



SEAC Presentation Notes

3/26/25

Cell Phone Policy and Access for Accommodations – Dr. Julie Chaplain

- No formal changes to the policy
- Internal committee working to align on appropriate use of cell phones and response
- Cell phone use for accommodations will be supported
- Q&A
 - Q:** Would cell phone use for listening to music for self-soothing be allowed?
 - A:** If it is in the IEP, the IEP team should communicate this accommodation with teachers/other adults with specifics about where and when it is allowable.
 - Q:** What about teaching how to use a cell phone so that students learn to use it as a tool?
 - A:** This would be allowed as an instructional activity
 - Q:** The use of a cell phone could identify students using accommodations and create stigmatization. How is the district addressing this?
 - A:** It would be a team conversation that could include discussion of other types of accommodations or technology that could serve the same purpose (ex. Use calendar on a laptop rather than a cell phone)
 - Q:** There are some apps on cell phones that are not allowed on district laptops. How would this be addressed?
 - A:** The district will need to work with IT and SWAAAC to identify needs and determine access.
 - Q:** Is there an opportunity for the district to look at the disparate outcomes for students who don't have cell phones? If it is in the IEP, the district has to provide that technology, but the district is not providing cell phones.
 - A:** If a student requires technology to access their education, and it is part of the accommodations of their 504 or IEP, the district would provide that.
 - Q:** Is the information about accommodations within the policy?
 - A:** Yes, it is in the policy
 - Q:** How are disputes with the policy handled?
 - A:** Disputes are handled in collaboration with the family, the IEP school team, the Assistant Director of Integrated Services for your feeder zone, and SWAAAC to problem solve. The contact for any issues is the case manager (IEP) or counselor (504)
- SEAC Member, Carisa Clinton, noted that if your student needs a cell phone, you can partner with DVR (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation)
- SEAC Member, Willow Cooper-Barton, also noted that ARC of Larimer County has a fund for assistive technology.

Federal Grants and Funding Update – Beth Higgins and Danielle Chenoweth

- There are very few facts, but a lot of speculation regarding federal funding for next year
- An executive order is not a law
- IDEA is law – can only be changed by congress
- The current budget that was passed includes funds for IDEA so we are ok
- If there is a situation where we don't have access to all federal funds, we have a plan in place.
- Q&A
 - Q:** How will PSD be impacted if they try to get COVID dollars?
 - A:** We have spent nearly all of our COVID dollars, so there is nothing to claw back
 - Q:** Can you share the plan if we are unable to access all federal funds?
 - A:** Under CDE guidance, the superintendent, cabinet, Board of Education would make a plan. Kevin Havelde, board member, shared that PSD receives about \$30-\$35 million of federal funds which is 25% of our budget. The board is starting to have discussions (don't have a plan, but discussions are happening). Talking about things like, could we re-appropriate 4A funds to other things. Noted that Title 1 funding is secure.

Unified Sports Opportunities – Erin Coy

- 2012 – started Special Olympics secondary track and field event
- 2012 – piloted unified sports (started with basketball)
- District-wide implementation of unified sports with paid coaches like other district sports at the middle school and high school levels
- Elementary schools don't have district-wide implementation in the district but some individual schools do unified sports
- First track and field event for elementary students will be on May 1st – need volunteers and peer partners – free for students
- Q&A
 - Q:** How can people find out about unified sports?
 - A:** Every high school has their calendars on their webpage
- SEAC member, Tonya Bennett-Kaser shared information about FCA All Abilities Sports

Wheelchair Sports Camp – Brad Nelson

- Colorado Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp is in Denver on June 9th-June 13th, 2025
- Want to get more participation from Northern Colorado
- Sports include archery, basketball, tennis, golf, fencing, swimming, yoga, soccer, softball, rugby, dance, lacrosse, kayaking, sled hockey, and bowling
- It's free
- Can come for one day or 5 days
- Parents provide transportation (something they are working on in the future)
- Everything is adapted and modified so all levels of mobility are welcome