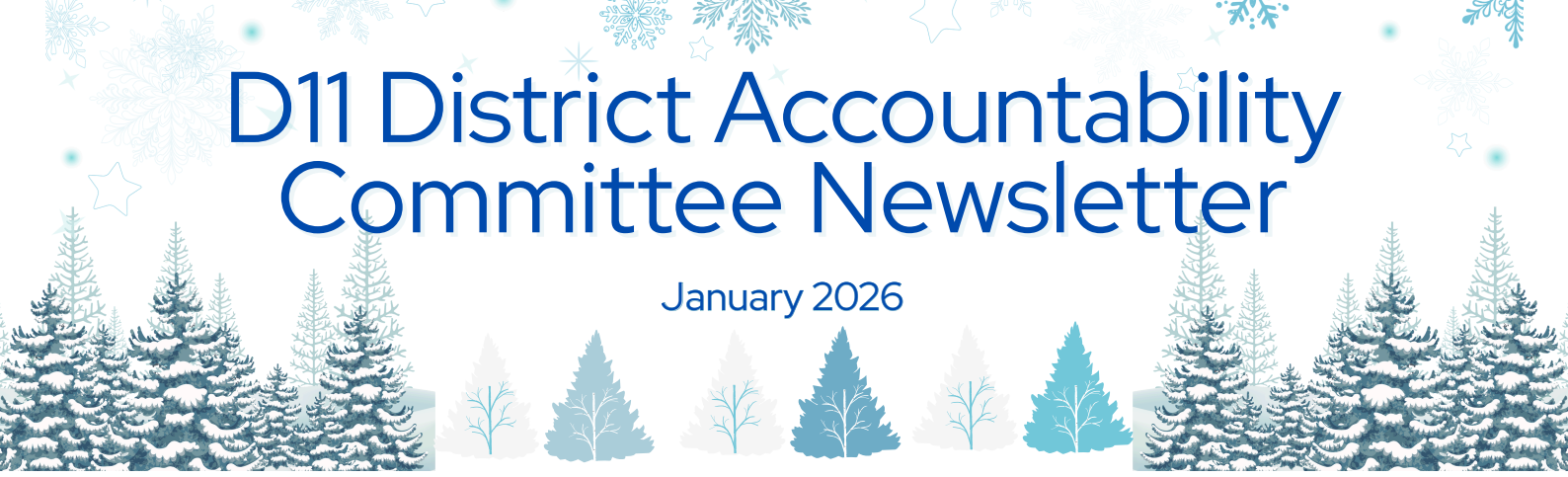




D11 District Accountability Committee Newsletter

January 2026

Welcome

Welcome to the DAC Newsletter, and Happy New Year! 🎉

I hope you are feeling rested, refreshed, and ready to take on the 2nd Semester of the school year. A new year often brings new energy—and if 2026 is calling you to get more involved, we would love to welcome you to the DAC or one of our subcommittees. There are several open positions listed in this newsletter, or you can simply reach out to us through the “Let’s Talk” feature on the D11/DAC website. We truly want to hear your voice.

As the DAC, our work goes beyond elevating community voice—we also focus on empowering our School Accountability Committees (SACs) to use their voices effectively. One exciting opportunity to do just that is our upcoming **SAC Workshop on January 29**. This workshop is a BIG opportunity to learn how your input can directly influence how your school spends its funding.

The Board uses Student/Site-Based Budgeting as a key strategy to connect funding to improvement efforts at every school. Under state law, SACs are charged with providing input to principals on school spending priorities. At this workshop, you’ll learn how site-based budgeting works and how your voice plays a vital role in that process.

If you aren’t currently receiving emails about SAC workshops, please fill out the [sign-up form](#) so we can keep you in the loop. You can also check [the district calendar](#) for meeting details and be sure to RSVP for dinner and childcare.

Thank you for being an active and valued part of our D11 community. I look forward to working together and making 2026 a productive and impactful year for our schools.

Cheers,
Marion Clawson
D11 DAC Chair

December DAC Meeting

Our December DAC meeting was both productive and festive—we shared cookies along with thoughtful feedback on the new meeting structure. Members offered insights on what’s working well and what’s not.

The district also presented information on the **Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)** framework, which is designed to support student success by meeting diverse academic and behavioral needs through prevention and targeted intervention. We learned that the district is implementing a **regional model** for academic support, with dedicated roles to better serve schools. A new **pilot program** is also underway to improve data collection and intervention tracking—an area the DAC has raised concerns about in the past.

Additionally, the district shared data showing **significant decreases in reported behavior incidents** across multiple school levels. DAC members had several questions and comments about this data, sparking a brief discussion. We were shown **improved attendance rates**, which point to stronger student engagement and support systems.

January DAC Meeting

Join us for our January meeting on January 15 from 5:30-8:00 PM at Tesla.

The Accreditation Subcommittee will be looking at the MOY (Middle of Year) STAR testing data and sharing the progress being made in our D11 schools. We will also be discussing DDI (Data Driven Instruction).

Accreditation Subcommittee Update

Accreditation's meeting in December started with a review of completion rates for 5E parent. This year, we had the highest completion rate, increasing the percentage of schools meeting the minimum threshold (20% of parents completing the survey) to 69.2%, or 36 out of 52 schools! This is an improvement from 24.8% of schools last year!

The average district wide response rate was 25.4%. Of course we always want to improve these rates, but we are excited by this!

An important clarification: the District does not complete incomplete 5E surveys. They do not have a mechanism for this, and there is a specific data point of "started but not completed" for every school. If you are curious about this for your school, ask your principal about it!

Dr Rasmussen came and showcased curriculum new to the district this year: CKLA, Amplify and SAVVAS. This was a very interesting presentation, which I recommend you watch on the recording of our meeting. We discussed the difference between the assessments done within CKLA and how that relates to STAR. CKLA assessments assess the student's understanding of the specific curriculum, where STAR assesses the student's access to the standards of that content area.

Most exciting, we learned that in part due to this subcommittee's work and feedback on the spring assessment calendar, this year principals and school leaders have a choice of timeframes where their students can access STAR. These windows of time will still be one week in length, but this year there are two available to schools. One at the beginning of April, which mirrors what has been done in the past and is right after spring break, and one has been added at the end of April. Principals can choose one of these windows for their school. It is very exciting to our committee and to the DAC leadership as a whole that our feedback positively impacts our District!

Budget Subcommittee Update

The DAC Budget Subcommittee reviewed mid-year budget updates at its December meeting, and information was provided showing how the adjustments support district operations and strategic priorities. Overall, mid-year requests continue to decrease, reflecting improved long-term budget planning and greater use of recurring funds. The district remains in a stable financial position, allowing for thoughtful mid-year adjustments while maintaining a focus on student outcomes and fiscal responsibility.

DAC Working Groups Subcommittee Update

The DAC Working Groups (Training and SAC Support Group) recently reflected on feedback from our November workshop, which featured strong collaboration among schools and their SAC members. Using that input, members have been working diligently to prepare for the upcoming SAC workshop on **January 29**. At our most recent meeting, we finalized the agenda for the school-based budgeting session, which we believe will be an especially valuable experience for all SAC members. In addition, the DAC continues its commitment to visiting every school's SAC meeting before the end of the school year to strengthen connections and support across our district.

Attendance and Membership Update

Full DAC has had strong attendance, however life and schedules are always changing, and we now have some openings for second semester. If you or someone you know might be interested in the following openings, please reach out to Spring at springleak@yahoo.com.

Vacancies:

- A parent with a student in a regular District elementary school
- A parent with a student identified as an English language learner (ELL)
- A parent with a student in a District charter school
- A person involved in business or industry within the District's boundaries

January Topics for SAC Meetings

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.

Theme: Catch up and safe learning environment

- If meeting, use time to complete items not addressed so far and prepare for future tasks.
- Review/discuss with the principal the school's implementation of the educator evaluation system and alignment with instructional goals.
- Review/discuss safe learning environment (safety, discipline, attendance, student/staff satisfaction, Chicago 5E survey plans, etc.)

- Review available progress monitoring data results and compare against USIP (One Plan) goals.

Customizable SAC agenda template

Please check out our [template](#). Simply copy the document and add your agenda items or choose from our monthly suggestions.

INVITE us to your next SAC meeting

Aiming to build community DAC area representatives would like to visit your School's SAC meeting, please invite us using "LET'S TALK" on the [DAC website](#). This is an opportunity to connect and meet a resource for questions or support in all things SAC.

Need help with your SAC?

Please reach out to us. We are here to help!

SAC Workshops (formerly "SAC Trainings")

Our next SAC Workshop will be held Thursday, January 29th from 6:00-8:00. We will be meeting at Mitchell High School. The school is located at 1205 Potter Drive.

This workshop's topic include:

- **Student/Site-based budgeting** exploring the SAC's role in the budgeting process
- **Area Breakout Session** gathering together to discuss ways to connect and help each other.

Remember that everyone is welcome to attend even if you do not attend a SAC. Food and childcare are provided. We look forward to your attendance.

School Choice

The Choice window is **OPEN!** Check out the [district website](#) to learn about school choice and how it could benefit your family.

Please share this newsletter with other families and community members. Together, we build stronger schools for all our students.