



Woodland Park School District  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Woodland Park School District to Overhaul Summit Learning Platform in Response to Findings of October External Review**

Woodland Park, CO – January 20, 2022 – Woodland Park School District announced today that the District will be overhauling its use of the Summit Learning Platform in an effort to address student and parent concerns surrounding the platform. The plan to shift focus was presented to the Board of Education during their work session on January 19 in response to an extensive review of the platform performed by an external auditor in late October and November of 2021.

The Summit Learning Platform is a technology platform where teachers post grades and assignments to students, collaborate teacher-to-teacher, and share curriculum resources.

The overhaul will shift the District focus, with less reliance on technology resources and an increased emphasis on teacher-directed instructional time. The District will begin implementing changes beginning the Spring 2022 semester.

“Our teachers do an amazing job in the role of teaching. Moving forward, we are committed to increasing parameters around online resources, such as the use of YouTube and other digital media, to make sure screen time is significantly reduced in all classrooms,” said Dr. Mathew Neal, Superintendent of Schools. “As this shift begins, our faculty members will be personally connecting with each family in our schools for feedback and support so we move forward intentionally.”

Furthermore, the District is renewing its commitment to soliciting student and parent feedback surrounding the platform, and will be implementing a more formalized method of communication between parents and teachers regarding use of Summit Learning Platform. The intended goal is to engage in partnership with parents to maximize student achievement.

“It is important that we continue to help support students that may struggle utilizing the Summit Learning Platform,” said Neal. “We will be moving forward with strategies that allow our schools to continue to provide supplemental options for students that may find the platform challenging.”

In addition to the use of Summit Learning, the District is addressing parent concerns surrounding student data security within the platform.

"The safety of our students and their information is paramount to us," said Neal. "As we continue to re-envision how our schools utilize technology, we will ensure that our data sharing practices meet data privacy regulations required by Colorado and federal statutes."

"As we look forward to making these significant improvements, it is important that we also acknowledge the gains in scores we've seen with our student population in meeting and exceeding state standards since introducing Summit. We have certainly come a long way, and the numbers show that we have seen the benefit over time. Our District is ready for the journey ahead, and we look forward to collaborating with students, parents, and staff to ensure Woodland Park schools provide an excellent learning opportunity for all students."

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### **About the Woodland Park School District Re-2**

A Place of Becoming. Mission: Together, we embrace a culture where all learners are empowered to pursue intellectual, personal, and collective excellence.

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