

District Accountability

(DAC)

SEPTEMBER 2023



UPCOMING DATES:

- September 21, 2023, DAC meeting, 6:00—8:00pm, in person, Tesla room 112/113 and via WebEx
- September 28, 2023 SAC Training 6:00—8:00pm, in person, Tesla room 116/129

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Welcome

On behalf of the District accountability committee (DAC), welcome to the 2023/2024 school year. Thank you for being an important part of the parent and community engagement in District 11.

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. Consider sharing this newsletter by adding this link to your school's preferred way of communicating, be it school newsletters, social media, or your school's website.

Each DAC newsletter will contain one of the following sections

- News about happenings in the district; information on upcoming meetings, events, and deadlines.
- Reports: - DAC subcommittees will inform about their work.
- *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, updates through this newsletter, and one-on-one sessions with individual SACs.

In order to do this work well, it takes YOU. Every school needs to have a SAC that ideally meets monthly. If you need support to find a SAC chair or get your monthly meetings started, please reach out. Your voice is important and deserves to be heard, please invite others to join your School accountability committee (SAC). Your time and efforts to do what's best for our students will make a difference.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the DAC Chair this year.

Sincerely,

-Marion Clawson

Chair – D11 District Accountability Committee

State Test Results for Spring 2023



COLORADO
Department of Education

- Colorado state test results for Spring 2023, including growth data, are now available to schools and CDE School Performance Framework (SPF) scores and ratings (school plan types) are currently available to schools . Alternative Education Campuses (AEC) scores will be available mid-September. Test results for individual students are also available for parents to review. A great resource for parents and families about understanding test results and more is available at: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/resourcesforparents>.
- The district has 28 schools in performance rating, which is the highest category and the number of schools on priority performance or turnaround status dropped from 15 to 9. The Accreditation Subcommittee started the review of the UIPs of these schools and used a similar rubric for SACs to provide feedback to the Area Superintendents and principals.
- Huge Congratulations to Martinez ES, West MS, Adams ES and West ES for going from priority improvement or turnaround status to Performance, that is a 2-3 category jump. We are so excited for your students and families.
- Big shout out to Madison ES with a massive gain in points, and is now the highest number SPF performing school in the district, with Howbert ES and Scott ES very close to them!

CMAS Results

- CMAS results are reported to the district and parent information to help understand the results can be found at the link below:
<https://coassessments.com/parentsandguardians/>
- Ask your school how individual results will be released to parents. In the past this has often been done during Parent/Teacher conferences in late October, but it may be worth discussing if that should be done sooner.

News & Notes (Continued)

Accreditation Status and School Accountability for 23-24:

For SACs, your school's accreditation status and plan type will be based on your 2023 SPF results. 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>
- Understanding School Performance Frameworks: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/performanceframeworks>
- Colorado Growth Model Fact Sheet for parents, <https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/20170818growthparents>

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

Family, School Community Partnerships (FSCP) Updates

- **Are you looking for high impact ideas to help with FSCP at your school?** Colorado Department of Education (CDE) created this website of high impact strategies and resources being used across the state of Colorado: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/familyengagement/highimpactstrategies>
- Implementation resources for FSCP from CDE to help at your school: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/familyengagement/implementationresources>
- **Free FSCP Courses** from CDE are available. Coming soon, a course on School Accountability Committee (SAC) responsibilities and resources. Courses are located at: <https://colorado-department-of-education.mylearnworlds.com/courses>
- The D11 FSCP Collaborative will be continuing to celebrate schools at the school board meetings this year. If your school has FSCP practices to celebrate, ask your principal to let the D11 collaborative know.



News & Notes Continued

PowerSchool (the School Management System) and Related Modules:

- **Do your families know they can access grade, attendance, and report cards through PowerSchool?** Everyone has the opportunity to launch student success by using PowerSchool!
- **Please make it a top priority** to advocate for getting all 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.
- Parent resources can be found at: <https://www.d11.org/PowerSchool/Parents>
- **Coming Soon:** PowerSchool is in the process of making updates to the Parent interface for PowerSchool. You won't have to have separate accounts for PowerSchool and Schoology anymore. We will give more information when this update happens.



coming soon!



Those who can do,
do. Those who can
do more, volunteer.
AUTHOR UNKNOWN



ACADEMIC SUPPORT PLAN TOWN HALL MEETINGS (Formerly the Facility Master Plan)

District 11 will be holding a second series of townhall meetings to discuss the development of our new Academic Support Plan (formally the Facilities Master Plan), and we invite you to attend.:

Sep 11, 5:30 – 7:00 PM at Doherty High School, 4515 Barnes Rd

Sep 12, 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM at Palmer High School, 301 N. Nevada

Sep 14, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM virtual meeting



SAC Updates

Colorado Department of Education (CDE) District Accountability Handbook



The CDE District Accountability Handbook, updated Aug 2023, is also available at:

<https://www.d11.org/Page/5868>

- The handbook 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 28, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

- This first SAC Training Work Session for school year 23 – 24 will be conducted in-person at Tesla Professional Development Center, 2560 International Circle, room 116/129 from 6:00–8:00pm.
- We hope to provide links in advance to briefing materials and handouts. The final agenda is still in development, but we hope to have an opportunity for each Area Superintendent to meet with their SAC chairs and principals to give updates on the district support for each area.
- We also will provide breakout sessions on:
 - a) SAC 101,
 - b) SAC Duty Refresh UIP duties, and
 - c) Family Engagement.
- More information will be sent out at a later date.



Opportunities for Involvement

- **Full District Accountability Committee—**
 - ◇ The DAC is looking for the following members:
 - A parent with a student identified as ELL
 - Middle School Administrator
 - Higher Education Representative

If you are interested in or know someone who would be interested in the positions above please contact: Lauren Walker, DAC Membership Chair at loryash@gmail.com

SAC UPDATES (Continued)



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

Elizabeth Andrew

Key Deadlines of Interests to SACs



- Week of August 21, 2023: All schools get preliminary SPF and rating from CDE. Schools with an SPF rating of “Improvement” or better must complete the final draft of One Plan/USIP and submit updated USIPs to CDE by Oct 16, 2023.
- January 16, 2024 is the deadline for newly identified schools and districts to submit the UIP.
- September 2023: Board of Education Public Hearing on USIPs for Priority Improvement and Turnaround schools already “on the clock”.
- November 2023: Board of Education Public Hearing on USIPs for schools receiving first time Priority Improvement or Turnaround ratings in 2023.
- Sep 28, 2023: First 2023 SAC Training session 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Tesla
- Aug 21 – Sep 8, 2023: Grades 1-3 Beginning of Year (BOY) Acadience Reading test, Aug 21 – Nov 17 for Kindergarten.

DAC is Here to Assist

- If your school is having difficulty finding a School Accountability Chair, please reach out to Marion Clawson, DAC Chair at: clawson.marion@gmail.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.



VectorStock

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 2023 SAC meeting:

- SAC orientation (if not done in Aug.)
- Review SAC Handbook for school year 2023-2024
- If not done in Aug, review school "One Plan"/USIP status and instructional focus for 23– 24.
- Update drafts generated during spring 23 "One Plan" symposium based on spring state test results, e.g. CMAS, PSAT/SAT, SPF score etc., and Administration feedback – finalize USIP for Oct 16, 2023 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 23-24

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 2023-2024 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 28th.
- * Send SAC Chair name, email address, phone number and the meeting dates and times to: Trudy.Tool@d11.org



Unified District Improvement Plan (UIP)- formally known as ONE PLAN

- SACS are an important part of the plan, they need to be involved in the development, review and monitoring of the plan.
- Principals will provide the UIP document for SACs to review. To help with this, we turned the CDE guide into an easier to follow document to offer support in going through the review. See link below:

<https://www.d11.org/Page/20877>

Good Things Happening in the District

Columbia ES—



Happy Birthday Columbia!

The first Columbia School, at 840 E. Boulder St. was built in 1898. It started with four complete rooms. The school doubled in size by 1902. After other additions the building had six classrooms on the first floor and six classrooms on the second floor. The gym was in the basement. The site of the original school had been donated to the city by General Palmer and the Colorado Springs Company. It was demolished in the summer of 1972, and a new brick building was erected at 835 St. Vrain St., where it continues to thrive today.

Jackson ES—

- On August 29th, Governor Polis made a special trip to two preschool classrooms at Jackson ES to highlight D11's preschool program. He talked with staff and students and even had the opportunity to read "The Color Monster" by Anna Llencas to the preschoolers.



Jenkins MS—

- Last week, Middle School Counselor, Margaret Bloomer, received recognition as The Colorado Middle School Counselor of the year. To watch the video go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GsshYHpmb-U>

Congratulations Margaret!



**Monroe ES—**

- On August 10, 2023, Elementary School Counselor, Maddie Francis, received recognition as The Colorado Elementary School Counselor of the Year. To watch the video go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLOBBaSBVZo>

Congratulations Maddie!

Mitchell HS—

- Mitchell Athletic Director Amanda Wermers applied for and received a grant from the Pikes Peak Athletic Foundation. She surprised the athletic students with the news on August 21st. This grant includes top of the line sports gear, like new tennis shoes, baseball gloves, mouth guards and more!

**Odyssey Early College & Career Options (Odyssey ECCO) -**

- Seven Odyssey ECCO students participated in the “Invest in Girls Summer Symposium” hosted by “Economic Literacy Colorado” on July 21, 2023. These students learned about financial careers, entrepreneurial skills, and business plans. They even go to present at a “Shark Tank” Event.

Wilson ES—

- Wilson Elementary students got to “cut the ribbon” for their brand new playground August 24th. So exciting for the students to be able to enjoy new play structures!



Please send any “good news” items for your school to Trudy Tool at Trudy.Tool@d11.org