



**District Accountability Committee
2017 Special Budget Session**

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Cimarron Middle School,
12130 Canterbury Pkwy, Parker, CO 8013
6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Budget Priorities Survey Overview

Each year, the DAC is required by Colorado state statute to recommend to the Board of Education priorities for the spending of District monies. As part of those recommendations, the DAC solicits SAC feedback through a survey. This year, in cooperation with the Joint Subcommittee, the DAC has made a few changes.

What's New?

- 1) **Timeline:** The DAC Budget Subcommittee has moved the timeline of the survey and feedback process to the fall. This is so your input can be considered by the Board *before* they are required to make their budget decisions for the next fiscal year.
- 2) **Additional Education:** The DAC is offering additional education and context to help clarify what the District's discretionary budget entails. District staff has created a series of five videos offering an overview of what monies are directly managed by schools, what monies end up in classrooms but are managed at the district-level, and what monies are designated for the administration of the district at large. We encourage you to watch the videos before each SAC discusses your school's priorities.

2017/18 DCSD Budget Videos:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyJvMhp58lg0a_9VOvdir65z4jxYWM9U

Video 1: Introduction

Video 2: How Colorado Schools are Funded

Video 3: DCSD 2017-2018 Budget

Video 4: District Funds

Video 5: Department Budgets

- 3) **New Survey:** The survey is very different this year. Rather than asking open-ended questions, this year we have asked SACs to rank seven areas of discretionary spending from 1-7. Obviously, all of these areas are important. But as we know in our own household budget process, sometimes you budget more for a soon-to-go water heater, and sometimes you budget for a more reliable car. Transportation and hot water are both important, and yet we are still able to make decisions about which one to spend more money on. This survey process asks you to make similarly tough decisions about district monies. In addition to this ranking, the survey includes an area for your SAC to offer comments or ask questions regarding the priority process and the budget.



- 4) Online Format: The survey has been created by utilizing an online format that will allow more effective tabulation of the data. Our thanks to the Data and Assessment team for developing this process for us. With the online survey, we will be able to track responses by region, by grade-level, and by individual school in order to see what trends are occurring throughout our incredible district. Because of this, only one survey will be submitted per SAC. We strongly encourage each SAC to come to a consensus together before submitting your recommendations.

How Is The Survey Completed?

On Thursday, September 28th all principal and School Accountability Committee (SAC) Chairs will receive an email that contains a live link to complete the survey.

Each SAC membership is encouraged to watch the 2017/18 Budget Survey Videos and Livestream video of the DAC Special Budget Session. The Livestream link where the DAC Special Budget Session can be viewed: <https://livestream.com/DCSDK12/events/7703548>

Then, each SAC should meet to discuss priorities for their school and complete the survey together. Only one survey will be accepted per SAC.

What's The Timeline?

All surveys must be submitted by November 3, 2017 at 11:59 PM!

The Budget Committee will present the survey results at the November 14th DAC meeting where the DAC will develop their recommendations for the Board of Education. These results will also be delivered to each SAC via email after the DAC meeting, so each school will be able to review the results in depth.

Both the results of the survey and the DAC budget priority recommendations will be presented to the Board of Education before the winter break. The budget committee will post the date of this presentation on the DAC web page at www.dcsdk12.org/district-accountability-committee as soon as the agenda date has been set.

What If I Have Questions?

Questions can be sent to: dcsddac@gmail.com

Acknowledgements

The DAC Budget Subcommittee would like to thank each of the Joint Subcommittee Members for their countless hours spent exploring how to improve this process as well as Interim Superintendent Erin Kane and Chief Financial Officer Bonnie Betz along with their staff for developing the informative videos and helping us understand the complexities of the district budget. Also, the Data and Assessment team that developed our online survey process and will be working with us to analyze the data we receive more effectively. Finally, without the tireless work of many members of district leadership support staff in particular Sandy Maresh this process would have remained a good idea rather than an actual product.