

District Accountability

(DAC)

SEPTEMBER 2020



UPCOMING DATES:

- September 17, 2020, monthly DAC meeting, 6:00—8:00pm, via WebEx
- September 24, 2020, SAC Training Session, 6:00—8:00pm, via WebEx

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Welcome

On behalf of the entire District Accountability Committee (DAC), welcome to the start of the 2020-21 academic year. This school year will be different than ever before. We have the opportunity to reflect and grow. Every School Accountability Committee (SAC) has the opportunity to reach out to more parents and community members as we navigate remote learning and successfully address the social emotional needs of our families. Communication is of utmost importance.

This year, once again, 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 SAC. We plan to accomplish this goal with our quarterly SAC Training Sessions (the first virtual one is on September 24, 2020), updates through this newsletter, and one-on-one sessions with individual SACs (if necessary).

A lot of hard work and planning occurred this summer by teachers, students, community, and administration as conditions changed frequently with COVID-19. We need to extend grace and gratitude as the school year unfolds. There are unknowns as the school year starts remotely, but the strategic plan is still our focus. Dr. Michael Thomas is leading the way as we carry the vision and mission at each of our schools. The DAC looks forward to working with all of our partners to “Inspire Every Mind.”

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 BOE, District, and 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.

Thank you for your support,

Velvet Stepanek

Chair – 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*

2020 Election



Make sure you Register!



Voter Registration: <https://www.sos.state.co.us/voter/pages/pub/olvr/verifyNewVoter.xhtml>

October 9 - Counties will begin mailing ballots for the November 3rd General Election.

October 26 - deadline to register to vote or update your registration and still receive a ballot in the mail.



News & Notes (Continued)

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Family, School, and Community Partnering (FSCP):

- As MTSS concepts are implemented in our schools this year, we strongly encourage SACs to focus on supporting implementation of the Family School and Community Partnership components of MTSS.
- A wealth of ideas and resources is available from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) on their MTSS Family, School, and Community Partnership web page at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/mtss/fscp> . Be sure to check out these resources as you consider how to improve your overall approach to family, school and community partnerships.



Leadership Levers (new resource for Principals and SAC Chairs)

- District 11 distributes a weekly electronic newsletter, Friday Night Notes, to principals and staff.
- This newsletter is normally forwarded to DAC members and SAC chairs on Monday morning by Trudy Tool, Administrative Assistant for the DAC.
- The 20-21 version contains a new section, Leadership Levers, authored by the Executive Directors of Leadership. It provides guidance for principals on a range of key issues. It will also be very helpful to SAC chairs in understanding school challenges and deadlines and in providing background for setting SAC agendas and discussion on key issues.
- If you are not receiving the Friday Night Notes please contact Trudy Tool at trudy.tool@d11.org .

Resources for “Return to Learn” and COVID 19 issues (local and state)

In these challenging times of “Return to Learn” remote learning and the COVID 19 pandemic, here are links to three good sets of resources for parents, SACs and schools;

- ♦ Tools and Resources for Families (D11): <https://www.d11.org/Page/14318>
- ♦ Social/Emotional Resources for Staff and Families (D11): <https://www.d11.org/Page/13577>
- ♦ COVID 19 Resources for Schools (CDE), especially the Guidance for Parents section: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools>

NEWS & NOTES



News & Notes

Accreditation Status and School Accountability for 19-20 and 20-21

- ◆ For SACs, Your school's accreditation status for 19-20 will be carried forward for school year 20-21 <http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/2020-accountability-pause-effects-on-accountability-requirements>.
- ◆ No School Performance Framework results will be available for the 19-20 school year. However, it will be useful to study both your school's SPF and student growth data for the three previous years. That data should be available from your principal for review, and also available on the Colorado Department of Education (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](http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/schoolviewdataandresults) 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
 - 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 20-21 school year since no state tests were given last spring and testing plans for the 20-21 school year are still in a state of flux – stay tuned!

SAC Updates

2020 SAC Handbook and 2020 SAC Budget Handbook will be available soon

- ♦ The D11 SAC handbook is being updated for 20-21 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 20-21 version of the SAC agenda planning guide was distributed electronically to all principals and SAC chairs on Aug 31st and is available at:**

<https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/538/School%20District%2011%20SAC%20Agenda%20Planning%20Guide-final%2020-21-v1.pdf>

- ♦ The SAC Budget Handbook is also being updated for 20-21 and contains information on all school budget accounts and how they are used at the school level. The 19-20 versions of these handbooks still contain useful information and can be found at <https://www.d11.org/Page/5868>.

First SAC Training, Thursday, Sep 24, 2020,

6:00 – 8:00 PM

via WebEx

This first SAC Training Session for school year 2020—2021 will be conducted via WebEx on Thursday, September 24, 2020, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Featured speakers will address key topics that are important to SACs. The speakers will be headlined by an opening presentation by Superintendent Michael Thomas. Attendees will be able to ask questions via the Chat feature in 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 speakers/topics will include:

- Dr. Thomas – Return to Learn – D11 Vision and Response to Challenges
- Cory Notestine - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) challenges/resources in era of COVID 19 and remote learning
- Dr Khaliqi – Unified School Improvement Plans (USIPs) 101 – Vision, goals and progress monitoring for 20-21

Note: SAC 101 – SAC basics for all new SAC members, will not be provided at this session. 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.

SAC UPDATES (Continued)



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

Elizabeth Andrew

Key Deadlines of Interest to SACs

- Sep 11, 2020: All schools complete first draft of USIP in CDE data system
- Sep 16, 2020: Board of Education Work Session on UDIP and USIPs for 20-21
- Sep 24, 2020: First 2020 SAC Training session 6:00 – 8:00 PM on line via WebEx
- Sep 30, 2020: Latest date parents must be notified for Turnaround and Priority Improvement schools https://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/parent_notification_fact_sheet.

SAC Meeting Agenda Planning

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 2020 SAC meeting;

- SAC orientation (if not done in Aug.)
- Review SAC Handbook for school year 2020-21 if available
- If not done in Aug, review Return to Learn plans with focus on teacher/student engagement, attendance, and accountability. Also review Social Emotional Learning (SEL) challenges and initiatives (e.g. COVID 19 pandemic stressors).
- Discuss USIP status/completion date (first draft in CDE system by Sep 11th) and instructional challenges/focus for 20-21 (make recommendations as appropriate)
- Review District/state assessment plans/actions for school for 20-21
- Discuss what data will be collected/monitored to assess progress toward goals
- Review DIBELS Next (ES) fall test results and READ Act/instructional plans for students with Reading Deficiencies
- Review Achieve 3000 (MS) fall test results if available

Good Things Happening in the District

Facilities

- Facilities partnered with Colorado Springs Utilities to distribute energy saving kits to help families save on their utility bills through fixture changes in their home.
- The kit included: 2 showerheads, 2 aerators (one kitchen, one bath) and 4 LED light bulbs. The kit also included an instruction sheet and an ERC brochure related to a free home efficiency and appliance upgrades program for qualifying families.
- A typical family of four will save about \$143 annually when they install all these products.
- These items were distributed in May at Adams ES, West MS, Rogers ES and Monroe ES through the D11 food distribution sites.

Food Service

- Food service employees prepared, packaged and served a total of 509,761 meals starting the week of the Covid stay at home order in mid-March through the end of July.
- The staff distributed 19,376 boxes which equaled 394,495 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables through the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box program.
- They also partnered again this summer with Care & Share and hosted 3 mobile food pantries which distributed free produce, milk, meats, nuts, rice, cheese and more equaling about 75,000 pounds of food. This was in conjunction with some additional programs that Care & Share participated in to give us the ability to add the milk, the meat and additional items.
- The food service dietitian has expressed that these opportunities help prevent students and their families, as well as D11 staff and their families, from relying on low-cost, nutritionally poor foods by allowing them to have access to produce and nutrient rich foods that they may not have been able to afford during this time.
- Currently, Food services received word this week that the emergency feeding program has been extended thru December. This will allow us to provide the drive-up service so families will continue to have access to free meals for their children.
- Unlike the Grab and Go service that was originally planned, this allows food service the flexibility to serve all children and are not limited to provide meals to only students registered in D11. Students that are in the classrooms will be provided their free meal, as planned, on-site during their lunch time.
- They are trying to encourage a "Standard Time" to make it easier for our families but this is dependent on what the principals and administration want to do at their sites. More details will be available through the D11 media releases.

Transportation

Shout-out to our fantastic Bus Drivers that drove busses with meals into neighborhoods to help provide meals to families, early on in our stay at home situation.

**Audubon ES**

Please check out the excellent Smores newsletter for families to understand what is happening for remote learning at the following link:

<https://www.smores.com/a2usb>

Columbia ES

Has an excellent Welcome Back video for families, which can be found at

<https://www.d11.org/Domain/44>

Fremont ES

Local scouts and their Eagle Scout projects helped add fun paintings to the black-top at Fremont.

Holmes MS

Has Parent and Guardian Bootcamp videos to help families navigate remote learning that can be found at the website below:

<https://www.d11.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=15200>

Queen Palmer ES

Thank you to Dr. Barbara Swaby, national advocate for reading and literacy who donated a bag of 5 or more age appropriate new books to every student at Queen Palmer.

Thank you to all the hardworking teachers and staff who have demonstrated continued dedication to D11 families as we navigate the challenges of the beginning of the school year. Through your hard work we will continue to “Inspire Every Mind” in District 11.