

# District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter



February 2024

## UPCOMING DATES:

- February 15, 2024  
6:00—8:00pm  
Full DAC meeting  
Tesla, Room  
112/113 and via  
WebEx

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## Welcome

Welcome back to school for the second semester! We hope the start of the year has been filled with positive energy and renewed commitment to educational excellence. As we dive into the heart of the academic year, we're thrilled to share some key updates with you!

The Middle of the Year (MOY) benchmark data is now available. Take a moment to reflect on your school's achievement and growth data. Is your school on track to reach their goals, or is it time to make adjustments?

Look at the 5E parent survey results. If your school had 20% or more responses, your data is now available to review. Ask your principal for the data and consider the trends you see.

With Quarter check-ins for the One Plan done or nearly done. All this information is an excellent opportunity for reflection and adjustments to your school's strategic plan. Your input and feedback are invaluable during this process.

The School Choice Window is still open! We appreciate your choice in selecting D11 for your educational journey. The Choice Window hasn't closed yet, and shadow days are still available. Reach out to any school you are interested in, schedule a visit, and allow your student to spend time there to get a feel for the school. You are encouraged to adjust your decision based on which school best meets your student's needs.

In this Newsletter read the information about some of the following:

- The gifted magnet programs (GMP) from GT facilitator Emily Andrews
- Information about the February DAC meeting
- Accreditation Subcommittee updates
- An announcement from the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

February is CTE Month, Celebrate Career and Technical Education (CTE) month with us! Explore the wealth of information on the CTE website and sign up for their newsletter to stay informed about exciting opportunities and new developments.

Thank you for being an integral part of the D11 family. Only together, can we continue to build a community dedicated to meeting the needs of every student.

Marion Clawson,

District Accountability Committee (DAC) Chair

## News & Notes



*“No act of  
kindness, no  
matter how small,  
is ever wasted”  
Aesop*



**The Choice Open Enrollment window is open until February 15, 2024.**



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.
- Are you interested in CTE programs? We have many to choose from, some of which earn college credit!
- Our Online Enrollment Guide can help you find schools and programs that best fit your family.

To learn more about any of these programs/pathways go to:

<https://www.d11.org/academics/pathways/home>

### **February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month**



The Board of Education passed a resolution at its January 24, 2024 meeting designating February 2024 as Career and Technical Education Month.

- CTE Month recognizes the ongoing leadership and excellence from classrooms across the country and raises awareness around the crucial role that CTE has in readying our nation for economic success and workforce competitiveness.
- CTE classrooms are modern-day laboratories, where students and educators alike are developing the skills that will power the future of postsecondary and workforce readiness (PWR) success.

CTE has started an Opportunity Launch newsletter and would encourage DAC/SAC members who may not be tied to school sites as a parent or employee to subscribe at: <https://www.smores.com/ga479>

## News & Notes (Continued)

### Gifted Magnet Program (GMP) Update

In addition to gifted programming at quality neighborhood schools, the Board of Education approved the proposal that two GMP schools move to two new schools for the 2024-2025 academic year. Please help us “get the word out” to families you interact with who may be interested in this opportunity.

- The Gifted Magnet Program will now be hosted by:
  - ◆ Freedom Elementary School
  - ◆ Stratton Elementary School
  - ◆ Holmes Middle School
  - ◆ Sabin Middle School



The GMP provides 3rd through 8th grade students with gifted programming in all four core academic areas.

#### **GMP will be hosting Informational Meetings:**

- **Sabin Middle School—**
  - ◆ February 1, 2024, 6:00—7:00pm in the Sabin library
- **Holmes Middle School—**
  - ◆ February 8, 2024, 6:00—7:00pm
- **Elementary GMP for rising 4th and 5th grade students:**
  - ◆ Thursday, February 22nd at 5:30pm in the D11 Board Room (1115 N. El Paso St)
- **Elementary GMP for rising 3rd grade students:**
  - ◆ Tuesday, April 9th at 5:30pm in the D11 Board Room (1115 N. El Paso St)
- **The Elementary Team is also hosting Shadow Days on April 29th and 30th, and May 1st**
  - ◆ If your child is interested in experiencing ‘a day in the life’ of a GMP student please contact Beth Graber at [elizabeth.graber@d11.org](mailto:elizabeth.graber@d11.org)
- **The Middle School teams will host shadow opportunities by contacting:**
  - ◆ Becky Marsh for Sabin Middle School at [rebecca.marsh@d11.org](mailto:rebecca.marsh@d11.org)
  - ◆ Tanya Ehlinger for Holmes Middle School at [tanya.ehlinger@d11.org](mailto:tanya.ehlinger@d11.org)

For more information, please visit: <https://www.d11.org/gmp>

- **Rising 3rd graders GMP applications are due April 15**
- **Rising 4th—8th graders GMP applications are due February 15**

Applications reviewed after the deadlines will be reviewed on a space available basis.

The Online Teacher Recommendation Form and Elementary GMP Information can be found at:

<https://www.d11.org/academics/gt/gmp>

## News & Notes (Continued)

### D11 Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Presents:



#### **Mitchell Inspiration: A Journey to Self Advocacy**

- Come share the journey as Mitchell High School students discuss their experience through the lens of the Self –Directed IEP.
- Mitchell Inspiration is a group of students who boldly share their journey to empowerment and efficacy in their education and their lives.
- With the support of Jennifer Hagood, Special Education Facilitator, these students have learned the meaning and importance of Self Determination.

***Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 5:15 pm - 7:00 pm***

***Tesla Professional Development Building***

***2560 International Circle Colo. Springs, Co. 80910***

#### **5 Essentials Parent Survey Data Available**

- Check if your school received results from 5 Essentials Parent Survey. Data is available for the majority of District 11 schools. Look at the data in an upcoming SAC meeting.



#### **5 Essentials Survey for Students, Teachers, and most school staff**

- This 20–30-minute electronic survey will be administered from ***January 30 to February 16*** to students in grades 4-12, all teachers and most school staff. At least 50% participation is needed to get school level reports which will be shared in early April.

### Town Hall—Fentanyl Awareness

Join D11 and District Attorney Michael Allen for a powerful and informative Town Hall to raise awareness about Fentanyl. All parents and community members are invited. Know the truth. Save a life.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 6:00pm-7:30pm at [Sabin Middle School](#).

“Fentanyl is the single deadliest drug threat our nation has ever encountered. Fentanyl is everywhere. From large metropolitan areas to rural America, no community is safe from this poison. We must take every opportunity to spread the word to prevent fentanyl-related overdose death and poisonings from claiming scores of American lives every day.”

- DEA Administrator Anne Milgram

**FENTANYL AWARENESS**

Town Hall Open to ALL Parents  
Presented by  
District Attorney Michael Allen

**Tuesday, February 20**  
6:00pm - 7:30pm  
Sabin Middle School

Do you know the warning signs of fentanyl use?  
Be informed. Be aware.  
Learn how to talk to your children about the real dangers of fentanyl.  
It could save a life.

## News & Notes (Continued)

### Accreditation Subcommittee Update



- Before the winter break, we discussed Panorama data and the way it is used within the district.
- Panorama data is mostly used within the counseling department and at the school level to guide specific conversations about their school's climate.
- Overall, the sense of belonging is growing in Elementary School (ES) and Middle School (MS), yet the score of 41% for MS and High School (HS) is still very low (compared to national data). However, the connection between teachers and students is gaining, especially in MS where it is over 53%!
- Self Efficacy, how much students believe they can succeed in achieving academic outcomes, is still low at 53% in ES, and 43% in MS and HS.
- Overall there is a strong upward trend in the data, MS teachers perceived their students' emotional regulation at 80%. That's an eleven point gain.
- How Panorama data is used in collaboration between parents, students and school is a question to discuss at SAC meetings.
- The Middle of the Year (MOY) benchmark data is encouraging and the majority of D11 schools are growing by more than 50 Median Growth Percentile (MGP). However, the achievement scores will take time to catch up. It was great to see that our priority improvement and turnaround schools are moving their kids out of the red, the bottom category, which is very encouraging for the teams at those schools! For more detailed data check out the Board of Education work session for January 17, 2024.
- The conversation about the MOY STAR benchmark test brought up the fact that the parent report is different from the family report that a school can produce. The committee discussed the usefulness of the STAR resources provided to parents. The committee also covered the need to teach parents how to use STAR data and opportunities for collaboration between teachers, students, and parents to set and achieve specific goals.
- SIGN UP for your student's STAR parent report in 3 easy steps:
  - 1) Have your student log in to the STAR website on their Chromebook
  - 2) Scroll all the way down and enter your email
  - 3) A confirmation email will be sent to you, accept it to get a report next time the test is taken.



*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”*

*Margaret Mead*

## News & Notes (Continued)

### DAC Information

Join us for the DAC meeting on February 15, 2024 from 6:00—8:00pm, in person at the Tesla Development Center or via WebEx. The WebEx link will be available on the D11/DAC website an hour before the meeting starts. The February DAC meeting will have a panel discussion on student led conferences. We will also discuss alternative ways to communicate student achievement with a focus on the impact on family and community engagement.

- At the last meeting, we shared results from a national study of parents of K-12 public school students about their experience with, and their perceptions of, their children’s educational achievement.
- Nine (9) out of ten (10) parents say their child is at or above grade level.
- The majority of parents use report cards as the primary measure of their child’s progress. About eight (8) out of ten (10) parents say their child(ren) receive Bs and above. District data shows that the percentage of students at or above grade level is significantly lower than this with 32.9 at or above grade level for math and 44% for reading.
- The study revealed that parents who understand their child is not at grade level are likely to worry more and are more likely to engage with their child’s teacher.
- Report cards aren’t the only measure to consider.

[https://belearninghero.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/B-flation\\_Gallup\\_Learning-Heroes\\_Report-FINAL.pdf](https://belearninghero.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/B-flation_Gallup_Learning-Heroes_Report-FINAL.pdf)

### 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>

*New resources are being added all the time. New Engaging Stakeholders during Planning Resource*

If you have additional ideas that would help you work with your SAC, send them to Velvet Stepanek at: [vstepanek@msn.com](mailto:vstepanek@msn.com)

### Love The Bus Month

February is Love The Bus Month! Love The Bus Month is celebrated every February and is dedicated to the influence of the school bus in American school culture. This holiday appreciates the individuals and organizations involved in the operation of school buses, including the drivers! Thank you to everyone involved in transporting our students safely in District 11!



## SAC News

### SAC Training

- The third SAC Training occurred on January 25, 2024: Recording and handouts are available: <https://www.d11.org/administration/dac/dac-meeting-handouts-notes/sac-training-hand-outs>
- Presenters and Topics discussed included:
  - ◆ Trailblazer Elementary Team – What Trailblazer is doing to attract new students.
  - ◆ Dr. David Khaliqi and Natasha Krouse – Understanding STAR Data, questions SACs can ask, how data coaches are supporting schools, help in understanding the STAR Family Report.
  - ◆ Dr. Brandan Comfort – Understanding school budgets, Allovue tool, what’s coming with student-based budgeting, updated SAC Budget Handbook.

**SAVE THE DATE:** The next SAC Training/Information Session will be held April 4, 2024, 6:00 – 8:00PM at Tesla and via WebEx. Details will be sent out at a later date.

### Deadlines of interest to SACs:

- 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.

### **SAC Agenda Planning – February (Themes: Mid-yr “One Plan”/USIP progress review)**

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 February SAC meeting:

- If not done in Jan, principal and teachers provide relevant 1<sup>st</sup> semester achievement data (including Winter District Benchmark, MOY DIBELS, and ACCESS for ELLs test results) and compare against “One Plan”/USIP goals.
- Progress in reading, writing, math, social studies and science.
- Progress on Response to Intervention (RTI)/Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS) and associated achievement gap strategies.
- Progress on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) successes/challenges. (Information about Random Acts of Kindness (RAK), Capturing Kids Hearts, Second Step, or Restorative Practices depending on school level)
- Progress on student discipline and “safe learning environment” initiatives.
- Progress on parent engagement for student learning, including training in PowerSchool and supporting technology.

## Good Things Happening in the District

### Coronado HS—

- On Thursday, January 18, 2024 at the Roy J. Wasson Academic Campus, 15 of Coronado's best singers were selected for the D11 High School Honor Choir. Honor Choir is an annual event for HS singers who come together for a full day of rehearsal, culminating with an evening concert.



- Congratulations to: Aztin Arnell, Yzabela Cardenas, Cadence Clausell, Jared Dooyema, Brennen Gannon, Solana Henato, Evelyn Kelley, Sabina Lasswell, Annahi Marin, Dakota Meyers, Kali Schultz, Vera Skar, Noah Smith, Maggie Starkie, and Virginia Varbel

### Doherty HS—

- Congratulations to Amanda Malsam on her appointment to the Air Force Academy! Her dedication and commitment are truly commendable. Best wishes on this incredible journey!
- A huge congratulations to Doherty HS bassist, Charlie DeGrove on a lights-out and truly inspiring performance with this year's All State Jazz concert. He's been hard at work this school year and also played for the All-City Jazz Band, earning this year's Maureen Otto Memorial Grant Scholarship. He was also one of three Colorado students recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts with a Young Arts award for 2024! Congratulations!
- The official ribbon cutting for the **first D11 Future Ready Center** at Doherty HS took place on Thursday, January 18th at 5:00pm. It brought together Spartans, D11 and many community organizations. The Doherty Culinary class did a fantastic job providing refreshments for the event.



### Edison ES—

- Congratulations to 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Lolita Wilson who is a D11 Crystal Apple nominee. Mrs. Wilson has been a valued member of the Edison ES staff since August 2000, and has meant so much to students, families and the community over the years.



## Good Things Happening in the District

### Jackson ES—

- What a treat for D11 and Jackson Elementary D11! Madison Marsh, the newly crowned Miss America, visited Jackson to meet with the students and share her inspirational story.
- When Ms. Marsh returned to Colorado after her win, she contacted Jackson's theater teacher, Monica Slabach (former Miss Colorado) to come to Jackson ES as her first stop!
- Ms. Marsh has been to Jackson on multiple occasions over the past few years. As an Air Force cadet, she has come to Jackson to read, spend time with students, and share her career path, since Jackson is an AVID school. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a comprehensive initiative aimed at promoting college and career readiness throughout the school. It is a college readiness system for elementary through higher education that is designed to increase schoolwide learning and performance. The Elementary level works to close the opportunity gap before it begins.

Congratulations, Ms. Marsh!



### Mitchell HS—



- Congratulations to Mitchell HS National Honor Society inductees: Rhyland, Michael, Eliariz, Jesus, Alyssa and Daphne. This honor reflects the leadership, scholarship, and service they give to the community.



### Rogers ES

- This past week at Rogers, the students were given the gift of books! News channel KOAA and Scholastic teamed up with the viewers to raise money for their "If you give a child a book campaign." Every student was able to take home 5 books for FREE! It was a lot of fun! The students were very excited! We want to thank KOAA and the viewers who donated!



If you have good news to share about your school, please email Trudy Tool at:

[Trudy.Tool@d11.org](mailto:Trudy.Tool@d11.org)