

District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter



May 2021

UPCOMING DATES:

- **May 13, 2021**
6:00—8:00pm
Full DAC
meeting
Web Ex

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News & Notes 2

SAC News 5

Good Things 6

Welcome

The 2020-2021 academic year is almost at a close and we are just a few weeks away before summer break. This school year has been a year of flexibility and grace. We have all continued on with important work for the D11 community. We have a renewed gratitude for our schools and everyone who works there.

School Accountability Committees should be looking at the results of the 5 Essentials Data for their schools this month. Open conversations about what good things are happening and what opportunities there are for improvement at your school. Look for the Summer Bridge Program at your school or a nearby school. This program is to prepare students for next school year and provide additional learning experiences.

The DAC continued our work through this school year using a virtual environment. We are in the process of wrapping up our charges and responsibilities for the year. In the coming weeks, the DAC and its subcommittees will look at the membership roster for 2021-22 and prepare end of the year reports to the Board of Education (BOE). The DAC is actively seeking new volunteers (parents, community members, and staff) to serve on its committees.

During this past academic year, some of DAC's successful accomplishments include:

- Supported School Accountability Committees as needed.
- Hosted 4 SAC Training Sessions with relevant and insightful topics to better prepare SAC members to fulfill their charges at their respective schools.
- Studied and prepared a report on the mid-year Budget Modification Requests (BMRs).
- Studied and prepared a report on the FY 21/22 BMRs.
- Analyzed and tracked universal screener results.
- Reviewed and gave feedback on the District Improvement Plan.
- Reviewed the Inventa Charter School application and provided a final report to the BOE.
- Reviewed and gave feedback on the Facilities Master Plan and Academic Master Plan.
- Published comprehensive monthly DAC newsletters.

The DAC Budget Subcommittee still has work to complete because of delays in the Colorado Legislature. Once the state has adopted a School Finance Act and State Budget their work can continue. Thank you to this subcommittee for adapting during this time.

I would like to thank all the volunteers across our district! So much valuable work would not be completed without you. You are appreciated. Thank you for working to empower all of our students.

On behalf of the DAC, I congratulate the 2021 graduates and wish you the very best in your next adventure. Your strong resiliency will help you in your future endeavors. We have learned and grown for the better this year. I hope we can take these lessons and continue to improve for all students. I wish the students, parents, and staff a wonderful summer!

Regards,

Velvet Stepanek
Chair – District Accountability Committee

News & Notes

DAC Membership for 2021-2022

- It is important we conduct legal elections for DAC members and new officers in May, so we need to be thinking about who wants to be a member for the 2021-2022 school year.
- If you would like to be on the DAC for next year please contact Joseph Mezzofante, our membership chair, so he has time to solicit new members and candidates.
- Velvet Stepanek is willing to be DAC Chair for another year, but if there is anyone else who would be willing to serve in other leadership positions (Accreditation Chair, Training & SAC Support Chair) on the DAC please let us know so we can hold elections as needed.

Please respond to Trudy.Tool@d11.org or respond to mezzofantej@gmail.com to let us know whether or not you will continue on the DAC.

“Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish”

John Quincy Adams

D11 School Improvement Summer Symposiums

Education Insights under the leadership of Dr David Khaliqi, Executive Director of Education Insights, and Natasha Crouse, Director Student Improvement, will conduct School Improvement Summer Symposiums with all D11 schools in the coming month.

- Elementary school sessions will be May 25-27 and middle and high school sessions will be June 1-3.
- The goal of the symposiums is to have key staff from each school review their key challenges and successes of the past year in the context of their 2020-2021 USIP and develop a draft USIP for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Schools will participate at their local school site with a combination of virtual and in-person sessions. SAC members should be invited to participate – check with your local principal.
- These sessions are critically important as 21-22 year USIPs will be due to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) on Oct 15, 2021. For more detail go to the April 8th SAC Training presentation by Natasha Crouse at [DAC / SAC Training Hand-Outs \(d11.org\)](#).

News & Notes Continued

2021 Summer Bridge Program for D11 Students



- District 11 will provide face-to-face summer bridge activities the beginning of June! Dates are June 7 through July 2, 2021 (this may be adjusted at specific schools due to scheduled facility work)
- The 2021 Summer Bridge Program will aim to prepare students for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond by providing additional learning opportunities extending past the traditional school year. Research shows summer bridge programs can help prepare students for the upcoming school year. The D11 summer bridge programs will be offered in an effort to prepare students for future learning.
- Using a balanced approach to learning including targeted intervention, enrichment, social emotional learning, and a variety of subject areas, students will be taught by licensed D11 teachers in a setting familiar to them. Students will be invited to participate by their teacher/school, and will likely attend the program at their home school. Breakfast and lunch options will be provided at all participating schools. To learn more speak with your principal today or go to <https://www.d11.org/summerbridge>.

Sign up to attend the 2021-22 SAC/DAC Networking series

- Starting in the 2021-22 school year, CDE will be offering a series of monthly virtual networking meetings for members of School Accountability Committees (SACs) and District Accountability Committees (DACs) across the state.
- These meetings will include content from CDE, promising practices, and an opportunity to network and learn from other committee members.
- Meetings will take place from August through May on the second Tuesday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Spanish translation will be available.

Topics and Dates

- **August:** Kickoff; Roles and Responsibilities
- **September:** UIP/Stakeholder Engagement
- **October:** Committee/Board/District Relations
- **November:** FSCP Policy
- **December:** Team Building
- **January:** Local Data Usage
- **February:** Budgets
- **March:** Special Projects
- **April:** Showcase/Celebrations
- **May:** Prepare for Next Year
- To sign up and learn more visit the SAC DAC Networking series website [Accountability Committee Networking Series | CDE \(state.co.us\)](#)

News & Notes (Continued)

Colorado Stories of Promising Practices



COLORADO
Department of Education

- ◇ This is a CDE series of videos and stories that highlight schools and districts that have implemented new strategies to improve student outcomes, developed exemplary practices and validated their results through data and other verifiable demonstrations of student performance.
- ◇ Featuring work in four key areas, these stories highlight the innovative practices in schools and districts across the state:
 1. Third graders will meet or exceed expectations in English Language Arts
 2. Schools needing support and academic improvement will raise and maintain their performance
 3. Students will earn a postsecondary credential, degree or certificate after high school
 4. Underserved students will achieve academic expectations

For informative and valuable information, check out the series at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/promisingpractices>

Congratulations 2021 High School Graduates



High School Graduation Dates

- 5/ 18 Palmer HS 9am, Doherty HS 3pm - Garry Berry Stadium
 5/ 19 Coronado HS 9am, Mitchell HS 3pm - Garry Berry Stadium
 Alternative High Schools - Garry Berry Stadium:
 5/20 Tesla 8am, Odyssey ECCO 12pm
 5/21 Bijou 8am, Achieve 12pm
 6/2 Adult and Family Education - RJWAC Auditorium 11am

SAC News

Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs:



- **Acadience Reading (READ Act) EOY (end of year) tests K-3:** Scheduled April 26th – May 14th
- **Universal Screener EOY tests grades 3 – 11:** Scheduled April 26th – May 21st

Election of New SAC Officers and early DAC support: If not already done in April, May is the month to elect, or be thinking about election of officers for the coming school year as outlined in AE-R-2, School Accountability Committees. If you are a new SAC Chair and would like some early training/support over the summer please contact Trudy Tool at Trudy.Tool@d11.org and she will connect you with the appropriate DAC resources.

SAC Training Sessions

- **SAC Training Session for September 2021:** Planning is underway for the 21-22 school year. The first SAC training session is tentatively scheduled for Thursday Sep 23th.
- We are still looking at WebEx virtual meetings vs at Tesla 6:00 – 8:00 PM.
- We expect to use a multi-presentation format. One session will be “SAC 101” for new SAC chairs and members but the remaining presentations will be on important topics relevant to the new school year, e.g. USIP development. You will want to invite multiple SAC members to be sure to cover all important topics.

SAC Training Recordings

- The recordings for the main presentations provided for the SAC Training Session on Jan 28, 2021 and on April 8, 2021 are available on the DAC Meeting Recordings page at <https://www.d11.org/page/17241>.
- Just scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the recordings of the SAC Training Sessions. Unfortunately we could not record the multiple breakout sessions.
- NOTE: The April 8th Training Session recording contains an outstanding presentation that could be presented at your May SAC meeting by John McCarron, Assistant Superintendent/CIO-Technology Services, and Tom Hunt, SMS Project Manager, on the new Power School Student Management System (SMS) being implemented in Fall 2021. The slides for this presentation, with active links to key information, are available on the SAC Training Handouts page [DAC / SAC Training Hand-Outs \(d11.org\)](#)

Good Things Happening in the District

District—

- Air Academy Federal Credit Union (AAFCU) Colorado Springs D11 Art Show— District 11 participated in the 27th year of the Art Scholarship Program. AAFCU partners with 9 school districts every year to provide scholarships to art students across the front range. Since 1994, AAFCU has given over \$750,000 in scholarships! To view the amazing art from our students go to <https://sites.google.com/marketing.aafcu.com/coloradospringsd11artshow/2021-Winners?authuser=1>
Congratulations to these wonderful artists!
- Crystal Apple Notes of Recognition. On May 4, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. the video prepared for the Crystal Apple Notes of Recognition will go live on Facebook, Channel 16 and the website below. The Crystal Apple Awards Committee chose to place a pause on the traditional Crystal Apple Awards for the 2020-2021 school year and created a way for all teachers to be honored by administrators, parents, students, and others. Please take a look at the recognition notes videos at <https://www.d11.org/2021CrystalApple>
- Purple Star School District Designation—On April 14, 2021, the Board of Education adopted a Resolution to make District 11 a Purple Star School District, which will provide resources to our military connected students and families. Several of our schools have applied to become Purple Star Schools. To find out more about the program go to: <https://www.militarychild.org/purplestarschools>
- Rocky Mountain Vibes Community Heroes Allstar Game—Several District employees will be participating in the Rocky Mountain Vibes Community Heroes All Star game during Fan Fest on May 8, 2021. The All Star game will take place at 1:00pm. Some of the employees participating are Alan Earing, North MS 8th grade math teacher, Aaron Ford, Audubon Principal, Ethan Moore, Wilson ES 4th grade teacher, and Jason Reynolds, Director– Tech & Support Services.



Holmes MS—

- Thank you to all Holmes volunteers! Involved families are crucial in supporting our ongoing 5Essentials work. Research from the University of Chicago through their work on the 5Essentials bears this out. In fact, Involved Families is one of five correlated environmental factors known for increasing the likelihood of school improvement.
- Holmes MS is piloting the **Feats of Elevation** program from now, until the end of the 2021-22 school year. As they receive feedback on this new pilot program, details may be honed or changed in order to tailor it to the identified needs. We greatly appreciate your participation in these efforts to elevate the Hawk Community!

Mitchell HS—

- Congratulations to the Mitchell High school counseling team for earning the Colorado Department of Education's Individual Career and Academic Plan Team Award! Their collaborative nature, and excellence in the College and Career Class process, has been honored for the meaningful engagement in individual and group advisory.

Good Things Happening in the District (Continued)

Odyssey ECCO—

- Congratulations to Je’Nia Manning from Odyssey Early College and Career Options who was chosen as the Student of the Month in March at the African American Youth Leadership conference. She has an astonishing 4.1 GPA, is often called upon by the Dean of students to host incoming new students/parents, board members, and others. As the current President of both the National Honor Society and Spanish Club, Vice President of Future Farmers of America (FFA), and a member of the Business, Ethics, Speech, and Debate teams, Je’Nia takes pride in being a role model and leader. She has made an impact at D11 by being a part of multiple round tables that include how to improve District 11 high schools, social and emotional learning, and mentorship programs. After graduating in May 2021, she hopes to attend a university in Hawaii majoring in Marine Biology with a minor in Chinese. This future Marine Biologist recently won a scholarship from Underwater Connections which will pave the way for her obtaining certification in open water diving.



Palmer HS—

- Congratulations to the Palmer H.S. Knowledge Bowl Team that qualified at the regional competition for the State competition held (virtually) and based on their performance in that, have qualified for the National competition to be held in early May.

Rogers ES—

- Rogers Elementary was awarded a grant to provide the Walking Classroom program to their students. Third, fourth and fifth grade students enjoy listening to podcasts on a variety of topics while enjoying a walk. Students stimulate their bodies and minds simultaneously.
- The Walking Classroom is a national award-winning education program that provides students and teachers with an innovative way to get exercise without sacrificing instructional time. The nonprofit program’s “Walk, Listen, and Learn” methodology capitalizes on the favorable link between exercise and cognitive function.

Trailblazer ES—

- Congratulations to Trailblazer Elementary's Shawn Hayes for receiving the distinguished Darcell Palmer Award from our partners at KidpowerCO! Thank you for all you do for students, Mr. Hayes!
- In 2014 the Darcell Palmer Integrity on Behalf of Children Award was created in memory of Darcell Palmer. Darcell was on the Kidpower board of directors for ten years and provided valued insight and wisdom to the organization. As a principal, Darcell ensured that all of her students and staff were trained by Kidpower because of her passionate commitment to children’s safety. This award is presented to members of our community that have shown the same dedication and integrity for the protection of children as Darcell.