

Accountability

DSIT - District School Improvement Team

Background - The Education Accountability Act of 2009 requires each Colorado district and school to create an improvement plan (termed Unified Improvement Plans or UIP's). The plan provides information on the district or school's data trends, root causes, and targets, and identifies strategies and resources the district or school will use to improve student academic outcomes. Through the Colorado state accountability system, districts and schools are assigned to one of four "plan types." They are: Performance, Improvement, Priority Improvement, and Turnaround. These plan types identify which schools and districts will receive greater attention from the state – in terms of both increased state scrutiny of their plans and additional state support.

DSIT's Role - The District Accountability Committee (DAC) is actually the top-level organization (mandated by state law) under which the DSIT operates. The DAC works with the Superintendent and Board of Education to develop the district UIP and assess progress toward meeting plan goals. It is also responsible for consulting in a substantive manner with the School Accountability Committees to assure alignment between School UIP's and the District UIP. At the end of the year, the DAC prepares a UIP Assessment Report for the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Expectations for Volunteers - The DAC has a specific structure the membership of which is voted on by DSIT and approved by the Board of Education. The DAC seeks volunteers from the DSIT general membership to assist with its work. Volunteers are trained in the District UIP process including a thorough review of the most recent UIP. They then meet periodically to help prepare the following year's District UIP. The DAC sponsors two DSIT General Meetings each year to provide district parents and community member a forum in which to participate in the UIP process. These meetings are planned and managed by DAC volunteers to be as interactive a possible, allowing a wider diversity of parents and community members to have a forum for input. The DAC also sponsors a "UIP Bootcamp" in the Fall. The UIP Bootcamp is designed to help School Accountability Team members learn the UIP process and better understand the parent's role in developing the School UIP.

Volunteers are expected to:

- Devote 5-10 hours to learn the UIP process and become familiar with the most recent District UIP.
- Attend 5-7 committee meetings during the academic year (1-2 hours in length each)
- Devote 10-20 hours during the academic year to collaboration (both electronic and in person) with faculty, administrators, parents and community members on UIP development matters.
- Attend monthly DSIT meetings to network with others regarding UIP development
- Assist in preparation of the end-of-year UIP Summary report

How to Get Involved - If you enjoy strategic and operational planning and have a passion for helping the Adams 12 Five Star Schools district continuously improve its excellence in education, the District Accountability Committee would be delighted to have you as a member. Sign up at any DSIT Meeting or contact Art Dawson at art.dawson@gmail.com.