

# Training for Effective SACs



## School Accountability Committee Training

Velvet Stepanek

Chair, District Accountability Committee

**How can I effectively contribute to my school by being a member of my School Accountability Committee (SAC)?**

# SAC Basics



- ❖ **What is a School Accountability Committee(SAC)?**
- ❖ **Why have a SAC?**
- ❖ **Who is on a SAC?**
- ❖ **What does a SAC do?**
- ❖ **How can I contribute to my school by being a member of my SAC?**

# SAC Basics



## What is a School Accountability Committee (SAC)?

- ❖ Advisory committee to principal
  - Learning environment
  - Safety
  - Improvement of education
  - Expenditure of funds
  - Family Engagement
  
- ❖ Provides input to the District Accountability Committee (DAC) as necessary

# SAC Basics



## Why a School Accountability Committee (SAC)?

- ❖ SACs are required by CO state law and D11 policy (Policy AE and Regulation AE-R-2)
- ❖ State law and D11 policy state:
  - The composition of the SACs
  - The duties and responsibilities of the SACs
- ❖ SACs are different from PTAs and PTOs but can share common members, meetings
- ❖ SACs are one point of volunteerism in a school

# SAC Basics



## Who serves on a SAC?

- ❖ The SAC is composed of parents/guardians, principal, staff, and community members with an emphasis on majority of the SAC members being parents/guardians
- ❖ Non-parents, per the definition, can still serve on a SAC (see Policy AE)
- ❖ The SAC is a team of volunteers so do the best you can with respect to recruitment, length of service (two years), overlap of service

# SAC Basics

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MEETINGS

## How does a SAC operate?

- ❖ The SAC chair is a parent, elected from the SAC membership
- ❖ The SAC chair presides over all meetings
- ❖ The SAC chair, together with the principal, drafts an agenda for each SAC meeting
- ❖ SACs must meet at least quarterly, but typically meet monthly during the school year
- ❖ The meeting is a safe environment to ask questions, share information, and confirm understanding
- ❖ Take minutes as a note of record; have the minutes available for the public; post on the school's website

# SAC Basics

## What does a SAC do? Roles and Responsibilities



- ❖ SAC roles and responsibilities are defined by state law and D11 policies(See D11 SAC Handbook)
- ❖ Fosters communication between principal, parents, and community members concerning the school
- ❖ Fosters communication between families and staff
- ❖ SACs serve in an advisory role to the principal:
  - Spending prioritizations
  - Student achievement
  - Learning Environment and Safety
- ❖ USIP=Unified School Improvement Plan
  - Important part of Accountability
  - Addresses strengths and weaknesses
  - Subset of school “One Plan”

# SAC Basics



**What does a SAC do?**

**Sample SAC Agenda**

**(See Agenda Planning Guide in SAC Handbook)**

- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Good things at the school
- ❖ DAC Report
- ❖ Current Issues
- ❖ Principal's report
- ❖ New district policies and/or policy updates that may affect the school
- ❖ Status of the USIP
- ❖ Fulfill SAC responsibilities with respect to student achievement (USIP), prioritization of expenditures, parental engagement, Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAP), truancy



# SAC Basics

## What does a SAC do?

## Discussion Questions



Key questions to ask:

- ❖ How are the students doing with respect to:
  - Safety and the Learning Environment
  - Academic Achievement
  - USIP Goals and Strategies
  
- ❖ How do you know?(e.g. progress monitoring for all USIP major improvement strategies)
  
- ❖ How does the budget support all of the above?  
(focus on achievement, safety, and equity)

# SAC Basics

## How can I contribute to my school by being a member of my SAC?

SAC members contribute by:

- ❖ Being part of the communication stream (2-way; being informed, asking questions, providing feedback)
- ❖ Acquiring knowledge, expertise in order for your SAC committee to effectively advise the principal with respect to:
  - Student Achievement
  - Safety and the Learning Environment
  - Spending priorities
  - Enhanced parental involvement
- ❖ Discussing:
  - How are the students doing?
  - How do you know?



# SAC Basics

## What does a SAC do?

## More training will be available on

- ❖ Student Achievement and the Unified School Improvement Plan (USIP)
- ❖ Understanding a School Budget

## Resources

- ❖ [D11 DAC Web page](#)
- ❖ [D11 SAC Handbook & CDE DAC Handbook](#)
- ❖ [DAC Newsletters](#)
- ❖ [DAC Members](#) (contact Trudy Tool at [trudy.tool@d11.org](mailto:trudy.tool@d11.org))
- ❖ [Accountability Policy](#)
- ❖ [SAC Regulation](#)