

# District Accountability

## (DAC)

SEPTEMBER 2021



### UPCOMING DATES:

- September 16, 2021, DAC meeting, 6:00—8:00pm, in person, Tesla room 116 and via WebEx
- September 23, 2021 SAC Training 6:00—8:00pm, in person, Tesla room 116 and via WebEx

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## Welcome

On behalf of the entire District Accountability Committee (DAC), welcome to the start of the 2021-22 academic year. We are hopeful for a more normal school year. We are thankful that students have more activities and families are able to return to schools.

Once again, this year, the DAC intends 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 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 School Accountability Committee (SAC). We plan to accomplish this goal with our quarterly SAC Training Sessions (the first one is on September 23, 2021), updates through this newsletter, and one-on-one sessions with individual SACs (if necessary).

This year the DAC is 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. This involves planning successful learning by collaborating at the start of the school year. And 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 at each of their schools.

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. The DAC looks forward to working together with all of our partners to "Inspire every mind." 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.

Thanks for your support,  
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*

### **Power School (the new School Management System) is Operational!**

- The old "Q" system has been retired and replaced with the much more efficient and easier to use Power School SMS application.
- **Please make it a top priority** to get all of your students, parents, and teachers set up with active accounts and regularly using the system as soon as possible.
- Power School <https://www.d11.org/domain/253> will provide parents easy/secure access to all relevant student information for each of their students.
- 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.
- Also, discuss with your principal how the school will use the new Blackboard D11 Reach two-way texting system that works with the D11 App (see below) to support and enhance Power School.

### **NEW THIS SCHOOL YEAR - D11 REACH**



- D11 Reach is a two-way texting system that works within [the D11 App](#) and lets you have a two-way conversation with your child's teachers.
- Teachers can create conversations to give feedback, information on upcoming assignments or required paperwork due dates, and class information and events.
- You can also reply directly to the teacher. The D11 Reach tool is also available online at [reach.blackboard.com](https://reach.blackboard.com).
- More information is available on the D11 website at this <https://www.d11.org/Blackboard/Reach>

## News & Notes (Continued)

### Opportunity for Involvement—

#### Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee (GTAC)

- Everyone interested and involved in gifted education is welcome to join the GTAC.
  - ◊ Meetings are via WebEx from 5:30—6:30pm on:
    - ♦ September 9, 2021
    - ♦ November 4, 2021
    - ♦ February 3, 2021
    - ♦ April 14, 2021
- Please visit the GT Website to check out GTAC-you will find the meeting links and the option to submit agenda suggestions:

<https://www.d11.org/Domain/355>

### Volunteer Services has changed their name to D11 Engage!



For more information please see D11 Engage (Volunteer Services) website:

<https://www.d11.org/D11Engage>

### State Test Results for Spring 2021

Colorado state test results for Spring 2021 are now available for schools and can be obtained from your principal for review at SAC meetings. Because of the many limitations associated with the spring testing, the results need to be interpreted and used with caution. CDE has provided a great reference paper to help in that regard. It is available at [21-assessmentresults-faqs-family-eng \(state.co.us\)](https://state.co.us/21-assessmentresults-faqs-family-eng). Test results for individual students have also been loaded in Power School for parents to review. A great paper for understanding individual student results is available at [21-cmasscorereports-eng \(state.co.us\)](https://state.co.us/21-cmasscorereports-eng)

## News & Notes (Continued)



### **Accreditation Status and School Accountability for 20-21 and 21-22:**

- ◇ For SACs, Your school's accreditation status for 20-21 will again be carried forward for school year 21-22. No School Performance Framework results will be available for the 20-21 school year.
- ◇ However, it will be useful to study both your school's SPF and student growth data for 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, [http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/2019-annotated-spf\\_final\\_081419](http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/2019-annotated-spf_final_081419)
- ⇒ Annotated Colorado Growth Model Summary Report, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/2018-annotated-growth-summary-report>
- ⇒ Colorado Growth Model Fact Sheet for Parents, <https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/20170818growthparents>

Both District 11 and CDE are looking at ways to provide useful student academic growth information in the 21-22 school year since only limited state tests were given last spring and testing plans for the 21-22 school year are still in a state of flux – stay tuned!

## News& Notes (Continued)

### Family, School, and Community Partnerships (FSCP)

- There is opportunity for all of us to work for student success. The best way to launch student success is when families and school staff work together to plan their shared mission. This means working together right away to set goals and coordinate, the same way the scientists at mission control collaborate to send a rocket into space. Together we can make sure our astronauts are ready to explore!
- School communities need to be sure there are plenty of opportunities for families and schools to work together. This partnership benefits everyone. For example, when parents know what is being taught in the classroom, they can reinforce those lessons at home. This helps children do better in school, leading to better grades and a higher likelihood that they will attend college. Support from parents also makes teachers' jobs easier and improves student test scores, which reflects well on teachers.
- SACs have an important role in this mission. The Colorado Department of Education has provided resources for schools and districts in their work on FSCP. There are 4 essential elements included in [FSCP User Guide and Rubric](#) to help guide the work.

### Family School and Community Partnerships (FSCP)

A Preschool through 12th Grade Guide for Colorado School Districts



FAMILY  
SCHOOL AND  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS



#### Definition:

Families, early childhood programs, schools, and communities actively partnering to develop, implement, and evaluate effective and equitable practices to improve educational outcomes for children and youth.

The below **4 Essential Elements** will help you guide your way.



#### Create an Inclusive Culture

#### Create an Inclusive Culture

An inclusive culture honors the lived experience of families in early childhood programs and/or the school community. Self-assess with the following:

- How are your practices inclusive of all families?
- How are you learning about families lived experiences?
- Who is leading and supporting the creation of the welcoming culture?

#### Build Trusting Relationships

Trusting relationships enable families and programs/schools to partner about the education outcomes for children and youth. Self-assess with the following:

- What do trusting relationships look like in your program/district/school?
- How are you ensuring effective use of two-way communication with your families to sustain positive relationships?
- How do you leverage relationships with families to achieve your program/district/school goals?



#### Build Trusting Relationships



#### Design Capacity-Building Opportunities

#### Design Capacity Building Opportunities

Capacity building opportunities for staff and families promote shared leadership about educational outcomes for children and youth. Self-assess with the following:

- How do you use the context expertise of families to better your content expertise?
- How are you utilizing the assets of your families in your programs/schools?
- How are you using FSCP as a school improvement strategy?

#### Dedicate Necessary Resources

Necessary resources integrate and elevate partnering practices to scale. Self-assess with the following:

- How do you implement evidence-based practices to cultivate and sustain FSCP?
- Where are you now and where will you go?
- How will you continually improve your family partnerships through community-based resources?



#### Dedicate Necessary Resources

[FSCP link for statute, research, and promising practices that provide the foundation for these 4 Essential Elements.](#)



## SAC Updates



### SAC Recruitment Help

Serving on a School Accountability Committee can be a very rewarding experience but parents don't always know what to expect. Watch these short testimonials from SAC Chairs at three District 11 elementary schools about why they serve on SAC, how much time goes into being a SAC Chair, and the benefits they have experienced from serving.

#### **Stratton SAC Testimonial**

<https://youtu.be/X8473yI11GM>

#### **Audubon SAC Testimonial**

<https://youtu.be/cniKXJ9c3cU>

#### **Twain SAC Testimonial**

<https://youtu.be/UN5wBeqr18>

They can also be found on the DAC Website at:

<https://www.d11.org/Page/1904>

### **School Accountability Committee Training (SAC 101)**

Our DAC chair, Velvet Stepanek, has created a new 10 minute, narrated PowerPoint video that covers the roles and responsibilities of SACs: <https://www.d11.org/Page/1904>

It would be a great start to your first SAC meeting of the year. It is available at the link above. 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](mailto:trudy.tool@d11.org).



## SAC Updates

### **2021SAC Handbook and 2021SAC Budget Handbook**

- ♦ The D11 SAC handbook has been updated for the 2021-2022 School year 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 Training Handbook can be found at:

<https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/538/SAC%20Handbook%202021.pdf>

The SAC Budget Handbook has also been updated for 21-22 and contains information on all school budget accounts and how they are used at the school level. The 21-22 version of this handbook can be found at:

<https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/538/SAC%20Budget%20Training%20Handbook%202021.22.pdf>

### **First SAC Training, Thursday, Sep 23, 2021,**

**6:00 – 8:00 PM**

### **In person-Tesla, room 116 and via WebEx**

- ♦ This first SAC Training Work Session for school year 2021 – 22022 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 topics will include;
- ♦ John McCarron, CIO, and Tom Hunt, Project Manager - D11 Power School School Management System (SMS) Implementation – Vision, Status and Response to Challenges. What SACs need to know to make Power School a Resounding Success in their schools.
- ♦ Dr David Khaliqi and Natasha Crouse, Education Insights – School One Plans/ Unified School Improvement Plans (USIPs) – latest guidance with a focus on Action Steps and effective monthly progress monitoring for 21-22.
- ♦ LouAnn Dekleva and Devra Ashby – Latest updates on best practices for family – school – community partnerships
- ♦ SAC level breakout sessions – We will include time for level (ES, MS, HS) SAC breakout discussions to get acquainted and share ideas on SAC operations

## SAC UPDATES (Continued)



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

### **Colorado Department of Education (CDE) District Accountability Handbook**

- The CDE District Accountability Handbook, updated August 2021, is available at [district-accountability-handbook-2020 final 9-10-2020 \(state.co.us\)](https://district-accountability-handbook-2020-final-9-10-2020.state.co.us).
- This latest version leads with a great article on the state accountability pause and also provides detailed info on all District Accountability Committee and School Accountability Committee requirements and best practices.



### **Key Deadlines of Interest to SACs**

- Sep 1, 2021: All schools complete final draft of One Plan/USIP in local CDE data system. Education Insights and team will review all updates, recommend changes if needed and submit all USIPs to CDE by Oct 15, 2021.
- Sep 8, 2021: Board of Education Public Hearing on USIPs for Priority Improvement and Turnaround schools
- Sep 15, 2021: Board of Education Work Session on UDIP and PI/ Turnaround USIPs for 21-22
- Sep 22, 2021: Board of Education Action on UDIP and PI/ Turnaround USIPs for 21-22
- Sep 23, 2021: First 2021 SAC Training session 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Tesla, and on line via WebEx



## SAC UPDATES (Continued)

### 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 2021 SAC meeting;

- SAC orientation (if not done in Aug.)
- Review SAC Handbook for school year 2021-22
- If not done in Aug, review school “One Plan”/USIP status and instructional focus for 21 - 22 (Update drafts generated during spring 21 “One Plan” symposium based on spring state test results and Administration feedback.)
- Review school “One Plan”/USIP monitoring and evaluation strategy (School planning teams should review and update Implementation Benchmarks, Action Steps, Evidence and Artifacts at least monthly)
- Review District/state assessment plans/actions for school for 21-22  
Review Acadience (ES) fall test results and READ Act/instructional plans for students with Reading Deficiencies (if available)



## Good Things Happening in the District

### District—

Congratulations to three D11 Counselors who won Colorado Counselor of the Year!

- Carrie Skeens from Edison Elementary who won Colorado Elementary Counselor of the year.
- Colleen McElvogue from Russell Middle School who won Colorado Middle School Counselor of the year.
- Vicky Glaser from Doherty High School who won Colorado High School Counselor of the year.

### Doherty HS—



- On August 25, 2021 Olympic Gold Medalist and Doherty Alumni surprised the Doherty girls Volleyball team. After giving a quick recap of her volleyball career to date, she let the players and parents fire questions her way. They ranged from how she prepares for a game to what volleyball has meant to her as she's gone through life.

### Galileo Math & Science—

Students, Staff and Community members have a unique learning opportunity at Galileo. The Galileo Garden is where education, nutrition, dedication and love grow together to blossom into a tranquil ecosystem. If you would like to learn more about the Galileo Gardens go to : <https://www.d11.org/domain/1136>





### **Roosevelt Charter Academy**

- Roosevelt Charter Academy is off to a great start for the 2021-2022 ! They have added a new specials class - ART! The students at Roosevelt will now have 5 specials classes during the year.
- Speaking of specials classes at Roosevelt, their science specials classes have received room renovations! These renovations definitely enhance the learning environment of the classes.
- Roosevelt will also be implementing literacy and math academies during the day. The academies are for students who are green or blue on their testing. Students who are not in the academies will stay with their homeroom teachers for interventions, when they reach the green or blue level, they will be participating in the academies.
- They have added a bike club to their list of after school activities. Students are really excited about the bike club!
- Roosevelt has received a Laura Bush Grant for the library! They are looking forward to the new books this grant will bring to Roosevelt.
- Another grant they received is the 21st Century Learning Grant. This grant will support community after school programs and summer programs.
- Their playground is growing! They have added a new outdoor gym circuit for students and the local neighborhood to enjoy while on the playground.