

CSSD II

UPCOMING  
DATES:

- **November 7, 2023**  
Election Day
- **November 16, 2023**  
Full DAC Meeting,  
Tesla Educational  
Opportunity Center,  
room 112/113 and via  
Webex,  
6:00—8:00pm
- **November 20—  
November 24, 2023**  
Thanksgiving Break
- **November 30, 2023,**  
SAC Training,  
Tesla Educational  
Opportunity Center  
and via Webex,  
6:00—8:00pm

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

News & Notes 2

SAC 5  
Information

Good Things 6

# District Accountability (DAC)

## November 2023 Newsletter



### Welcome

As we enter the month of pumpkin spice and fiery leaves, I would like to welcome you to our November newsletter. With the wonderful crisp air and Thanksgiving right around the corner, it is the season to reflect and foster gratitude. My family sits at the dinner table and everyone shares one thing that they are grateful for today.

As I am writing to you, I am grateful to you, the D11 community, for choosing to be involved. I am grateful for the Teachers, Education Support Professionals (ESPs), Executive Professionals, counselors, principals, and volunteers. I am grateful for every single one of you. In our efforts to support all students, it takes all of us. I am wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

Please join us at the next DAC meeting on 11/16 to learn about the future ready department, what a data coach does, and to get an update about district finances, including information on staffing allocations. Find the WebEx link at: <https://www.d11.org/administration/dac>

The SAC training on the 30th will be a great way to finish off the month of November. Keep reading for more details.

Please fill out the 5E parent survey and support your school in promoting this survey. At least 20% participation is needed to get sufficient data to provide important information on school safety, trust, and communication. This information is used in the improvement plans in your school. As SACs we want to review this data to support the principal in their efforts to create a supportive and inclusive environment.

<https://survey.5-essentials.org/sd11/survey/parent/>

Time to spread the word that the D11 choice window is now open. Tell the world what makes your school special. For more information check out the news & notes section in this newsletter.

Last but most certainly not least, make sure to VOTE!

Voting is not only a right, but a responsibility of the members of our society. Your voice is important and makes a difference. Voting gives you the power to create positive change for your community and determine a better quality of life for you and your family.

I am delighted to have you as a part of our D11 community and I can't wait to see you at the DAC meeting and SAC training.

Warm wishes for a month filled with gratitude, growth and connection.

Marion Clawson  
Chair - D11 District Accountability Committee



## News & Notes

### POWERSCHOOL

- Are you staying connected through PowerSchool? PowerSchool is the parent, guardian and student portal used by D11. Here are the advantages of using the PowerSchool Parent Portal to stay engaged with student learning:

You'll be able to view:

- ◆ Attendance
- ◆ Current Grades
- ◆ Historical Grades
- ◆ Report Cards
- ◆ CMAS achievement and growth reports
- ◆ STAR test results
- ◆ Graduation Plan Progress
- ◆ Other documents such as Panorama results
- ◆ Special Programs supports such as Advanced Learning Plans and much more to come...

If you need to register, don't worry! Go to <https://www.d11.org/employees/powerschool>

for directions and more information. Contact your school with questions!



## D11 OPPORTUNITIES TO LAUNCH INFORMATION NIGHTS!

Coronado, October 5  
 Palmer, November 2  
 Mitchell, November 14  
 RJWAC, November 28  
 Doherty, January 18

-----  
 5:00 pm Showcase  
 6:00 pm Presentation

6th-12th Grade Opportunities!

Each event will cover D11 opportunities. Please pick a date that works best for you and your family.

**READY TO LAUNCH?**  
All Pre-K through 14 families are invited to Launch your D11 journey!



# CTE

## CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Automotive, Culinary, Engineering and More

## WORK-BASED LEARNING

Job Shadows, Internships, Apprenticeships and More

## POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES

ASCENT, TREP, and the Promise  
Tuition Free Programs: PPSC, CSU-P and UCSS

## 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 for **Education Personalized**, explore:

- STEM
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Dual Language Immersion
- Outdoor Education
- Montessori
- Gifted and Magnet Programs
- Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Online Learning

To learn more, go to: <https://www.d11.org/schools/pathways>

- **Choice Open Enrollment Application (2024-2025 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://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1693227547/d11org/qmvzknekqyx27eyst9wo/JFBAJFBB.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://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1693227548/d11org/ufzqpsbb8wftteh7lodh/JFBAJFBB-R.pdf>

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

<https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1693227550/d11org/enlc5hwrabi57rxdfofbf/JFBA-JFBB-R2.pdf>

## News & Notes (Continued)

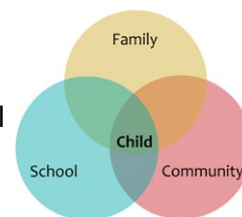
### Encourage Parent 5 Essentials Survey Participation

The 5 Essentials is a research-based school improvement system that defines, measures, and utilizes the most important organizational conditions, including aspects of a school's culture and climate, to improve student outcomes. The survey is given to students and educators. There is also a parent survey portion. The five essential factors for school improvement are Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment, and Ambitious Instruction. The parent portion of the 5 Essentials survey will be given in District 11 in October and November. Encourage parents to take this survey for each of their schools. The parent survey results are important input in school improvement planning.



### Family School Community Partnerships

D11 Engage is proud to share that **November is Family and School Partnership in Education Month!** About 60 years of research highlight the important role that family, school and community partnerships play for positive student academic and behavioral outcomes. [Free resources and support are available on the Family, School, and Community Partnerships webpage through the CDE.](#) Below are a few examples of how our District 11 Schools are engaging with their communities:



- **Odyssey ECCO** hosts a comprehensive orientation for new students and families at the beginning of the school year. The goal is to welcome families warmly into the school, get to know them, help them become acquainted with the school and faculty, and offer an opportunity to get their questions asked.
- **Rudy Elementary, Queen Palmer Elementary, and Freedom Elementary**, among others, engage with families at a monthly “Coffee with the Principal,” an opportunity to both inform parents about school happenings and hear what is most important to them. Freedom brings in topic specialists to address the topics most important to their families.
- **Holmes Middle School** hosts a “Hawk of the Month” Celebration. Every month, each staff member chooses a student who exemplifies SOARing behavior. Families are invited for coffee and donuts to celebrate and hear why their student was chosen by that staff member. Student receives public recognition.

[Many more statewide examples are available in the 2023 edition of Promising Partnership Practices.](#)

Research indicates that family, school and community partnerships lead to improved students' attendance, higher graduation rates and a deeper sense of belonging (Mapp et al., 2022). How are you planning to celebrate Family and School Partnership in Education Month? **Reach out to Jessica Wise, Director of D11 Engage, to share your ideas or ask questions.**

**News & Notes (Continued)**



**DAC Accreditation Subcommittee Update**

While the state determines all District Performance Framework ratings for districts the local school boards get to award the School performance Framework (SPF) rating of **“accredited with distinction”** to their schools.

The DAC ‘s role is to make a recommendation in this matter.

- The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee voted to stay consistent and recommend all schools with SPF score of 74 and above to receive the rating of “accredited with distinction “.

We recommended that the Board of Education award the following schools:

Madison Elementary school	82.3
Howbert Elementary school	81.9
Scott Elementary school	80.6
Steele Elementary school	78.8
Freedom Elementary school	78.6
Academy ACL	77.3
Chipeta Elementary school	76.8

Congratulations to these schools and their community.



- Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2023
- A list of drop box and Voter Service and Polling Center locations and operating hours is online at: [clerkandrecorder.elpasoco.com/elections/ballot-drop-boxes-vspc-locations](http://clerkandrecorder.elpasoco.com/elections/ballot-drop-boxes-vspc-locations).



## SAC Information

### SAC Agenda Planning – November (Theme: Achievement Gaps)

- 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)
- Review Fall Panorama Survey Data
- Review available progress monitoring data results and compare against “One Plan”/USIP goals.

### Key Dates of Interest for SACs

**November 17:** 5 Essentials Parent Survey Closes.

**November 30:** Second SAC Training Session, Tesla from 6:00-8:00 pm

**December 4-20:** (schools choose 2-week window): Middle of the Year DIBELS 8 Testing Kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

**December 4-15:** Winter District Benchmark Testing 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

### November SAC Training Overview

Family, School, Community Partnership

How to Create an Inclusive Culture examples and sharing of ideas.

Breakout sessions

- 1) Elementary Session – Understanding the READ Act and updates in our district. This will include information on DIBELS 8, requirements for teacher training, dyslexia support, and questions SACs should be asking about significant reading deficiencies at their school.
- 2) Middle and High School Session – Updates on Future Centers and Individualized Career and Academic Plans (ICAPs). This will include exciting information about the plans for Future Centers at our high schools, an update on ICAP work in D11 and a chance for parents to give feedback on new applications being considered for ICAP support.

## Good Things Happening in the District

### District 11 Hall of Fame-

- The following D11 Alumni were inducted on October 24, 2023 to the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame

- ◇ Representing Coronado HS

- ◆ Jessika Stratton—was a four-sport letter winner at Coronado HS from 1996—2000. She returned to Colorado in 2005 to coach the UCCS Women’s Basketball team. She is currently Head Coach of the Valor Christian HS Girls Basketball team.



- ◇ Representing Mitchell HS

- ◆ Terry Miller (Class of 74)—during his time at Mitchell HS he excelled in 3 sports, as well as leading the football team to the State Finals. Miller went on to play for Oklahoma State and finished 2nd in the Heisman Trophy voting in 1977. He later played for the Buffalo Bills and the Seattle Seahawks.



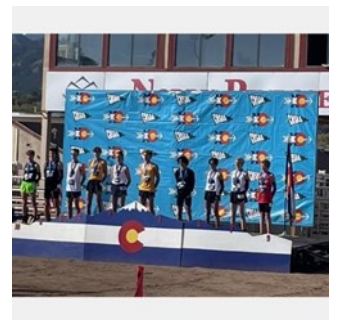
- ◇ Representing Palmer HS

- ◆ The 1980 Palmer HS Girls Swim Team— After having an undefeated season they went on to win the State Championship, setting numerous records.



### Coronado HS—

- Congratulations to the athletes on the Boys Cross Country team from Coronado at the Boys 4A Cross Country State Championship! Coronado student Oliver Horton placed 9th at the championship.



### Doherty HS—

- Congratulations to Doherty’s Soft Ball Team for an excellent season. The Spartans won Best Sportsmanship and Coach Costa won Coach of the Year.



## Good Things Happening in the District (Continued)

### Doherty HS (Continued) -

- The Doherty High School Spartan Legion Marching band finished a spectacular season at the state competition on October 27th. Their show called “The Artist Within” is as much a tribute to Bob Ross as to the power of belief in yourself. They were featured in the Bob Ross podcast S2 Ep 25 <https://experience.bobross.com/happy-little-podcast/> (starting time 12:04)



Congratulations!

### Holmes MS—

- Two of our very own D11 students participated in a creative writing challenge by The Gazette. Kiersten Byrd and Jack Packard, both in 8th grade at Holmes MS, submitted spooky endings for an unfinished story written by Gazette reporter Stephanie Earls.
- Kiersten's conclusion was the winner and Jack took 2nd place! Congratulations!



### Holmes MS & Jenkins MS—

- Congratulations to Iris Lund (piano) and GeonHui Blair (Trombone) of Jenkins Middle School and Katie Jones (Trumpet) of Holmes MS for making it into the Pikes Peak Middle School Honor Jazz Band. They will be performing at Pine Creek High School on Saturday, December 9 at 7:00pm



### Mitchell HS—

- Connor Fields, BMX Gold Medal Olympian, was the Keynote speaker at the Peak Vista Breakfast of Champions on the morning of October 25, 2023. He highlighted the importance of learning from life’s victories and defeats. In the afternoon, he spoke to the students of Mitchell HS. Mr. Fields had an inspiring message on striving to be your best and taking care of your mental health. He was brought to Mitchell HS by our community partner, Peak Vista.



### Rudy ES—

- Each month Principal Fahey & Assistant Principal Molina enjoy visiting and listening to what is important to Rudy Elementary families through “Coffee with the Principals”. A great example of family partnerships.

