



## Colorado Springs School District 11

### **Management Directive from the Superintendent**

**Date:** July 1, 2020

**Subject:** Management Directive – Legislative Relations

**Management Directive #:** MD-B1

**Purpose:**

To provide direction and guidance for interaction with elected officials and other government officials outside of District 11. Official communications between representatives of the District and the executive and legislative branches of state and federal government on legislative and regulatory issues shall be conducted in a systematic and consistent manner with respect to the positions of the District 11 Board of Education on such issues. When the official positions of the District, as stated by the Colorado Springs District 11 Board and Superintendent are communicated to government officials, those positions must be communicated and interpreted correctly to avoid any misunderstanding and confusion about the intent of and priority placed on those positions. It is important that the personal views of staff members and organizations to which they are affiliated not be confused with or assumed by a government official as the official positions of the District. Accordingly, these guidelines are established to accomplish that end.

**Directive:**

Communicating School District Positions on State and Federal Legislation and Regulations

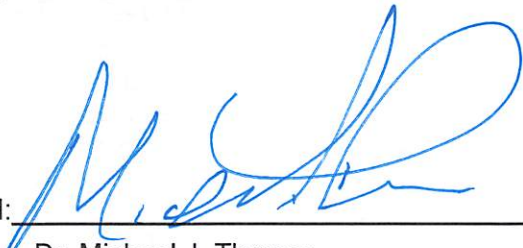
The positions of the District relative to state and federal legislation and regulations (rules) are those adopted by the school board and those verbal and written positions taken by the Superintendent/designee as may be necessary from time to time, on behalf of the school board. The Superintendent's designee for governmental relations is responsible for receiving and reviewing, through normal administrative channels, proposed positions on legislation and regulations. Members of the staff are encouraged to submit issues and recommendations and to do so in the aforementioned manner. Such positions will be communicated by the Board, the Superintendent, the Superintendent's designee for governmental relations, or other staff specifically designated by the Superintendent or designee to appropriate state and federal officials, and to other school system staff. Due to the timely nature of the legislative process, the Superintendent's designee for governmental relations is authorized to take and communicate positions on behalf of the District when in the designee's judgment the interest of the District is best served at the time.

While serving as a representative of the District on official district business, all staff shall support the verbal and written positions of the District when such contacts cover legislation and regulations. Nothing in these guidelines, however, is intended to imply that a staff member is discouraged or prevented from conveying his or her own beliefs or the beliefs of any group to which the staff member is affiliated to legislators and other policy makers provided this is accomplished on a staff member's own personal time and those beliefs are communicated clearly as such. Accordingly, personal views shall not be communicated using official School District 11 letterhead stationery.

Staff Analysis and Information Reporting

The designee for governmental relations maintains procedures for staff analysis of proposed bills and regulations (rules) prior to recommending to the Superintendent the District's responses evolving out of such analyses. All requests for information by legislators shall be referred to the designee, and staff shall furnish information requested by legislators through the designee.

Each year the District 11 Board of Education shall appoint, through resolution, all district staff authorized to present testimony; offer information; and provide advice, guidance or counsel to federal, state and local elected officials.

Signed:   
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Dr. Michael J. Thomas  
Superintendent of Schools

Date: 7/23/20