



# Custer County School District, C-1

Jackie Crabtree - Superintendent

Sydney Benesch - Pre K-12 Principal

Zachary Bissell - Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

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*Vision: To provide a Quality Education in a Safe Environment - Mission: To Prepare Students for Life Beyond Graduation*

October 2, 2023

Dear Bobcat Families,

Each school in Colorado is assigned an overall school performance rating every year based on student performance and growth on state assessments. Graduation rates and college matriculation are also considered for high schools. Following the assignment of performance ratings, each school is required to develop a Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) that outlines targets for performance outcomes and strategies that the school will implement to improve academic outcomes for students.

Based on our school's performance and growth, as well as our student participation rate, on the 2023 state assessments given last spring, our school overall accreditation rating was *Accredited with Improvement Plan: Decreased Due to Participation*. This rating is based on not meeting the state required 95% participation rate. Specific to the elementary, the accreditation rating is *Improvement Plan: Decreased Due to Participation*. For the elementary school, we also did not meet the state required 95% participation rate. For our middle school, we were given the accreditation rating of *Turnaround Plan: Decreased Due to Participation*. This rating was based on not meeting the state required 95% participation rate, as well as low academic growth. For our high school, our accreditation rating is *Improvement Plan*. This rating is based on our Colorado SAT scores not meeting the state requirement. Superintendent, Jackie Crabtree, is currently working on a "Request to Reconsider" process regarding our participation and matriculation rates.

We have already put additional steps into place to ensure that student growth and achievement remains our top priority. The teachers and administration will continue to focus on disaggregation of student data to drive instruction and identify student needs and strengths. Our administration and COMTSS team has worked diligently to begin Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) with our staff which will provide valuable collaboration time to focus on student data and classroom instruction. We will be doing a math curriculum adoption beginning in October to provide more continuity for our students through each grade level. Our graduation rate exceeds the state expectation, and we will continue to focus on preparing our students for life beyond graduation.

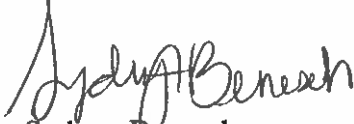
Our UIP will provide us with a focused improvement plan, including an analysis of student performance data and a detailed action plan. The plan must incorporate ideas and feedback from parents, be approved by the Custer County School District Board of Education, and be submitted to the Colorado Department of Education for review. Our School Accountability Committee will hold a public meeting to gather input from parents concerning the development of the plan on November 6, 2023, at 4:30 PM, in the School Library. Prior to adopting a plan, our school board will hold a public hearing on November 14, 2023, at 4:30 PM, in the School Library to review the plan.

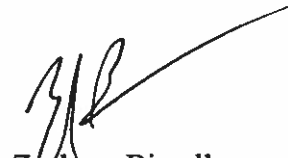
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You can learn more about Colorado's school accountability system here:

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/stateaccountability>. If you have any questions about our overall school performance or how you can get involved in our improvement efforts, please contact Sydney Benesch at (719) 783-4894 or Zachary Bissell at (719) 783-4930.

Sincerely,

  
Sydney Benesch  
PreK-12 Principal

  
Zachary Bissell  
Assistant Principal & Athletic Director