

Advocacy within your community should use data – data to show where progress is being made and where additional time and resources should be focused. Here is one district’s approach to working with the community to identify their goals and then report back to them for understanding and support.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

### **Involving Everyone**

Steamboat Springs, Colorado

In Steamboat Springs, Colorado, everyone plays a role in collecting and analyzing data. School board members have identified three "end results" or goals: academic achievement, student virtues and self-realization. Data are used to determine progress toward meeting these results.

Each school develops an action plan to achieve these ends. The board charges the District Accountability Committee (DAC), which is made up of parents, students, principals and other community members, with coordinating each school's planning process and making sure schools focus their plans on the three end results. The action plans must include objectives and quantifiable evaluation criteria.

At the end of the school year, the DAC appoints a community audit team for each school. The team is made up of community leaders who do not have children in the school. Each team audits the school's action plan against the evaluation criteria. Findings are reported to the DAC and then to the school board. The community audit team reports also are featured in the local newspaper.

The findings are critical. Staff compensation rides on it. The board requires that bonuses of \$500, which are awarded to teachers whose grade levels meet or exceed the student achievement goals.

“This data-collection requirement has had a significant and positive impact on student achievement in our schools and on the community's support for its public schools,” says Superintendent Cyndy Simms.