

CSSD II

# District Accountability (DAC)

## November 2021 Newsletter



### UPCOMING DATES:

- **November 2, 2021**  
Election Day
- **November 4, 2021,**  
**SAC Training,**  
Tesla Educational  
Opportunity Center  
and via Webex,  
6:00—8:00pm
- **November 18, 2021**  
**Full DAC Meeting,**  
Tesla Educational  
Opportunity Center  
and via Webex,  
6:00—8:00pm
- **November 22—**  
**November 26, 2021**  
Thanksgiving Break

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### Welcome

November is a month where I spend extra time on being thankful. Teachers, Education Support Professionals (ESPs), counselors, and principals top the thankful list. Thank you to SACs, PTAs, community liaisons, and Family Involvement Toolkit coaches. Our students are only successful by all of us working together! This school year I'm especially thankful for in-person school, performing arts, and marching band performances. 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 held a school board candidate forum. The DAC works closely with the school board and needs to be informed on the candidates running for office. The DAC also reviewed the report from the DAC Charter School Review Committee on a charter school application for Life Success International Academy.

The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee looked at Universal Screener Data and Acadience data. The subcommittee also looked at Performance Matters, a testing tool available in PowerSchool.

The DAC Budget Subcommittee did not meet this month but they are preparing to review mid-year budget modification requests this month.

The DAC Charter School Review Subcommittee reviewed the Life Success International Academy Charter School application and interview. They prepared a report for the DAC and the Board. The report will be presented to the Board on November 10. Thank you to Vicky McLaughlin, Thomas Moore, and LynDel Randash for their time spent reviewing this application.

The DAC Training and SAC Support Subcommittee finalized the agenda for the November 4 training session. Topics will include a spotlight on Keller Elementary's Tech Night for parents, as well as, parent training and questions on PowerSchool, Schoology, and other tools. Diversus will be presenting on *Parents, Let's Talk Youth Mental Health*. 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. Please reach out to your principal to be sure this list is updated for your school.

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 or at the District 11 Administration Building, located at 1115 N. El Paso Street, beginning Monday, November 1, through Friday, November 12 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.



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

### Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee (GTAC)

The next meeting for the Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee (GTAC) will be on November 11, 2021 at 5:30pm via WebEx. The meeting link and form to propose agenda items can be found at the following link:

<https://www.d11.org/Page/17627>

Today...and every day...  
we are grateful for

*our military service personnel,  
past and present, and the families  
who support them.*

***Happy Veterans Day!***



## News & Notes (Continued)

### School of Choice

- 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 or a Choice Administrative Transfer Application to any of our schools.

### Choice Open Enrollment Application (2021-2022 School Year):

**English:** <https://fs25.formsite.com/34xo8F/uyv82ubmuh/index.html>

**Spanish:** <https://fs25.formsite.com/34xo8F/zikhoeo82q/index.html>

- 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.
- Schools will continue to accept and review Choice Open Enrollment applications **through October 1** for current District 11 students. If you are new to District 11, Open Enrollment is year round. If your child is accepted to a school under Open Enrollment, it will be valid through the last grade offered at that school.

### 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.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—

<https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/69/SectionJ/JFBA.JFBB-R.pdf>

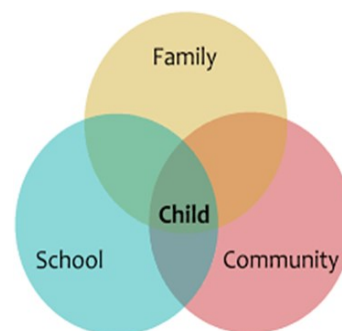
Regulation that contains information on:

- ◆ Processing Open Enrollment Choice Applications
- ◆ Appeal procedure

## News & Notes (Continued)

### Family-School-Community Partnerships:

- 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 21-22 school year.
- The seventh (2021) edition of Promising Partnership Practices is available at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/promising-partnership-practices-book-2021>.



### PowerSchool Parent Information Updates:

- The D11 Technology Services Division continues to work on getting PowerSchool parent documentation created and published to the website.
- Be sure to review the [Technology Tips for Families](#) webpage which includes documentation for PowerSchool Parent Portal, Schoology, Seesaw, etc.
- More information is available on the [D11 PowerSchool Landing](#) webpage. More updates will be provided at the next SAC Training Session scheduled for Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 6 – 8 PM at Tesla and via WebEx.



### SAC Training Session Thursday, November 4, 2021 6 – 8 PM,

**In-person at Tesla Educational Opportunity Center, 2560 International Circle, and via WebEx**

Be sure to check out the next SAC Training Session which will take place on Thursday November 4, 2021.

Topics include:

- Spotlight: Tech night for parents at Keller ES
- Parent Training on PowerSchool, Schoology, etc.
- Diversus Presentation—"Parent, Let's Talk Youth Mental Health"



Refreshments will be served and childcare provided.

**If you would like to have a calendar invitation to the WebEx please contact Trudy Tool. Also, please RSVP to [Trudy.Tool@d11.org](mailto:Trudy.Tool@d11.org) if you will be attending in person and if childcare is needed.**

## SAC Information

### Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs

- READ Act: Acadience Reading (DIBELS Next) Middle of Year (MOY) grades 1-3 testing (Nov 29 – Dec 17th) (Schools choose 2-week window)
- Galileo K-12: District Benchmark (grades 3-11) #2 (Nov 29 – Dec 17th)
- Any budget/funding recommendations for 22-23 must be submitted to DAC by Feb 1, 2022 (Reference Regulation AE-R-2, (SAC By-laws) Purpose section, Item 8).



### 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, 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 and support and closing COVID related gaps from 20-21)
- Review available progress monitoring data results and compare against "One Plan"/USIP goals
- Review PowerSchool implementation status for your school. Is parent and teacher usage increasing? Are questions/problems being relayed to the PowerSchool Support Center? Is training or access to training materials being provided?



## Good Things Happening in the District

there's  
always  
something  
to  
celebrate

### District

- Congratulations to the Doherty HS & Palmer HS marching bands who made it to the State competition
- Many D11 Schools will be participating in Harvest of Love, an annual food drive with an over 25-year history in Colorado Springs and Pueblo area schools. All food and money collected is given to Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado. Typically, schools compete to see who can raise the most meals for our neighbors in need for the holiday season which results in this being the largest food drive of the year for Care and Share. This year, Harvest of Love will take place from October 18-November 18, 2021.



### Adult & Family Education—

- Congratulations to Melissa Burkhardt-Shields, the Director of Adult and Family Ed, for being selected for Colorado Springs Business Journal's Women of Influence.

### Mann MS—

- On Friday, October 22, 2021 Mann MS, along with District and Community Partners, hosted a Safe Trick-or-Trick event. When the event began there were 200 people in line for the event. They stopped counting just after 6:30pm and the total was 656 students and family members who came through Mann MS and partnering elementary schools. The entire school team was involved: 36 staff volunteers (certified, ESP and Admin) 3 D11 security, 2 SROs and 32 8th grade WEB leaders. What a fantastic turn out!



### Mitchell HS—

- Mitchell HS participated in the Free Application Day for Colorado colleges and universities on October 19 through October 21, 2021. They had 66% of the senior class apply.



## Good Things Happening in the District (continued)



### Palmer HS—

- Palmer HS IB Art students painted storm drains with the City's Storm Drain Art Project. They are raising



awareness of street drain inlets to help educate the public about the effects of pollutants flowing to our creeks.

### Rudy ES—

- Rudy staff and students create a living flag and while singing the National Anthem. Miss Taylor choreographed the event and captured some pictures and video which can be found at this link: <https://www.d11.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=5444>



### Russell MS—

#### Wall of Fame Ceremony

- Charles M. Russell Middle School's Wall of Fame was begun in 1991 to promote pride, spirit and a sense of tradition. Each year Russell Middle School selects one or more outstanding former Russell students to be inducted into our Wall of Fame who have made a difference in their careers and communities. This year, two D11 employees were selected:
  - Brian Eckrich, Security Investigator for D11
  - Darin Smith, Coronado Principal

Congratulations!

### Trailblazer ES—

- On November 6, 2021 Trailblazer ES will be hosting a Fall 2021 Chess Tournament. It is open to D11 public school students in grades 2—8. The cost is \$4 prior to tournament (pre-register) and \$5 at the door. Play begins at 9:00am and ends at approximately 1:00pm



Please send good things happening at your school to Trudy Tool at [Trudy.Tool@d11.org](mailto:Trudy.Tool@d11.org)