DOWNTOWN DENVER EXPEDITIONARY SCHOOL (DDES)
SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Description
The School Accountability Committee (SAC) brings together families, staff, and community members to create and implement a plan to promote high achievement within a school. This committee meets quarterly throughout the school year and is an opportunity for key stakeholders to have a voice in their school. Colorado law requires all schools to have a SAC to increase the amount of accountability and family involvement in our schools.

- Providing guidance, evaluation, and recommendations to the Principal and/or the Executive Director about:
  - Spending priorities
  - Preparing a school's Unified Improvement Plan (and school priority improvement and turnaround plan, if required)
  - Discussing whether school leadership, personnel, and infrastructure are advancing implementation of the public school's improvement plan (or priority improvement or turnaround plan, whichever is applicable); discussing any other progress pertinent to the public school's accreditation.
  - Principal development plans and evaluations
  - Increasing family engagement, especially ensuring that parents represent the diversity of the student body (including race, free/reduced lunch, limited English proficiency, and disability. The committee’s activities to increase parent engagement must include, but need not be limited to:
    - Publicizing opportunities for parents to serve on the SAC ensuring the diversity of parents on the SAC reflects the diversity of the school’s population.
    - Helping school personnel increase parents’ engagement with teachers, including (not limited to) parents’ engagement in creating students' READ Plans Individual Education Plans and habitual truancy prevention plans.

The SAC does NOT:
- Participate in the day-to-day operations of the school
- Involve itself in issues relating to individuals (staff, students, or parents) within the school
- Involve itself in personnel issues
- Advocate for their own perspective, rather than for the greater good of the school

What is the difference between the SAC and Family Council at DDES?
As explained above, SACs are required by state law and have specific responsibilities and structures. The Family Council at DDES leads the community volunteer effort at DDES to support programs and needs cited by the leadership team.

Membership
Membership of the SAC will consist of at least 7 members and no more than 9 including the following: The Executive Director or Principal/Principal designee, one (1) teacher currently leading instruction at the school, three (3) parents of students currently enrolled at DDES, at least one adult member of an organization of parents, teachers, and students recognized by the school, one community member connected to the business or industry in the community who does not have a child currently enrolled at DDES may serve on the committee. If all efforts to recruit an interested, qualified community member are not successful, another parent connected to the business or industry in the community may be selected. Finally, a Governing Board member may serve on the SAC committee.
We ask that SAC members commit to a two year term when possible. In the event a member is selected to fill a mid term vacancy, the term shall be for the remaining term of the replaced member. The membership term shall begin with the October meeting after the start of the school year. SAC members may be re-appointed to another two year term for a maximum of two consecutive full terms of office (4 years).

The Executive Director shall send out a general call to the community each fall spring for all open positions on the SAC. Prospective members will express interest in serving on the SAC through a parent interest form to Executive Director. The members of a school accountability committee will be appointed by the Executive Director, and the appointing authority shall, to the extent practicable, appoint persons to serve on the school accountability committee who reflect the student populations that are significantly represented within the school. The Executive Director, in coordination with the SAC membership, will determine the number of vacancies. Prior to the completion of the first membership term, a parent member may be considered for reappointment by submitting a request for reappointment to the Governing Board and a staff member may be considered for reappointment by submitting a request for reappointment to the Executive Director. The Executive Director will announce appointments and reappointments by the end of September.

**Meetings**

SAC meetings will be held at least four times a year throughout the school year. Each committee member is expected to attend meetings regularly. Repeated absences will be cause for removal by the SAC. SAC members and community members shall be notified of all meetings, including special meetings or schedule changes no less than 48 hours prior to such meeting. All committee meetings are open to the community to view. If non-members would like to present to the committee they should contact the Executive Director. Meeting agendas shall be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Each committee member shall receive notice of the meeting agenda at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. The Executive Director will communicate SAC information to the staff through routine faculty meetings.