

# District Accountability (DAC) October Newsletter



OCTOBER 2022

## UPCOMING DATES:

- October 11, 2022, Training & SAC Support Meeting, via WebEx 5:30—7:00pm
- October 12, 2022, DAC Membership/Charges will go to the Board as a non-action item
- October 20, 2022, Full DAC Meeting, In person (Tesla) and via WebEx, 6:00—8:00pm

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## Welcome

Welcome to October! **Thank you** for serving at your schools to help in the common mission for student success. The DAC has been busy in the first full month of the academic year. We hope your SAC has started the school year successfully.

The DAC had the pleasure of hosting the first of four SAC Training Sessions on September 29. Superintendent Gaal shared his vision for D11. It was encouraging to exchange information with so many SAC and administration representatives from D11 schools. At our SAC training next session on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, we look forward to seeing more schools participate. If there is an area you would like more training on please let us know.

- The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee, has spent time giving input to the Priority Improvement and Turnaround Schools Unified School Improvement Plans (USIPs) and to the Unified District Improvement Plan (UDIP). The committee started learning more about the new STAR District Assessment in anticipation of looking at data.
- The DAC Budget Subcommittee had its first meeting on September 13. This subcommittee is looking for more parent members. Please reach out to us if you have an interest in getting more details.

Thank you to the three parent/community members from the DAC, three parent/community members from the DAC Budget Subcommittee, and three parent/community members on the Mill Levy Override Committee who served on the Fund Balance Task Force. The thoughtful input given to the Superintendent and Board is appreciated.

We want to support SACs. The DAC reached out to all principals offering help from the DAC for you. In addition to what we provide, CDE is hosting a SAC/DAC networking every other month 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.

Preliminary School Performance Frameworks (SPFs) and District Performance Frameworks (DPFs) are being issued by the state this year after a two year hiatus. State legislation requires that the frameworks are calculated in 2022-23, but suspends automatic advancement for schools on the accountability clock. The percentage of students contributing to the growth indicator is added to the framework for informational purposes. SACs should be asking about the SPF score for their school this year.

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?

November is election time. One of the issues on the ballot is the Healthy School Meals for All. The Colorado Department of Education has a guide available to help you make an informed decision on how to vote. See: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/healthymealsforallguide>.

Thank you again for serving at your school. Enjoy the fall temperatures.

Velvet Stepanek

D11 District Accountability Committee Chair

# News & Notes

## News & Notes

### Healthy Meals for All Students



- [The Colorado legislature passed House Bill 22-1414 to send the creation of a Healthy School Meals for All program to voters on the November 2022 ballot.](#)
- This is Initiative FF on the ballot. The Healthy School Meals for All program would provide funding opportunities to Colorado public school food authorities that participate in the federal National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program.
- CDE has developed a fact sheet on how the program would work if approved by voters. It is available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/healthymealsforallguide>.

### Parent access to student data from State test results and District Benchmark test results

- Most schools will provide Spring 2022 state test results for individual students to parents at the first parent/teacher conference in Oct. Here is a link to a great CDE fact sheet on understanding your student's CMAS scores <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/understandingscorereports22>.
- There are also three great parent reports available to help you understand your student's District Benchmark (Renaissance STAR) test results. Ask your principal about these reports and how they are being provided to parents.

### Best First Instruction

Best, First Instruction includes deliberate **planning**, **enactment**, **observation** and **reflection**.

These are the basic elements of a high impact teaching and learning process.

Planning high impact instruction means teachers develop accessible, equitable, and flexible learning opportunities to meet the changing needs of a diverse student population. For additional information go to:

<https://www.d11.org/Page/12154>



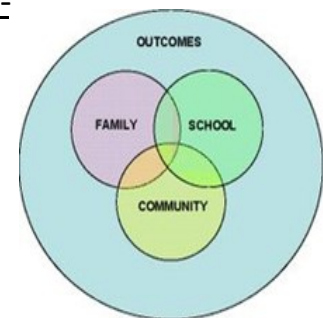
## PowerSchool (the new School Management System) Implementation is well underway



- A significant number of fixes and enhancements have been completed in the PowerSchool application over the summer. The D11 Board of Education is in the process of approving the following Action Step and targets in the D11 Unified Improvement Plan for 2022-2023;
- Develop and implement the family engagement tools within PowerSchool with targets for teacher and parent adoption. PowerSchool Parent Portal adoption goals for the 2022-23 school year are: 1) 80% of parents will activate and/or update Parent Portal accounts by the end of first quarter to access attendance, assignments, grades, report cards, etc. 2) 100% of Middle and High school teachers will post assignments and grades weekly; 100% of Elementary school teachers will post grades quarterly.”

**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.

## 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 is also continuing its membership in the CDE Family – School Partnership Collaborative for 2022-23. We will be bringing you updates on the work of that group throughout the year.

## SAC News & Updates

### Resources for New SAC Chairs

Are you a new SAC Chair, just taking over in September 2022 and wondering what your roles and responsibilities are?

- Check out the September 2022 DAC Newsletter at [DAC / DAC Newsletters \(d11.org\)](https://www.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 29, 2022

- The first SAC training of the 2022-2023 school year took place via a hybrid session on September 29, 2022.
- The Program opened with a welcome by new Superintendent Michael Gaal discussing his preliminary vision for the future of D11 and answering questions.
- This was followed by three excellent presentations on,
  - a) Family/School/Community Partnership initiatives for 2022-2023,
  - b) School One Plan/USIP development and monitoring using data in Hoonuit and other applications, and
  - c) A session on SAC duties and responsibilities for new SAC chairs and members (SAC 101) in D11.

The Training session handouts are available at <https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/538/SAC%20Training%20Handouts%209-29-22.pdf>

### Next SAC Training Session Thursday, November 3, 2022

- **The next SAC Training Session will take place on Thursday November 3, 2022.**
- 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. If you have a topic you would like to have us address please contact [trudy.tool@d11.org](mailto:trudy.tool@d11.org) and she will pass it to the appropriate individuals. More information will follow soon.
- **SAVE THE DATE**

## SAC News & Updates (Continued)

### Key Deadlines of Interests to SACs

- Oct 17, 2022: Final USIPs for most schools are due to CDE. Education Insights will submit the packages for all schools. Note: Schools receiving new Priority Improvement or Turnaround SPF ratings will have until Jan 16, 2023 to have their USIP submitted to CDE.
- Nov 3, 2022: Second 2021 SAC Training Session 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Tesla and via WebEx

### 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;

- Review/discuss School Readiness plan for kindergarten and READ Act implementation, funding, and student status/results, e.g. Acadience fall test 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 District Benchmark (Renaissance Star) and other progress monitoring data results (if available) and compare against “One Plan”/USIP goals. Ask how your school/teachers are using the Star test results and Common Formative Assessments to inform instruction.
- Review Early Warning System data since start of school and identify areas of concern in academics, discipline and attendance.
- Discuss status/success of school-wide discipline policies/plan and “safe learning environment”.
- Ask how the school is ensuring parents/guardians are receiving their child’s state test results for 2022 and also the fall Star test results in a timely manner.

“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

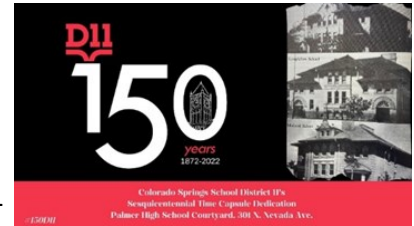


## District—

### • Time Capsule—



- An above ground time capsule dedication took place at the Palmer HS Courtyard on Sept 27th at 12:30pm . The time capsule will be on display for the next 50 years at the District 11 Administration Building.



- October is National Principals Month. We celebrate the principals in D11 and thank you for the positive impact you have on our students every day!

## Achieve Online—

- Achieve Online’s student council donated doggie care kits to All-Breed Dog Rescue. The students helped order dog toys, treats, leashes and goodies for the pups at the rescue. They organized the orders into gift bags for people adopting these pets in the future.



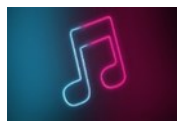
## Digital HS—

- Digital High School will be having an In-N-Out Burger fundraiser on October 20<sup>th</sup>— Celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The In-N-Out Burger Cookout Truck will be in the RJWAC South parking lot at 3:00pm. For \$5 you will get a cheeseburger or hamburger, chips and a drink to help raise school funds. You may purchase tickets at the Digital or Achieve Online Office. It’s a fun event for a great cause!



## Madison ES—

- Congratulations to the Madison singers who performed the National Anthem at the Colorado Rockies game the weekend of September 24<sup>th</sup>.



# Good Things Happening in the District

## Penrose ES—

- Penrose has partnered with Raising Canes to help celebrate all their hard-working students.
- Mr. MacGregor, counselor, was able to celebrate one of the students for reaching his weekly goals, by giving him a certificate for a kids meal.
- Students will be recognized as they continue to reach their goals.



## Rogers ES—

- Rogers ES Students appeared on KRDO news for Hispanic Heritage Month. See footage below:  
<https://youtu.be/59ih6pvNISM>
- The SCRIPPS Foundation and KOAA have made it possible for every student at Roger ES to take home four books for free at the book fair! Students will be able to pick out their own books, which is a fantastic step in empowering young readers.
- Fourth grade teacher, Ms Roten was awarded \$1,000 for her classroom by the USAFA Athletics. Ms. Roten is one of the seven finalists out of 600 educators who were nominated for this reward by parents, educators, and students. As a special treat Rogers had the USAFA Falcon come to school!



## Sabin MS—

- Sabin GMP's Chris Smith sets the stage for students exploring the wonders of chemistry by experimenting with chemical and physical reactions.



If you would like to have items in the "Good Things" section of the news please email [Trudy.Tool@d11.org](mailto:Trudy.Tool@d11.org)