

District Accountability (DAC) October Newsletter



OCTOBER 2024

UPCOMING DATES:

- **October 2, 2024,**
DAC Membership/
Charges will go to the
Board as a non-action
item
- **October 10, 2024,**
DAC Meeting,
In person (Tesla) and
via WebEx,
6:00—8:00pm

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Welcome

Welcome to your October newsletter and the season of fall festivals, Trunk or Treats and Halloween decorations everywhere. It is a great time to have fun and build community.

- The SAC training was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who came, it was wonderful to see you again or meet you for the first time. We had a great turnout.
- Elevating our community involvement and strengthening our SACs is a major focus for the DAC this year. We will work on strategies and action steps at the *October 10th* DAC meeting. All DAC meetings are public meetings, please attend in person or listen in via WebEX, the link can be found at www.d11.org/DAC in time for the start of the meeting at 6 pm.
- SAC training is a must- be- there event. The next one is *on December 5th*. In case you weren't able to attend the family and community partnership session last week, check out the resources shared in the [hand out](#) and this [free training course](#) from CDE.
- In September, Velvet and I presented at the K-12 Principal meeting about SAC. Almost 70% of principals said they understand the purpose of SAC and 63% would like support to boost their SAC. The DAC is here to help. Do we have all the answers? Probably not! But we know a lot and are here to help. Together we can figure out small steps for a big impact, just reach out to [me](#).

Read along to learn about:

- Agenda ideas
- The importance of the 5E parent survey
- Parent access to CMAS data
- The new SAC Handbook and SAC resources
- Ways to be involved at the DAC

I hope you will have a great time at Parent-Teacher conferences and the many community events during this season.

Don't forget, we all ARE D11

Yours in partnership

Marion Clawson

D11 DAC chair

News & Notes

News & Notes

NEEDED- MILL LEVY OVERRIDE (MLO) CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- School District 11's Ballot Issues were approved by voters, in 2000 and 2017, which called for the formation of a Citizens' Oversight Committee to monitor implementation, performance and use of the Mill Levy Override (MLO) funding.
- The Committee meets monthly at the District 11 Administration Complex (1115 North El Paso Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado) to review and monitor both the 2000 and 2017 MLO funds.

For more information visit: <https://www.d11.org/administration/mlo/mill-levy-override-mlo>

- More Committee members are needed! If you would like to be a part of this invaluable program please contact Kim Gilstrap at: kimberly.gilstrap@d11.org or call 719-520-2010.

Encourage 5 Essentials Parent Survey

- 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 five essential factors for school improvement are:
 1. Effective Leaders
 2. Collaborative Teachers
 3. Involved Families
 4. Supportive Environment
 5. Ambitious Instruction.
- The survey is given to students and educators. There is also a parent survey portion. The parent portion of the 5 Essentials survey will be given in D11 in October. Encourage all families to take this survey for each of their schools. The results are important input for school improvement planning.



NEWS

SchoolLinks

- SchoolLinks is the official college and career readiness platform for District 11 students. Schoollinks is replacing Naviance for Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAPs).
- It helps students and their families create an individualized roadmap to serve each student's unique skills, interests, and goals for the future. Ask at your school what is happening for student and family access. See: <https://www.d11.org/schoollinks>



Parents needed for DAC subcommittees

The DAC Budget and the DAC Accreditation subcommittees are looking for parent volunteers. You need to be a member of your school SAC to be on the DAC subcommittees. If you think you are interested fill out the form at: <https://www.d11.org/administration/dac/home/interest-form>

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conference dates changed this year based on the school calendar. We want your input. Ask your families, staff, and students how it went this year. We will gather feedback at the next SAC training.



Family, School & Community Partnerships

At the October 10th DAC Meeting, we are fortunate to have Dr. Darcy Hutchins, Director of Family, School, and Community Partnerships at CDE coming to facilitate a conversation on SAC & DAC connection.

Below you will find some promising practices that can help in building your SAC or DAC.

SAC/DAC ON TRACK

- Offer flexible meeting times—some schools alternate months of morning and evening accountability committee meetings.
- Personally invite prospective members—directly reaching out or nominating new members goes a long way.
- Have families recruit other families—parents are your best spokespeople to share information about SAC and DAC.

Be visible—many families don't join the SAC or DAC because they don't know it exists. Consider including a SAC/DAC update in your regular newsletter.

The [SAC and DAC homepage](#) on the CDE website has a lot of information for districts to use for training accountability committee members.

SAC News & Updates

Attendance, Behavior, and Cell Phone Policies

The Attendance, Behavior, and Cell Phone policies had changes this school year. Here are some questions that can be discussed at your meetings when reviewing information at your SAC meeting:

Attendance – What might SACs see or ask about?

- What are you noticing about attendance data in the data dashboard?
- What is the school's attendance rate?
- How is our school doing with taking attendance in the first ten minutes?
- What is our chronic absence rate?
- What are your procedures beyond robocalls for contacting parents when absences occur?
 - After unexcused absences in all or portions of two days within a rolling 30-day timeframe, parents will receive a personal phone call from school personnel (attendance, counselor, administration, teacher)

Behavior – What might SACs see or ask about?

- What are you noticing about behavior data this year as compared to last?
- How is the common office referral process going?
- What are the practices we use that we to develop engaging learning environments?

Personal Technology (Cell Phones) – What might SACs see or ask about?

- What are you noticing this year as compared to last with personal technology not being used on campus?
- How is the implementation of the cell phone policy going?
- MS/HS: How is Yondr pouch use going?
- How do administration and security support teachers when there is a phone incident?

Parent Access to Student Information on CMAS Testing Data



COLORADO
Department of Education

Most schools provide Spring 2024 test results at October conferences. These scores are also available on PowerSchool when your logged on in a browser. The following page from the state gives you access to fact sheets on how to understand your student's individual score sheet:

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/resourcesforparents>

SAC News & Updates (Continued)



Key Dates of Interest for SACs

- **October 15:** All school improvement plans are **due for public posting and CDE review.**
- **Note:** Any newly identified Priority Improvement or Turnaround schools have until January 15, 2025 to submit their plan to CDE.

SAC Agenda Planning—OCTOBER (Theme: Instructional Focus)

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 October SAC meeting:

- Look at the 2024 School Performance Framework (SPF)
- Review/discuss School Readiness plan for kindergarten and READ Act implementation, funding, and student status/results, e.g., DIBELS8 fall test results (ES only)
- Review school focus on Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAPs).
- Review Fall District Benchmark and other progress monitoring data results (if available) and compare against "One Plan"/USIP goals.
- Review Early Warning System data since start of school and identify areas of concern in academics, discipline, and attendance.
- Encourage communication for parent 5 Essentials survey participation.
- Discuss status/success of school-wide discipline policies/plan and "safe learning environment".

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."
- Jane D. Hull

SAC News Continued

SAC Training Handouts Available -

The first SAC training of the school year occurred on September 26.

Handouts are available at: <https://www.d11.org/administration/dac/home/dac-meeting-handouts-notes/sac-training-hand-outs>



SAC Resources in one location on this Padlet:

Do you need reminders and help for working on your SAC? This padlet has access to a variety of things to help run your SAC more effectively.

Use this QR Code or click on this link: [My SAC Padlet](#)



NEW SAC Handbook Available!

The 2024-25 SAC Handbook is available. The handbook has been revamped and includes more information to help your SAC. Provide any feedback to Velvet Stepanek at vstepanek@msn.com

You can access the handbook at: <https://www.d11.org/administration/dac/home/sac-handbook-cde-dac-handbook>

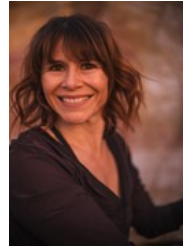


Good Things Happening in the District



District—

- Congratulations to DAC Chair, Marion Clawson for receiving the 2024 Parent of the Year Award from the Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented. This award recognizes Marion's dedication and efforts in the name of gifted students and their families. Marion will be honored and receive her award at the Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented state conference on Monday, October 21st. Well deserved!
- In partnership with Harrison District 2 and Diversus Health, D11 launched the first ever Diversified Minds Mental Health Institute on September 12th at the Roy J. Wasson Academic Campus. Students from D2 and D11 tackled mental health myths, enjoyed *laugh* yoga and kicked off a unique mental health cohort containing 25 participating students. This initiative will offer students training, networking and job opportunities in the Health Field. This Mental Health Career Pathway is the first of its kind in D11.



Twain ES—

- Congratulations to Twain ES who received a generous \$5,000 donation from Burlington Stores, thanks to their partnership with [AdoptAClassroom.org](https://www.adoptaclassroom.org).
- This contribution will provide essential school supplies for our students, ensuring they have everything they need to succeed!
- A huge thank you to Burlington for their commitment to supporting our local schools!



West Campus—

On October 11th, from 4:00—7:00pm, West will celebrate a century of learning, growth, and community at West Campus! Nestled in the heart of Old Colorado City, this historic school has been home to generations of students, teachers, and families! The community is invited to attend this awesome event. Bring the whole family and reconnect with the past, while celebrating the future.

