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Thursday, August 14, 2025

Happy New School Year!

In case you missed it last month, this is PSD's newly revamped staff newsletter: all core updates, no fluff, so you can get back to the more important items on your to-do list.

This is your go-to resource for staying in the loop with the news that helps you to do your job; don't miss the memo! In case it gets lost in your inbox, [here](#) is where to find prior and current issues of this newsletter.

Scroll down to see how to submit announcements and feedback :)

District Updates, Staff Announcements, Reminders

Heat Days:

The PSD [Heat Protocols](#) have been updated for determining when and how schools are assigned heat-related closures and early releases. See the email sent out on 8/13 titled "Heat-Related Protocols for Staff".

Today, August 15th, WILL be an early release day.

AI Updates:

The district is forming an advisory committee on the use of technology in our schools. The [Learning, Media, and Digital Ecosystem Committee](#) will focus on ensuring districtwide coherence in instructional tools

PSD Org Chart:

Anytime you need to find out who to contact and how to contact them, PSD now has a searchable [org chart](#) to help you find the right person easily.

November Elections:

Click [here](#) for info about this November's election. Among other items on the ballot are seats on PSD's Board of Education. Colorado's Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA) prohibits public resources from being used to support or oppose a candidate or ballot issue. Be on the lookout for an email titled "Staff Fair Campaign

GPA & Class Rank:

The way that High School [GPA and Class Rank](#) work at PSD will be changing, starting with this year's incoming ninth graders. A full explanation of these changes was sent out via email on 7/22/2025 with the title "Update to GPA Policy and Synergy Updates".

LCE Updates:

Click [here](#) to see updates from the Language, Culture and Equity department, including ELD curriculum adoption, the updated PSD inclusive calendar, and more!

and technologies at all PSD schools. For more info, check out the email from 8/6 titled "Fall 2025 AI and PSD's Learning, Media, and Digital Ecosystem Committee Updates."

Student Cell Phone Policy:

High School Staff: PSD's Student **Cell Phone Policy** will be getting more clear, consistent **implementation** during this upcoming school year.

Department Branding:

PSD is streamlining its visual branding; if your department does not yet have a wordmark (see example below), **contact PSD Branding & Graphic Design Coordinator Mariah Wenzel**.



Department Merger:

PSD's Professional Learning department and Assessment department, formerly known as AREA, have officially merged into one unified team: the Professional Learning & Educator Effectiveness (PLEE) department. This reorganization strengthens PSD's ability to provide cohesive support in both professional learning and assessment across the district. PLEE looks forward to continued collaboration with schools and working together to enhance educator development and data-driven decision-making. PSD welcomes **Kim Tymkowych** as the new Director of PLEE!

Practices Act guidelines" for more information.

ChoosePSD:

The Communications team has been operating a marketing campaign called ChoosePSD with the aim of boosting enrollment across the district, featuring billboards, transit ads, movie theatre ads, banners, and more. A Phase 2 of the campaign will launch soon featuring school-specific and program-specific marketing.

ASCENT Program Elimination:

The State of Colorado recently passed new legislation that has eliminated the **ASCENT program** after the 2025–2026 school year. High school staff and families should be aware that ASCENT will no longer be a postsecondary option beginning with the graduating class of 2026. High school staff, check your inbox for info from Kristen Besanceney on alternative ways that students can seek college funding.

New District Policy Review Process:

PSD is adopting a **standardized process** for reviewing our District Policies, as opposed to continuing to reviewing them on an as-needed basis. District policies may also be reviewed off-cycle as necessary, based on changes to state or federal law or District practices. As each policy goes up for review every four years, you can submit feedback on the proposed changes **here** starting in October.

Absenteeism:

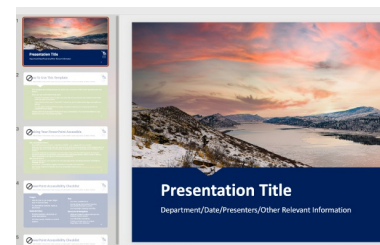
PSD has joined the Every School Day Matters campaign to launch new strategies addressing the multi-layered issue of chronic absenteeism. New systems will be in place at each school to partner with individual students and families to address barriers and re-engage. See more **here**.

ServiceNow:

The Employee Service Center (**ServiceNow**) is up and running as the best way to request **IT, communications, finance, translation, facility/maintenance, off-duty CSO and SRO Security requests, camera access control, alarm and camera system repair, and SWAAC (assistive communication device) services**. Instead of sending an email into the ether & hoping for a response, you can track the status of your request in real time.

Accessible Presentations:

Does part of your job involve giving presentations? PSD has brand new **presentation templates** that are up-to-date with accessibility guidelines. There are two options each for Powerpoint and Google Slides. These feature easy-to-use accessibility recommendations and instructions, and they're pretty.





The new PLEE Team, left to right: Susan Thomas, Dayna Hudson, Michele Lae, Julie Mastre, Janelyn Lilly, Judy Kinner, Susan Steinmark, Kim Tymkowych



Mill Levy funds are being put to good use— so much is being built and fixed around the district! Photo by Matt Gohl of Boltz's new tennis court

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Board Meetings:

August 26 and September 9 in Johannsen Support Services Center Boardroom. Dinner Session at 5:00, meeting at 5:30.

To speak during community comment at a board meeting, please sign up before 5:00 p.m. on the Monday preceding the meeting.

Accessibility Lunch & Learn:

Thursday, August 28, 12:00–12:30 pm on Teams —[add it to your calendar!](#) Discover how PSD is advancing accessibility through our [Accessibility in Action Plan](#).

Join us for monthly Lunch & Learn sessions to deepen your understanding of accessibility — the first session from July 24 is available to [watch anytime](#).

Accessibility Office Hours:

Looking for personalized support in making your work accessible to the full spectrum of different needs and abilities in your community? Drop by these optional Accessibility Office Hours on Tuesday, September 2, from 9:00–10:00 am in the ITC Building, Greyrock Conference Room.

Accessibility is a journey, not a destination. Let's make progress together!

Superintendent and Board of Education Listening Sessions:

Superintendent Kingsley and the Board of Education will host [Community Engagement Sessions](#) throughout the 2025-26 school year. The first Board session will be held on Thursday, September 18

from 5:30-8:00PM at Olander & Werner Elementary Schools, and the first Superintendent session will be held on Tuesday, September 30 from 5:30-8:00PM at Lincoln Middle School.



POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT



**Open Community
Conversations**
with Superintendent
Brian Kingsley

Thursdays from 5:30-7:00pm

September 30: Lincoln MS
October 28: Leshner MS
November 13: Webber MS
January 21: Wellington MHS
February 17: Bethke
April 22: McGraw



POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
SESSIONS**

Thursdays from 5:30-7:00pm

Sept. 18: Olander & Werner
Oct. 16: Linton & Eyestone
Nov. 6: Timnath Elementary & Irish
Feb.: 19 Laurel & Tavelli
March 5: Bauder & Zach
April 16: Bamford & Rice

Resources

- **2025-2026 Staff Calendar**: view all contract length dates for all employees for the upcoming year
- **2025-2026 Multifaith Observance Calendar**: view major holiday dates for the upcoming year
- **Elevations Credit Union** runs special offers and benefits for PSD employees
- **Employee Special Offers**: Several businesses offer special rates and discounts to PSD employees. Special offers are updated online seasonally or when new offers are added to the list



**Check Out All of
Our Deals at**

psdschools.org/staff/employee-special-offers



Feedback & Contributions



Have an announcement, event, or resource you want featured in a future newsletter? Email Internal Communications Specialist Katya Andersson at kandersson@psdschools.org

Or sign into ServiceNow, click "Request", select "Communications" from the menu on the far left, then "Communications General Request", and put "Newsletter Submission" in the Short Description. Please try to have these requests in by the 10th of each month. The Memo goes out on the 14th of each month for principals and the 15th of each month for all staff.

Submit Your Input



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POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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