

# District Accountability (DAC)

## October Newsletter



OCTOBER 2021

## UPCOMING DATES:

- **October 5, 2021, Training & SAC Support Meeting, via WebEx**  
6:00—7:30pm
- **October 13, 2021, DAC Membership/Charges will go to the Board as a non-action item**
- **October 21, 2021, Full DAC Meeting, In person (Tesla) and via WebEx,**  
6:00—8:00pm
- **November 4, 2021, SAC Training, In person (Tesla) and via WebEx,**  
6:00—8:00pm

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## Welcome

Welcome to October! The DAC has been busy in the first full month of the academic year. The DAC is a great way to learn about the district and contribute your voice. We are so thankful for the people who participate and appreciate the time commitment all of our volunteers make. There is still an opportunity to serve. We have open positions on our DAC. We are looking for parents/guardians at the elementary, middle, and high school level. In addition, we need a community member involved in business or industry within the district. Please reach out to our membership subcommittee chair, Joseph Mezzofante, at [mezzofantej@gmail.com](mailto:mezzofantej@gmail.com), if you are interested.

The DAC had the pleasure of hosting the first of four SAC Training Sessions on September 23. It was exciting to meet in person again but also provide a virtual option. It was encouraging to exchange information with so many SAC and administration representatives from D11 schools. At our SAC training next session on November 4th, we look forward to seeing more schools participate.

The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee, has spent time giving input to the Priority Improvement and Turnaround Schools Unified School Improvement Plans (USIPs). The committee started looking at CMAS scores from last year and discussed summer bridge data.

The DAC Budget Subcommittee had its first meeting on September 14. The subcommittee focused on learning about the district plans for using the CARES Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds.

We want to support SACs. The DAC reached out to all principals offering help from the DAC. In addition to what we provide, CDE is hosting a SAC/DAC networking monthly series. This meeting gives time to learn about different topics and collaborate with other SACs and DACs from across the state. If you have an interest please visit <https://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/sacdacnetworking>. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns regarding this newsletter or your responsibilities as a SAC.

Every SAC should be a part of monitoring the One Plan that each school used to generate their Unified School Improvement Plan (USIP). The One Plan is a living document to help every school improve. Have you seen your One Plan major improvement strategies, implementation benchmarks and action steps?

Community engagement is important. Join in the conversation for students. Please attend the community cafes on creating ecosystems of equity. Encourage your community to come, listen, and participate. There are several opportunities this month at our high schools. You can also attend via WebEx. It's important that we all understand this work together to improve outcomes for all students. Sincerely,

Velvet Stepanek

D11 District Accountability Committee Chair

## News &amp; Notes

### Colorado Education Initiative (CEI) has Launched the Future Ready Families Website

Colorado Education Initiative (CEI) has launched [FutureReadyFamilies.org](https://www.futurereadyfamilies.org), a robust website with proven tools, resources, and strategies to empower parents and caregivers as engaged partners in their child's education and development.

[https://www.futurereadyfamilies.org/?mc\\_cid=9365210800&mc\\_eid=026bc119db](https://www.futurereadyfamilies.org/?mc_cid=9365210800&mc_eid=026bc119db)

- This new CEI website prepares parents and caregivers as advocates in their child's education. It arms families with tailored information and tools on how to best partner with teachers to ensure a pathway to success uniquely suited to their child and their needs.
- In developing the site, CEI partnered with [Learning Heroes](https://belearninghero.org) to provide readiness resources in English and in Spanish that help families get a sense of their child's current learning level, better understand what's ahead in their child's school year, and have critical conversations with teachers. We suggest you check this site out for tips on how parents and teachers can work together to better support their students.

[https://belearninghero.org/?mc\\_cid=9365210800&mc\\_eid=026bc119db](https://belearninghero.org/?mc_cid=9365210800&mc_eid=026bc119db)



### PowerSchool (the new School Management System) Implementation is well underway

- Although the implementation has not been without challenges, Power School <https://www.d11.org/domain/253> will eventually provide parents/guardians easy/secure access to all relevant student information for each of their students.
- Tom Hunt, D11 Project Manager, briefed the Sep 23, 2021 SAC Training Session on the status and challenges of the rollout and phase-in plans for various components over the coming few months. The slides for that briefing are available at [2021-09-23 SAC - PowerSchool Update.pdf \(d11.org\)](#).
- The D11 Board of Education also approved the following Action Step and targets in the D11 Unified Improvement Plan in its regular meeting on Sep 22, 2021;

“Develop and implement the family engagement tools within Power School with targets for teacher use taking into account the current challenges of the tool. Specific target use goals for the year are: 1) 85% family usage on at least a bi-weekly basis by the start of the second semester, and 2) 100% teacher usage for grades and assignments weekly by the start of the second semester.”

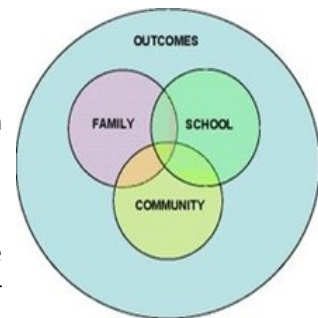
**Please make it a top priority** to get all of your students, parents, and teachers set up with active accounts and regularly using the PowerSchool system as soon as possible. Your principal has access to school statistics on active user accounts and usage. Review of these statistics should be a standing SAC agenda item for every month.

## One Plan/ Unified School Improvement Plan (USIP) Development and Execution

- Natasha Crouse, D11 Director of System Improvement, provided an excellent presentation to the Sep 23, 2021 SAC Training Session on the D11 One Plan initiative for all schools and its relationship to the state requirements for a school USIP.
- The slides for that briefing are available at [Comparing the Colorado UIP to the District 11 One Plan \(d11.org\)](https://www.d11.org).
- You may have one last opportunity to review your school's USIP before the Oct 15, 2021 submission deadline. The complete USIP package should contain three components; 1) the basic USIP document, 2) a data attachment, and 3) a One Plan Attachment containing all 2021-22 Major Improvement Strategies (MISs), Implementation Benchmarks and Action Steps for each MIS.
- Your school's One Plan is the working USIP so be sure to monitor execution of the One Plan regularly throughout the year.

## D11 and State initiatives regarding Family, School and Community Partnerships

- D11 recently updated its family-school partnership guide, "Family-School Partnerships: An Implementation Guide" available at <https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/842/FamilySchoolPartnershipsToolkit.pdf>
- This document is adapted from the PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, provides numerous examples of successful programs, and incorporates an excellent Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Rubric for evaluating and reflecting on your school's family, school and community partnership strengths and weaknesses.
- We urge you to partner with your school's PTA and administrative team to evaluate your school's status using this CDE rubric and work toward strengthening your partnership initiatives. D11 has also joined a CDE Family – School Partnership Collaborative for 2021-22. We will be bringing you updates on the work of that group throughout the year.



## Board Candidate Forum at Next DAC Meeting on October 21, 2021

- The DAC will be hosting a Board Candidate Forum at the next DAC meeting, from 6:00—8:00pm at Tesla Opportunity Center and via WebEx
- Candidates have been invited to give them the opportunity to address questions from the DAC Members
- Each candidate will be asked the same questions (from the audience) and have the same amount of time to answer
- This is a great opportunity to get to know the candidates prior to the General Election on November 2nd

**The CSSD11 Department of Equity & Inclusion Presents**  
**Creating Ecosystems of Equity Community Cafe**

Join us as we discuss the findings from our Equity Audit and the path to move forward in D11.

All meetings will begin at 5:30 pm.  
To join via WebEx visit: [d11.org/Equity](https://d11.org/Equity).

Palmer High School  
September 23

Coronado High School  
September 30

Mitchell High School  
October 5

Doherty High School  
October 21

RJWAC  
November 4



## SAC News & Updates

### Resources for New SAC Chairs

- Are you a new SAC Chair, just taking over in Sep 2021 and wondering what your roles and responsibilities are?
- Check out the Sep 2021 DAC Newsletter at [DAC / DAC Newsletters \(d11.org\)](https://d11.org/dac-newsletters). It provides information on, and links to key informational resources for SAC Chairs and also links to several helpful training videos
- If you have additional questions, please contact Trudy Tool at [trudy.tool@d11.org](mailto:trudy.tool@d11.org) with your question/concern and she will forward it to the appropriate DAC member to get back to you to provide you support

### SAC Training Session Sep 23, 2021

- The first SAC training of the 2021-2022 school year took place via a hybrid session on September 23, 2021 with 20 individuals attending in person at Tesla and 21 joining virtually on WebEx.
- We had three excellent presentations on, a) PowerSchool implementation, b) School One Plan/USIP development and execution, and c) an update on family, school, and community partnership initiatives in D11. The Training session handouts are available at [DAC / SAC Training Hand-Outs \(d11.org\)](https://d11.org/sac-training-handouts)



### Next SAC Training Session Thursday, November 4, 2021

- The next SAC Training Session will take place on Thursday November 4, 2021
- We are currently planning to conduct this training session as a hybrid session in person at Tesla with a WebEx option for those who prefer to attend virtually. We are working on a number of topics of direct interest to SACs
- More information will follow soon. **SAVE THE DATE**

### Key Deadlines of Interests to SACs

- Oct 15, 2021: Final USIPs are due to CDE. Education insights will submit the packages for all schools
- Nov 4, 2021: Second 2021 SAC Training Session 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Tesla and via WebEx



## SAC News & Updates (Continued)

### SAC Meeting Agenda Planning

- Every month we intend to provide a reasonable flow of SAC agenda topics for the month that meet the broad responsibilities of D11 SACs. This is just a reference tool and individual SACs should tailor agendas appropriate to their school needs and emphasis. The following are some of the agenda topics that are recommended for the October SAC meeting;
  - ⇒ Train SAC on One Plan/USIP elements and monitoring data (as needed) – finalize USIP for Oct 15, 2021 submission if needed
  - ⇒ Review your school’s PowerSchool implementation status and challenges, including percent of parents/guardians with active accounts (by grade level), using the system at least bi-weekly and percent of teachers using the system at least weekly. Ask what the SAC can do to help increase participation
  - ⇒ Review/discuss School Readiness plan for kindergarten and READ Act implementation, funding, and student status/results (ES only)
  - ⇒ Review school focus on Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAPs) and new graduation requirements approved by D-11 Board of Ed. in fall 2020 (MS & HS only)
  - ⇒ Review Fall Universal Screener (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.



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

# Good Things Happening in the District



## Coronado HS—

- On Saturday, September 25, 2021 Coronado High School had their homecoming parade. This is an annual tradition that unites students, alumni, staff and Colorado Springs' Westside community. There were entries and floats from student clubs, programs, band and sports teams, along with other Westside Elementary and Middle School groups. This was an excellent event that wrapped up a week full of homecoming festivities that included a Friday night football game at Garry Berry and a spirit-filled pep rally in Bancroft Park.

## Doherty HS—

- Thank you to Vicki & Tom Ury and the Colorado Springs Corvette Club for their generous donation to Doherty's Automotive Program!
- Congratulations to Doherty Chemistry Teacher, Ryan Johnson for being selected to speak at the TEDxManitouSprings. He was one of twelve speakers who provided thought-provoking, inspiring speeches with the goal of creating a positive movement to help support the community.

## McAuliffe ES—

- McAuliffe ES held an ice cream social at the beginning of the school year and had an amazing turnout!
- There were 300+ community members in attendance.
- What an amazing example of Family and School partnership.



## Mitchell HS—

- Congratulations to Mitchell HS student Ismael Flores who was KOAA's Athlete of the week on September 14th. Ismael is the starting striker on the soccer team (and is ranked second in the state in goals scored), the kicker for the football team and also has a 4.0 GPA!

## North MS—

- North Middle School has officially received the Colorado Department of Education designation to be a School of Innovation. North staff and administration are in an ongoing process of instituting various initiatives to support positive growth, including academic interventions, culture shifts and management-model changes. Congratulations on the distinction of becoming a *School of Innovation*!



# Good Things Happening in the District

## Roosevelt Charter Academy—

- Roosevelt is fortunate to continue with the Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society this year.
- They will be inducting members for this school year soon.
- To be eligible for membership consideration, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.7 and meet high standards of responsibility, services and leadership.
- This is a great opportunity for the students at Roosevelt Charter Academy.

## Spark Online Academy—

			
<b>Showcase of Learning</b>	All students share a meaningful learning experience by video	Families, classmates, and community members are invited to viewing	Friday, October 8 1:45 - 2:45
			

## Steele ES—

- Emily, a student from Steele ES appeared on Fox21 News as a Kidscaster. She also is the host of the school's weekly newscast. Congratulations to this talented young lady.

