

CSSD II

#### UPCOMING DATES:

- November 8, 2022  
Election Day
- December 1, 2022,  
SAC Training,  
Tesla Educational  
Opportunity Center  
and via Webex,  
6:00—8:00pm
- November 17, 2022  
Full DAC Meeting,  
Tesla Educational  
Opportunity Center  
and via Webex,  
6:00—8:00pm
- November 21—  
November 25, 2022  
Thanksgiving Break

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# District Accountability (DAC) November 2022 Newsletter



## Welcome

Teachers, Education Support Professionals (ESPs), Executive Professionals, counselors, principals, and volunteers thank you for all you do! November is a month where I purposefully spend time on being thankful. Thank you to families, SACs, and PTAs. Our mission to support students is only successful by all of us working together! This school year I'm especially thankful for parent/teacher conferences, performing arts, and robotics competitions. I hope each of you can spend some extra time being thankful this month.

- The District Accountability Committee (DAC) and its subcommittees are working diligently. At the October meeting, the DAC reviewed the District Improvement Plan. The DAC also received an overview on a charter school application for Independence Hall Academy.
- The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee is busy reviewing the School Improvement Plans for new Priority Improvement and Turnaround schools. The DAC provides important feedback to the schools and advises the Board of Education on these plans.
- The DAC Budget Subcommittee reviewed ESSER grant funds spending and the fund balance spending approved by the Board. See <https://www.d11.org/InvestingInTheirFuture> for more information about fund balance projects.
- The DAC Charter School Review Subcommittee reviewed the Independence Hall Academy Charter School application. They prepared a report for the DAC and the Board. The report will be presented to the Board on November 9.
- The Training and SAC Support Subcommittee moved the second SAC training to December 1. The agenda for the training is being finalized. The DAC highly recommends multiple SAC members, school administrators, and school community attend this important educational session. The subcommittee is still working on updating our SAC Information list for each school. We need updated SAC member information as well as times for meetings. This list helps the DAC support SACs. A DAC parent member will be reaching out to every SAC chair. We want to hear input from our SACs. Please help us by letting us know how your school is doing.

Superintendent Gaal and the District Leadership Team are hosting a series of town hall discussions. Be sure your community knows when they can come and engage to have their voices heard. The first town hall was at Coronado High School on November 1.

Lastly, as Veterans Day approaches the DAC wants to thank all our active duty military members and veterans for their daily service and sacrifice. We salute you. We encourage SACs, parents, and community members to support our local schools and veterans by participating in any Veterans Day events.

On behalf of the DAC, I wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving!

Velvet Stepanek

Chair – District Accountability Committee



## News & Notes

### **Public Review of New Instructional Materials and Secondary Courses**

- Colorado Springs School District 11 will host a public review of new instructional materials and secondary courses submitted for the approval of the Board of Education. All community members are welcome to review the proposed instructional materials and new courses online at [www.d11.org](http://www.d11.org) or at the District 11 Administration Building, located at 1115 N. El Paso Street, beginning Friday, October 28, through Friday, November 4 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.



For further information, please contact the Achievement, Learning, and Leadership office at (719) 520-2045.

### ***Happy Veterans Day!***



### **PRESCHOOL: KICKSTART TO EDUCATION**

- D11 invests in your family by providing more opportunities for your children to enroll in our preschool programs. Our goal is to clear waitlists for our high-demand preschool programs and ensure no child remains on a waiting list. We believe every family should have access to no-cost preschool for their child. Studies show that children who attend public preschool programs are better prepared for kindergarten and beyond.
- Children must be 3 or 4 years old by October 1 to be eligible for the current school year. If your child turns 3 after October 1, please apply in the spring for the following year.

**Early Childhood Application can be found at the link:**

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



## News & Notes (Continued)



Colorado Springs School District 11 has many schools that offer unique and exceptional educational opportunities. If you would like your child to attend one of our schools that is not your neighborhood school, you may submit a Choice Open Enrollment Application to any of our schools.

We have many pathways such as STEM, IB, and Dual Language Immersion. To learn more, go to: <https://www.d11.org/pathways>

Are you interested in CTE programs? We have many to choose from, some of which earn college credit! To learn more, go to: <https://www.d11.org/Page/1954>

- **Choice Open Enrollment Application (2023-2024 School Year):**  
<https://www.d11.org/CHOICE>
- Both English and Spanish can be found at this website.
- The priority choice open enrollment window is open each year from **November 1 through February 15** (or the last school day prior to February 15) for the following school year.

### **Board Policies:**

To view the Board policies regarding Choice Open Enrollment go to:

**JFBA/JFBB— School Choice—Open Enrollment and Transfers**

<https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity//Domain/69/SectionJ/JFBA%20JFBB%20revised%206.8.22.pdf>

Which contains information on:

- ♦ Elective special programs (IB, GMP etc.)
- ♦ Special programs (special education, Title 1 etc.)
- ♦ Employee Choice/Open Enrollment
- ♦ Transfers
- ♦ Athletics

**JFBA/JFBB-R—I—School Choice – Open Enrollment and Transfers**

<https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity//Domain/69/SectionJ/JFBA%20JFBA-R-I%20revised%206.8.22.pdf>

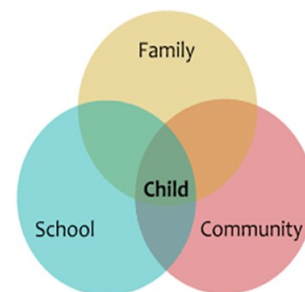
**JFBA/JFBB-R—2—School Choice – Magnet Schools/Programs**

<https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity//Domain/69/SectionJ/JFBA.JFBB.R.2%20revised%206.8.22.pdf>



## News & Notes (Continued)

### Family-School-Community Partnerships:



#### Family-School-Community Partnerships Month:

- Governor Polis has declared November to be Family and School Partnership in Education Month in Colorado. For additional information about the celebration this month see: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/2022-fscp-month-factsheet>
- Also, check out the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Family-School-Community Partnerships page at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/familyengagement>. The page features several new CDE Family-School-Community Partnership initiatives for the 22-23 school year. The eighth (2022) edition of Promising Partnership Practices is available at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/familyengagement/2022ppps>.

### D11 Technology and Library Tips for Students and Families:



- Check out the current D11 Technology and Library Tips for Students and Families webpage group at <https://www.d11.org/Page/18636>.
- This page includes subpages tailored to each level (ES, MS and HS) and provides updated documentation for PowerSchool Parent Portal, Schoology, Seesaw, and much, much more.

### TIPS for Students and Families

### Response to Fentanyl Crisis – School Preparedness



- In recent weeks the news has been filled with stories about the increase in fentanyl related deaths in Colorado, including school age children.
- In Feb 2022, D11 updated policy JLCE, First Aid and Emergency Medical Care, to include training for appropriate school staff in the emergency use of an opioid antagonist (also known as naloxone hydrochloride or NARCAN) and procedures for the District to maintain a supply of NARCAN for District and school use.
- Appropriate staff at each individual school should be made aware of the availability and location of NARCAN at their sites. Check with your principal at the next SAC meeting on your school's preparedness. Policy JLCE may be found at <https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/69/SectionJ/JLCE.pdf>

## SAC Information

### Next SAC Training Session Thursday, December 1, 2022

The next SAC Training Session will take place on Thursday, December 1, 2022 6:00-8:00PM. **SAVE THE DATE.** We are currently planning to conduct this training session as a hybrid session in person at Tesla with a WebEx option for those who prefer to attend virtually. Topics for the Dec 1<sup>st</sup> session are;

training

- Best practices for effective use of STAR District Benchmark test results in informing instruction and monitoring One Plan initiatives – Dr David Khaliqi, Chief of Strategy and Data Acquisition, Education Insights
- Tips, tricks and resources for parents/guardians in supporting their student with Eureka math and Dreambox math – Paul Bunge, Math Facilitator, Curriculum and Instruction
- Small group SAC discussions (by level) – topics: school budgets, school communications strategies for overcoming language barriers with non-English speaking parents/guardians
- If you have a topic you would like to have us address in future training sessions please contact [trudy.tool@d11.org](mailto:trudy.tool@d11.org) and she will pass it to the appropriate individuals for consideration.



### Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs

#### November Deadlines

- READ Act: Acadience Reading (DIBELS Next) Middle of Year (MOY) grades 1-3 testing (Nov 28 – Dec 16th) (Schools choose 2-week window)
- Winter District Benchmark (STAR) grades 3-11 (Dec 1 – Dec 16th)
- Any budget/funding recommendations for 23-24 must be submitted to DAC by Feb 1, 2023 (Reference Regulation AE-R-2, (SAC By-laws) Purpose section, Item 8).

**SAC Information****SAC Agenda Planning – November (Theme: Achievement Gaps)**

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 November SAC meeting:

- Review/discuss school approach to Response to Intervention (RTI)/ Multi-tier Support System (MTSS) and SEL successes/challenges;
- Differentiation, blended learning, tutoring, interventions, etc.
- Instructional supports for RTI/MTSS Tier 2 and Tier 3 students including support to Gifted & Talented (GT) and English Language Learner (ELL) students
- Review/discuss school's focus on parent strategies for individual student support (i.e. parent and teacher as partners in student learning, with focus on student technology device use, parent support with new K-8 math curriculum and support for closing COVID related gaps from 21-22)
- Review available progress monitoring data results and compare against "One Plan"/USIP goals



## Good Things Happening in the District

### The District—

- District 11 held a Town Hall meeting on November 1st at Coronado HS. There was a good turn out for the meeting, and an engaging conversation took place about all things budget related. The next Town Hall meeting will take place on January 5th, from 6:00—7:00pm at Doherty High School in the cafeteria.

### Carver ES—

Great things are happening in Carver's ELL program!



### Doherty HS—

- On Tuesday, October 25th the 1992 Doherty Women's Basketball team was inducted into the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame.
- Led by HS and College All-American Erin Scholz, Val Johnson and coached by CHSCA Hall-of-Fame coach Carl Krug. The team had an undefeated season en route to a 39 game winning streak, and the first girls basketball state championship for Colorado Springs.



## Good Things Happening in the District (Continued)

### Grant ES—

- On November 1st one of the wonderful families at Grant ES, the Ragsdale family, brought their very own hot air balloons to teach the students about the science of how the balloons work for STEAM. They will be back for the upcoming STEAM night.



### Madison ES—

- Congratulations to Madison ES kindergarten teacher, Wendy Latka, who was a recipient of a \$6,500 check from Ent Credit Union. To celebrate its 65th anniversary in business, Ent Credit Union has been choosing a teacher each month to receive a \$6,500 award to show their appreciation to educators. The funds are a gift intended to be used however the recipient chooses. Ms Latka plans on getting her amazing students lots and lots of snacks for their classroom to start. She was nominated by her friend for her compassion, huge heart and optimistic attitude that has had a positive impact on her students and those around her.

### Trailblazer ES—

- On October 21st the 1st and 2nd graders at Trailblazer ES visited the Flying Pig Farm to learn about habitats and the patience required to enjoy animals and plants in nature. They also visited the Xeriscape Gardens with the Coronado Outdoor Education class to learn about plants and their pollinators, which will help them decide how best to add color and native plants to their school grounds. The students had a great day learning in an outdoor arena.



### Sabin MS—

- On October 25th, Sabin MS signed a pledge against bullying. Each student signed the pledge, a pledge to support each other, others that have been hurt, treat others with kindness, be more accepting and help include others who have been left out.



If your school has good things that you want included, please email Trudy Tool at [Trudy.Tool@d11.org](mailto:Trudy.Tool@d11.org)