



COLORADO
Department of Education

District Accountability Committee Orientation

July 17, 2025

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Introduce yourself

- In your opinion, what is the purpose/role of the District Accountability Committee?
- Why did you want to serve on the DAC?

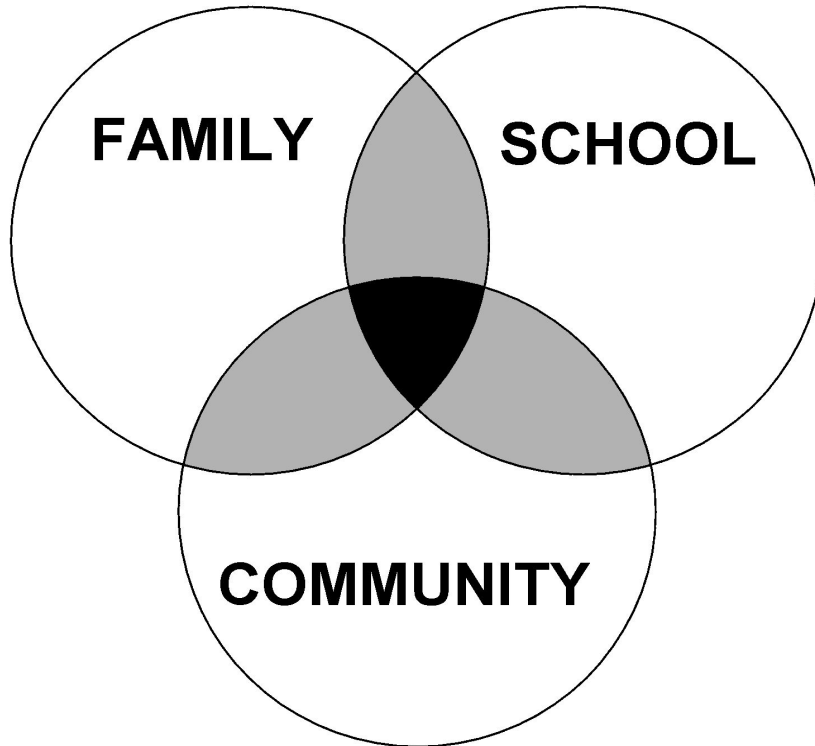


Agenda

- **Overview of Colorado Law**
- **DACs across Colorado**
- **Family-School-Community Partnerships**
- **Follow-Up and Next Steps**

Overlapping Spheres of Influence

Epstein, 1995



Dependent on
Experience,
Philosophy,
Practices
of School

Agenda

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- **Follow-Up and Next Steps**



- Meet at least quarterly
- Review progress on Improvement Plan throughout year
- Budget and priorities
- Priority Improvement/Turnaround
 - Public Hearing
 - Review of UIP and recommendations to board
- Principal development to DAC (e.g., provide principal feedback on their support of SAC)
- Recruitment
- Family Engagement Policy Implementation
- Recommendation on READ, ICAP, Truancy

Composition

- Parent chair (1)
- Parent (3+)
- School Administrator (1+)
- Teacher (1+)
- Business Community (1+)

Representatives must:

- Reflect student population
- Not be employed by the district/school

Overview of Law – School vs District



	DAC	• Reports to School Board • Charter Applications • Determine areas of study & recommendation
	SAC	• Reports to Principal • Rec to School Board re: schools on clock • Rec to DAC re: principal development plans
	SAC & DAC	• Budget • Review UIP • Parent Engagement • Policy • READ Plan, ICAP, Truancy

Timeline for SACs and DAC to engage with the UIP



Aug-Oct 2025

- Review 2025-26 UIP and provide feedback to district.

Nov-May 2025-26

- Progress Monitor UIP – District may provide updates on implementation for feedback from DAC

March-May 2026

- 2026-27 UIP Template Available- begin planning for next school year

Aug-Oct 2026

- Review 2026-27 UIP and provide feedback to district

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Special Considerations



1

Ensure timely and easily understood communication in multiple languages, formats and media

2

Provide food and childcare

3

Offer flexible options for participation (days, times, locations)

4

Gather/use perception data to guide the work and the norms

5

Provide training

6

Change the name of the committee

7

Capitalize on and support social networks



- **Welcome new members**

- Provide opportunities for groups to get to know each other
- Provide time for members to share stories
- Ice breakers
- Help members find things in common

- **Ongoing training for all members**

- Orientation for new members
- Mentorships

- **Communication Plan**

- Group website or handbook
- Using group email/other tech to communicate outside the meeting

- **Make it fun!**

Meeting Structures



PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS

- Be prepared as a group
- Start and end on time
- Have information needed to make decisions in advance
- Make sure you aren't missing someone critical
- Follow a meeting agenda
- Clear direction, path, guidance
- Appropriate follow up

<https://servingongroups.org/>

UNPRODUCTIVE MEETINGS

- Participants aren't prepared
- No agenda in advance
- Group doesn't follow agenda
- Not everyone considers themselves "participants"
- Data is lacking or decisions made not based on data
- No action items highlighted
- No timelines, deadlines, follow ups set



SAC Member Testimonials

"I'm so grateful that I found SAC as the way I can support our school. It's the perfect place for me to learn about how things work behind the scenes, and to build great working relationships with our school leadership where I can provide constructive support and perspective, to be an informed advocate for what our school needs." –Parent



"The SAC allowed me to hear parent feedback about what was happening at the school. I was able to give this input to other teachers to make positive changes for students."
–Teacher

"Being on SAC as a parent gives me a deep insight into the heartbeat of the district. The SAC gave me information and tools to help my school become the best it could be. I am proud that my kids are part of this district." –Parent

"Serving on the SAC at the high school has helped me understand at a much more granular level the challenges students, teachers, and administrators face. This has helped me advocate more effectively." –Community Member

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What are Family-School-Community Partnerships?



Five Roles Families Play to Accelerate Student Learning



COMMUNICATE
HIGH EXPECTATIONS



MONITOR
THEIR CHILD'S PERFORMANCE



SUPPORT
LEARNING AT HOME

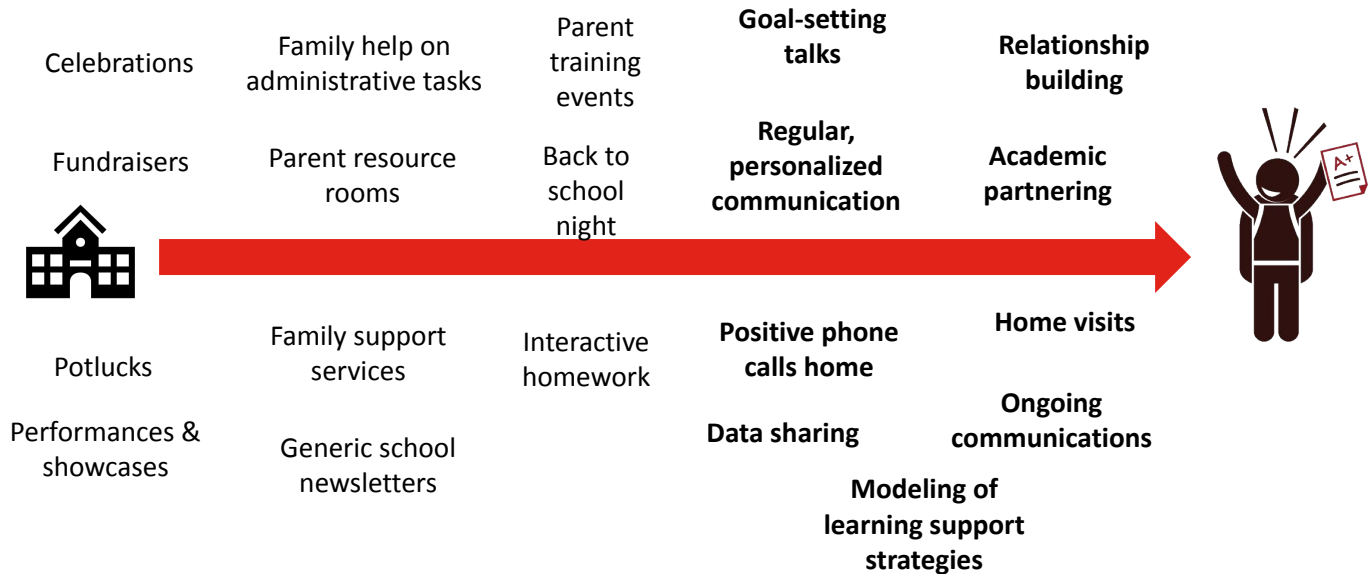


GUIDE
THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION

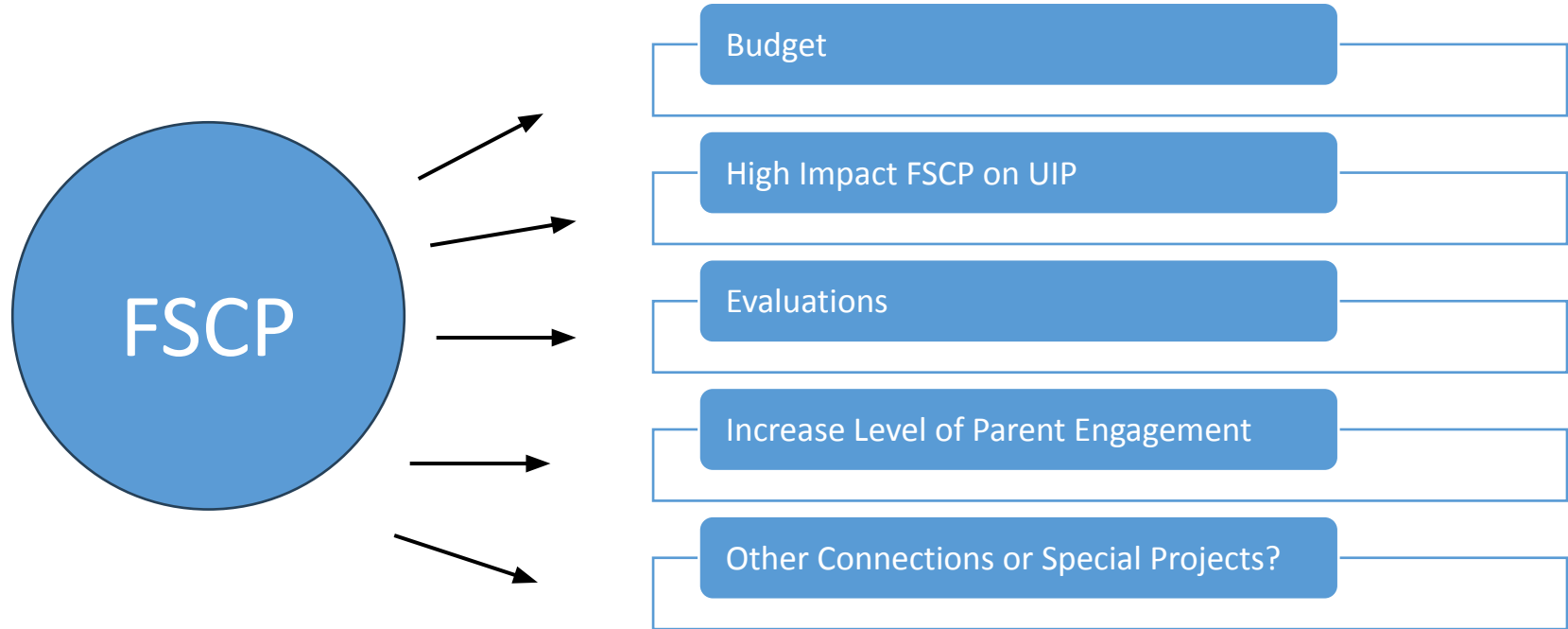


ADVOCATE
FOR THEIR CHILD

CONTINUUM OF IMPACT



DAC and FSCP as an Improvement Strategy





Families as Critical Stakeholders

- Parents largest group
- Parent chair or co-chair
- Significantly represented populations of students

Family, School, Community Partnerships as a Strategy

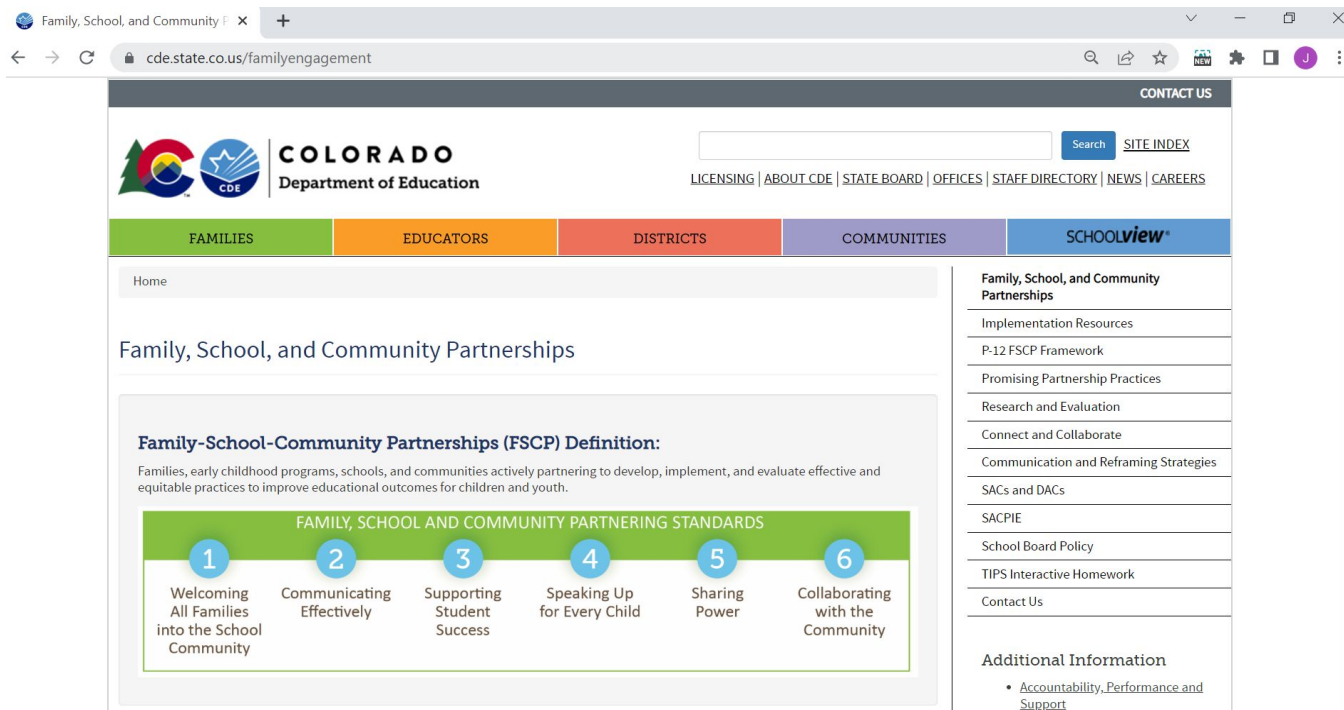
- Publicizing membership opportunities
- Assisting implementation of district's family engagement policy
- Assisting school personnel to increase parents' engagement with educators

*How can the
DAC help
DCSD schools
strengthen
family-school-
community
partnerships?*

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Office of FSCP Website and Resources



The screenshot shows the CDE website at cde.state.co.us/familyengagement. The page features the CDE logo and navigation links. A horizontal menu includes FAMILIES, EDUCATORS, DISTRICTS, COMMUNITIES, and SCHOOLview®. The main content area is titled "Family, School, and Community Partnerships" and includes a definition of FSCP and a set of six partnering standards. A sidebar on the right lists various resources and additional information.

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Department of Education

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Family, School, and Community Partnerships

Family-School-Community Partnerships (FSCP) Definition:

Families, early childhood programs, schools, and communities actively partnering to develop, implement, and evaluate effective and equitable practices to improve educational outcomes for children and youth.

FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERING STANDARDS

- 1 Welcoming All Families into the School Community
- 2 Communicating Effectively
- 3 Supporting Student Success
- 4 Speaking Up for Every Child
- 5 Sharing Power
- 6 Collaborating with the Community

Family, School, and Community Partnerships

- Implementation Resources
- P-12 FSCP Framework
- Promising Partnership Practices
- Research and Evaluation
- Connect and Collaborate
- Communication and Reframing Strategies
- SACs and DACs
- SACPIE
- School Board Policy
- TIPS Interactive Homework
- Contact Us

Additional Information

- Accountability, Performance and Support

THANK YOU!

[Office of FSCP Website](#)
hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us



DCSD DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE ORIENTATION

JULY 18, 2024



FIRST AND FOREMOST....



DCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION – GOVERNING STYLE

The Board will govern lawfully with an emphasis on

- (a) outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation,
- (b) diversity in viewpoints and sufficient understanding of issues,
- (c) strategic leadership more than administrative detail,
- (d) clear distinction of Board and chief executive roles,
- (e) collective rather than individual decisions,
- (f) future rather than past or present, and
- (g) pro-activity rather than reactivity.

GP 1.6 - DCSD BOARD COMMITTEE PRINCIPLES

Board committees, when used, will be assigned so as to reinforce the wholeness of the Board's job and so as never to interfere with delegation from Board to Superintendent.

PURPOSE OF THE DAC - FOR THE BOARD

To help the Board accomplish a portion of its job, and as more specifically requested by the Board in cooperation with the committee:

- (a) written alternatives and their implications concerning Ends issues, their costs and priorities, and including educational results to be achieved for students by the District;
- (b) written alternatives and their implications for all other Board policies, including limitations on District operations or staff means, which includes expectations for the safety of students;
- (c) Opportunities for the Board to meet with community groups or other methods of gathering community opinion.

PURPOSE OF THE DAC – SUPERINTENDENT/DISTRICT

For the Superintendent/District:

- (a) a review and recommendations concerning school improvement plans;
- (b) recommendations and appropriate reviews concerning accreditation, expenditures, and transportation fees;
- (c) such other legally-prescribed duties, to the extent necessary or requested by the Superintendent;
- (d) such other products as are reasonably requested by the Superintendent, in cooperation with the committee, delivered on a schedule reasonably determined by the Superintendent

DAC AUTHORITY

- This committee shall have authority granted by **law**, by its **by-laws** and by **Board policy**.
- Law and by-laws shall be interpreted by Board legal counsel.
- Board policy shall be interpreted reasonably by the Board's liaison(s), or if unavailable, by the Board President.
- The committee's by-laws shall be acceptable to the Board, its legal counsel and the Superintendent.

DCSD DAC PRIORITIES

Board Resolution– DAC Areas of Focus

1. Give advice concerning preparation of and recommendation regarding the Unified Improvement Plan. C.R.S. 22-11-302(1)(b)
2. Give input concerning budget priorities. C.R.S.22-11-302 (1)(a)
3. Give advice to increase parent engagement. C.R.S. 22-11-302(1)(g)
4. Give advice on the Continuous Improvement of Teacher Effectiveness (CITE) teacher evaluation rubric. C.R.S. 22-9-107(2)
5. Expand engagement strategies with SACs affected by Growth and Decline in the North Planning Area.
6. Engage with SACs regarding their ability and limitations to engage their communities around a potential bond issue.

Other DAC topics: As identified by section 3.09 C.R.S. C.R.S. 33-1-302(1)(f) and as determined by the Board of Education.

DCSD DAC SUB-COMMITTEES

- Unified Improvement Planning*
- Membership
- Budget
- Parent Engagement
- Communication
- Forum Planning

* DAC convened a special meeting to complete

DCSD DAC AD-HOC COMMITTEES

- Waiver Requests
- Code of Conduct
- DAC Bylaws
- CART (Charter Application Review Team)

OPEN MEETING / “SUNSHINE” LAWS

The Open Meeting Law applies to any "local public body," which is defined by the statute as "any board, committee, commission, authority, or other advisory, policy-making, rule-making, or formally constituted body of any political subdivision of the state and any public or private entity to which a political subdivision, or an official thereof, has delegated a governmental decision-making function..."
C.R.S. 24-6-402(1)(a)(I).

QUIZ - DAC Responsibilities

Not all issues are under the purview of the DAC. Which of the following topics does the DAC make recommendations (or advice) to the Board?

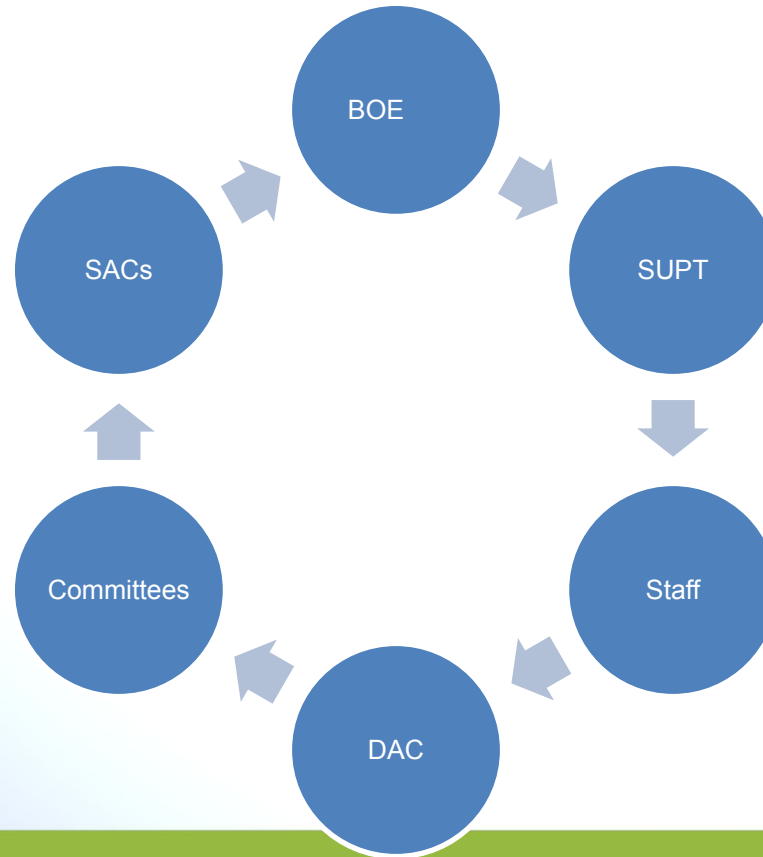
1. DCSD Improvement plan
2. Staffing decisions
3. DCSD Spending Priorities
4. Increasing Parent Engagement
5. Bond projects
6. Teacher evaluation rubrics
7. DCSD Budget
8. Building modifications
9. Charter school applications
10. Evaluating Programs

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HOW DO WE ALL WORK TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY?



ADDITIONAL DCSD BOARD COMMITTEES

- [Fiscal Oversight Committee](#) - The primary function of the Fiscal Oversight Committee (FOC) is to assist the Board of Education in fulfilling its fiscal oversight responsibilities.
- [Long Range Planning Committee](#) - The charge of the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) is to study school district sites, boundaries and capacity needs.
- [Mill Bond Oversight Ad Hoc Committee](#) - The purpose of the Mill Bond Oversight Ad-Hoc Committee (MBOC) is to become familiar with the 2018 Mill Levy Override and bond program and project list.
- [Mill Bond Exploratory Ad Hoc Committee](#) - The charge of the Mill Bond Exploratory Committee (MBEC) shall be to explore the needs of the district, both ongoing operational and capital needs, and to assess the feasibility of a successful Mill Levy Override (MLO) and/or Bond issue on future ballots.
- [Student Advisory Group](#) - The Student Advisory Group (SAG) provides an opportunity for the Board and District personnel to have a focus group of high school students who express what they think is important regarding their education.

OTHER COMMITTEES/COUNCILS

- Douglas County Gifted Education Advisory Council
- Douglas County Special Education Advisory Committee
- Douglas County Equity Advisory Council
- Douglas County Conexión
- Individual School Accountability Committees

COMMUNICATIONS -- Points of Contact

- DCSD points of contact
 - Matt Reynolds, DAC Staff Liaison
 - Susan Meek and Christy Williams, DAC Board Liaisons
 - Alison Rausch, Parent & Family Engagement Staff Liaison
- DAC points of contact
 - Julie Gooden, DAC Chair
 - Jenny Brown, DAC Communications