Lauren Nelson. They were sworn in at a special Board meeting on December 1st.
- On November 6th, 70 students participated in a District 11 Chess Tournament and two sixth graders from Jenkins Middle school (Abel Ashby-Taylor and Benjamin Roberts), placed in the top three for the beginner bracket. Congratulations!

Midland ES—

- Midland ES was visited by Dinosaurs! Midland won an attendance competition between Howbert ES, West ES and Midland ES. The prize was a visit by the Dinosaurs from the Dino Stroll that was at the Colorado Springs Event Center on November 6th and 7th.
- All three schools were also given 4 family four packs of tickets!

Mitchell HS—

- The Mitchell Marauders soccer team has thrived under a new foundation this year
- After not having a team in the 2020-2021 season, the program was re-established this year—and flourished. The team finished with a 10-4 record, their best mark since 2016. For more information please see link below: https://www.southeastexpress.org/sports/boys-soccer-team-thrives-on-new-foundation/article_4ff31f4c-3911-11ec-a17e-77fa7da913f5.html

Good Things Happening in the District

Odyssey ECCO—

- On November 11th Odyssey ECCO and the African American Youth Leadership hosted a family night with featured speaker Dr. Regina Lewis.
- Dr. Lewis is the Department Chair, Instructor of Communication, and the Director of the Women's Forum at Pikes Peak Community College. In addition, she is an adjunct professor at UCCS and executive coach for the Center for Creative Leadership.

Sabin MS—

- Sabin 7th grade GMP was successful on their mission to Mars at the Challenger Learning Center.
- Sabin 8th grade GMP competed in the Physics Olympics Boat Challenge. The teams built boats from cardboard and tested them at the Mitchell High School pool.



Stratton ES—

- Stratton Elementary students participated in art modeled after street artist Kelsey Montague's murals. Each student designed a feather to add to this interactive canvas. The mural allows subjects to step into and become part of the picture. There are Kelsey Montague pieces around the world.

