

# District Accountability (DAC)

## Newsletter



## UPCOMING DATES:

- January 18, 2024  
Full DAC Meeting  
6:00—8:00pm  
Tesla Educational Opportunity Center and via WebEx
- January 25, 2024  
SAC Training  
6:00—8:00pm  
Tesla Educational Opportunity Center and via WebEx

DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024

### Welcome

Happy Holidays from our District Accountability Committee!

Dear D11 Families, Community, and Staff,

Thank you so much for your continued support of the district! We could not do what we do without all of you. This holiday edition of our newsletter is packed with valuable information, so let's dive right in. I am super excited to introduce a new section to the newsletter called student insight; in this first edition you will meet our new student representative for the DAC.

#### Things to Note:

##### **Choice Window Opening:** December 15th

- The choice window for the upcoming academic year opens on December 15th. Make sure to mark your calendars and take advantage of this opportunity to shape your child's educational journey. Don't forget to share this with your friends!

##### **Quarterly One Plan Reviews with SACs**

- To foster stronger ties between families, schools, and the community, principals will invite all School Accountability Committees (SACs) to participate in quarterly One Plan reviews. Your attendance will contribute to our efforts towards continuous improvement.

##### **DAC Participation in Task Forces**

- We are thrilled to share that DAC is actively participating in task forces dedicated to enhancing district-wide improvements.

##### **Supporting SACs:**

- Agenda Planning Assistance that includes information on budgets.
- Bookmark the brand-new Padlet containing valuable resources for SACs.
- Enhance your understanding of SAC responsibilities by accessing training materials available on the Colorado Department of Education's Family, School, and Community Partnership Online Learning Center.
- Due dates for SACs; Stay informed about crucial deadlines!

We hope this newsletter adds a sprinkle of holiday joy to your day. Thank you for being a vital part of our D11 community. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and restful holiday season!

Marion Clawson

D11-DAC Chair

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*"Help one  
another: there's  
no time like the  
present and no  
present like the  
time".*

*James Durst*

## News & Notes

### Task forces

As presented at the November 1st Board Work session, the district has created a number of task forces. These address the issue of the isolation of Central Administration from other departments and stakeholders. As our goal is to foster collaboration, Superintendent Gaal has invited DAC members to become part of these task forces. These Task Forces seek to connect to the district community and include the DAC in their development. This is something the DAC has been requesting for a long time.

Here is a list of the current task forces and DAC involvement:

- Staffing allocation: Lyman Kaiser
- Digital Process upgrades: Velvet Stepanek
- Evaluation: Lyman Kaiser
- Communication Campaign : Courtney Hertner and Marion Clawson
- New teacher Training/Induction: Marion Clawson
- Future centers: Velvet Stepanek
- Data Dashboard: DAC Accreditation Subcommittee
- Student fee and fines: Velvet Stepanek, Lauren Walker and Alysa Webb

### AMP Conversations

Over the past few months, DAC members Velvet Stepanek, Lyman Kaiser and Marion Clawson have engaged in conversations with Chief Academic Officer Tamara Acevedo and her team regarding the Academic Master Plan ( AMP). In these ongoing meetings, we are collaborating on many questions, including:

- How to advertise our fantastic pathways and great neighborhood schools to highlight the offers in D11?
- How can pathways be extended to Middle School, and how can we make them more clear at the High School level?
- How can we find out what parents look for when choosing a school, and can a survey be created and connected to current school events?

## News & Notes (Continued)

### **Colorado Department of Education's Family, School, and Community Partnerships Online Learning Center Opportunities**

- The Family, School, and Community Partnerships Office is excited to share our Online Learning Center through LearnWorlds. This learning center is a hub of online courses developed by CDE's FSCP Office. The following courses are available to all at no charge and are self-paced. Click on the link to learn more about each course.
- Family, School, and Community Partnerships in Elementary School (New! Target audience: elementary school level staff)
- Family, School, and Community Partnerships in Middle School (New! Target audience: middle school level staff)
- Family, School, and Community Partnerships in High School (New! Target audience: high school level staff)
- Foundations of Family, School, and Community Partnerships (Target audience: those who are new to FSCP)
- Understanding the Role of the School Accountability Committee (New! Target audience: Potential and new SAC members)
- Elevating Your Role as a Family Engagement Liaison (Target audience: School-level family engagement liaisons)
- Colorado's P12 FSCP Framework: User's Guide (Target audience: all)
- Reframing FSCP Online Academy (Target audience: all)



FAMILY  
SCHOOL AND  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS



## News & Notes (Continued)



### CTE Launch Nights

## D11 OPPORTUNITIES TO LAUNCH INFORMATION NIGHTS!

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

**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!

**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 UCCS

EDUCATION personalized

**READY TO LAUNCH?**

All Pre-K through 14 families are invited to launch your D11 journey!

### Student Insight—

Hello Everyone,

*insight*

Greetings! My name is Carissa Rickard, and I'm thrilled to represent you as the student voice on the DAC (District Accountability Committee). In my second year of high school, I find myself immersed in the diverse learning environments of Odyssey ECCO, Palmer High School, and Pikes Peak State College. As your representative, my role is to ensure that your voices are not only heard but actively contribute to the decisions made during DAC meetings. I'm here to bring you the latest updates and important information that directly impact us as students. Your thoughts, questions, and concerns are not just welcome, but crucial in shaping our educational experience. Feel free to reach out to me anytime at [carissa.rickard@d11.org](mailto:carissa.rickard@d11.org). I hope to create a dialogue that enriches our learning environment and ensures that every student's voice is heard. Looking forward to connecting with you all!

Warm regards

# SAC NEWS

## SAC Agenda Planning – December/January (Themes: Catch up and safe learning environment and Budget and funding priorities for school year 2023-24)

- 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 their agendas appropriate to their school needs and emphasis. The following are some of the topics recommended for the December and/or January SAC meetings:
  - Review/discuss safe learning environment (safety, discipline, attendance, student/staff, etc.) Your principal has current discipline and attendance statistics, broken down by poverty and ethnicity subcategories, for the entire school in summary format which should be shared periodically with the SAC to discuss trends. What is the chronic absenteeism rate for your school and how is it being mitigated?
  - Review results of available performance monitoring data, e.g., STAR District Benchmark and Middle of the Year (MOY) DIBELS data and compare to “One Plan”/USIP goals. How is your school doing on students meeting academic growth targets in ELA and math?
  - Review/discuss school budget alignment with “One Plan”/USIP goals and identify school funding shortfalls, e.g.:
    - o Instructional resources to meet multiple learning environments and close COVID related learning gaps.
    - o Technology resources needed for student learning/testing.
    - o Training needed.
- Note: Budget/funding recommendations must be submitted to DAC by Feb 1, 2024, to be considered for the school year 24-25 budget.
- SAC’s can be involved in school budgeting recommendations, think about it, talk about it, and, most importantly, send your recommendation to the DAC in January!
- Review available progress monitoring data results and compare against “One Plan”/USIP goals.

### D11 SAC Resources in one place

Do you want to be able to find ideas to support your SAC quickly? Look at:

<https://padlet.com/vstepanek/D11SACPadlet>

If you have additional ideas that would help you work with your SAC send them to:

[vstepanek@msn.com](mailto:vstepanek@msn.com)



## SAC Training

- The second SAC Training happened on November 30, 2023: Recording and handouts are available: <https://www.d11.org/administration/dac/dac-meeting-handouts-notes/sac-training-hand-outs>

Presenters and Topics discussed included:

- Jessica Wise, Family School, and Community Partnerships, Creating an Inclusive Culture, Examples and idea sharing.
- Christy Feldman- READ Act, updates on DIBELS 8, updates on district Dyslexia support.
- Leilani Mullins and Valerie Scates – Individualized Career and Academic Plans and Future Center Updates.

# SAC NEWS

## Upcoming Deadlines of interest to SACs:

- Any budget/funding recommendations for 23-24 must be submitted to DAC by February 1, 2024.
- READ Act: DIBELS 8 Middle of Year (MOY) testing for K-3 will be December 4-December 20, 2023.
- District Benchmark (STAR) Winter ELA and math tests (grades 2-11, 2<sup>nd</sup> optional) will be December 4 – December 15, 2023.
- ACCESS, the state test for English Language Learner (ELL) students (all eligible K-12 grade students), will be given January 8 – February 9, 2024.
- The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), will be given to all 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students January 8-February 2, 2024. This test is used in identifying gifted and talented students for special instruction support.



## GTAC

- GTAC addressed a wide range of topics in recent meetings this fall! Parents were given a range of resources to learn more about the social and emotional side of gifted learners.
- Emily Andrews shared in depth about the Talent in Pikes Peak program and creativity assessments taking place this fall as part of the identification process for exceptional talent in the arts.
- We also continued discussions about expanding communication to parents about the different programs and services available to gifted and talented students. In particular, the group will be addressing how to provide easy access to information about the unique ways different middle schools support GT students, including Gifted Magnet Programs at Sabin MS and West MS and the Gifted and Talented Academy at North. We are excited about more opportunities to share the resources continuing to grow across D11 in support of the needs of our GT students.

### GT Champions:

Katelyn Graham is leading the GT Champions project and created a flyer with an overview of the program's heart. GT Champions.

For more information see <https://www.d11.org/academics/departments/gt/gifted-and-talented-advisory-committee> or contact GTAC chair Denise [cory.denise@gmail.com](mailto:cory.denise@gmail.com)

**Please follow us on Instagram and encourage your students' schools to follow us!**

**@districteleventg**





*"It takes each of  
us to make a  
difference for all  
of us".*

**Jackie Mutcheson**

## Good Things Happening in the District

### Coronado HS—

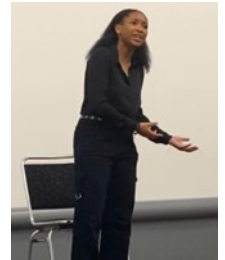
- Congratulations to the nine students at Coronado who were selected for the 2024 Colorado All-State Choir. Being selected for the All-State Choir is very difficult. They worked very hard for this accomplishment! Congratulations: Aztin Arnell, Noah Smith, Dakota Meyers, Yzabela Cardenas, Maggie Starkie, Vera Skar, Solana Henao, Evie Kelley and Kali Schultz.



*Colorado*  
ALL STATE CHOIR

### Mitchell HS—

- Congratulations to Mitchell senior, Leilani Roberts who at this year's state Thespian Conference received an impressive 17 callback auditions and interviews from universities and theatre schools nationwide. In addition to that, she was awarded a total of \$27,169 in scholarships, along with a full ride offer!



### Penrose ES—

- Penrose will be having their next Title 1 family night on Monday, December 18th from 4:30—6:00pm. This winter holiday themed event will include fun games, and literacy activities for families. Santa will be there, and cookies and hot cocoa will also be served.



### Sabin MS—

- Sabin's 8th grade Gifted Magnet Program students competed in a boat challenge as part of their Physics Olympics project. They not only had fun, but learned valuable math lessons. They had to apply math formulas to calculate the buoyancy lines on their boats based on the mass of the cardboard, the participants, and the boat's surface area. Amazing work!

