



# **SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# SUSTAINABLE BEGINNINGS



This *Sustainability Management Plan (SMP)* has been developed through a grant provided by the Colorado Governor's Energy Office. The template was designed for use by Colorado school districts to build capacity and awareness for the educational promotion of Environmental Sustainability in K-12 education.

This template will help foster student participation, recognize sustainability practices by the school, and will commit all staff, students, and community members to responsible stewardship.

Sustainability is a program that can generate cost savings, conserve resources, provide a more productive working environment/culture, and empower staff to perform their daily tasks with sustainability in mind.

This plan implies that activities in the district are environmentally sound, socially just, economically viable, and will continue for generations. The district will be environmentally safe and provide a healthy learning environment free of environmental hazards and in good repair.

This template is provided as a starting point so that sustainability awareness and best practices can influence the environmental, social, and economic goals of the district and the community.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background	2	SMP Goal One [Identify Goal Statement]	12
Table of Contents	3	SMP Goal Two [Identify Goal Statement]	13
Introduction	4	SMP Goal Three [Identify Goal Statement]	14
Defining Sustainability	8	SMP Goal Four [Identify Goal Statement]	15
Defining an SMP	9	Long Terms Goals: District Goals with a Two to Four Year Window	16
District SMP Goals	11	Maintaining District Sustainability Momentum	17
Short Terms Goals: District Goals for Year One	11	District Policy	19

# INTRODUCTION

Manitou Springs School District 14 has been a pioneer in public education for the past few decades. Not only is the school system leading the way in outstanding relationships with students, parents and the community, it is also rated as one of the most academically rigorous educational systems in the state. Our students are involved in a myriad of educational opportunities like engineering, art, dance, music, mathematics, Foreign Language, debate, poetry, science, and Language Arts. Children are receiving a 21st Century “whole-new-child” education that emphasizes reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics as well as creativity, teamwork, problem solving, and critical thinking. Manitou is also leading the way in providing multiple opportunities for students, staff, parents and community members to participate in a plethora of healthy choices. We have conservation clubs, leadership clubs, wellness committees, and a mission to be good stewards of our environment—after all, we do sit at the foot of Pike’s Peak.

MSSD 14 is committed to a sustainable energy plan that rests on two key concepts: stewardship and curriculum. We believe that we can take immediate steps to become better stewards of our resources—solar energy projects, recycling programs, and “adopt a park” campaigns are currently in progress. Most important, however, is our belief in educating our young citizens to replicate these practices for multiple generations. Education/curriculum is the key to the success of any long-term sustainable energy plan. Frankly, energy conservation will not occur unless future generations understand the ramifications of poor energy policy and embrace conservation and stewardship as a life style. Thank you for participating in the development and design of this plan—the health and wellness of our current and future citizens depends on how well we teach our children today.

Edward D. Longfield - Superintendent  
Manitou Springs School District 14



# TEAM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**KC Morris** - Manitou Springs High School Senior;  
President of WORRRMS Ecology Club

**Kimi Tanabe** - Manitou Springs High School Senior;  
Communications Officer for WORRRMS Ecology Club

**Jasmine Dillavou** - Manitou Springs High School  
Senior; WORRRMS Ecology Club Officer

**Sean Newberry** - Manitou High School Graduate 2011

**Ed Longfield** - Superintendent Manitou  
Springs School District #14; Parent

**Laurie Wood** - Director of Partners for  
Healthy Choices; Former District Parent

**Angelita Surage** - Spanish Teacher;  
WORRRMS Ecology Club Sponsor

**Randi Hitchcock** - Ute Pass Elementary School PE  
instructor; Parent; Wellness Committee Member

**Jerry Zimmerman** - Former Director  
of Building and Grounds

**John Harden** - Director of Transportation

**Jennifer Farmer** - School Board President; Parent

**Coreen Toll** - City Council Member; Community Activist

**Robin Schofield** - DAAC Board; Parent; Director  
of Humanities, Pikes Peak Community College

**Scott Cote** - Education Foundation President; Parent

**Natalie Johnson** - Local Business Owner;  
DAAC; Partners for Healthy Choice Volunteer

**Eric Drummond** - Former Mayor Manitou Springs;  
Partner, Energy and Natural Resources Dept; Clean  
Technology Dept., Patton Boggs LLP; Parent





As you can see from the list of team members, we were fortunate as a district to have a diverse and active group of participants. Another attribute to our team is that we grew in number as things progressed. Penny Whitney, GEO project lead, captured the energy of her audience. As a group we were able to construct this document. One of the more important components was the involvement of our superintendent and the students. Without their support and guidance, this would only be a decoration for a shelf in the library.

Our team began meeting in the Spring of 2011 just as the school year was drawing to a close. It should have been a difficult process to get support from community members and the district during one of the busiest times of the year. However, we were fortunate enough to attract the attention of a number of prominent and energetic members of the community. We met several times throughout the course of the summer and completed our tasks at each meeting. Thanks to Laurie Wood, we had all of the data that we needed along with information from the building and grounds director. Everyone had a different contribution to make. Whether we needed to define a word, create an artistic rendering or generate a graphic design, our team was able to provide.

Please enjoy the result of months of hard work and dedication to the kids in our district.

# GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE



**COLORADO**

The communities served by Manitou Springs School District 14 (MSSD14) are located in Colorado, 76 miles from Denver, and 6.5 miles from Colorado Springs. The communities encompass over 3,000 square miles and include the towns of Manitou Springs, and Green Mountain Falls and villages of Cascade, Chipita Park and Cedar Heights for a total population of 5,222 people (2009). Economically, the county's strongest industries are education and tourism.

This geographic area is served by one public school district, Manitou Springs School District #14 (MSSD#14), which serves approximately 1,418 school age students. (2009-2010)

Greater western El Paso County is well known for its recreation opportunities. MSSD14 sits on the flanks of Pikes Peak, the most visited mountain in North America. About 15,000 people a year attempt to climb Pikes Peak on foot. The 13-mile trail begins at the base of Pikes Peak located in Manitou Springs. ([springsgov.com](http://springsgov.com)).

Historically, Manitou Springs is known for its "healing culture," especially of a holistic and natural variety. Today health and wellness continues to be an important part of the community and school district culture. The Rainbow Vision Plan-a plan composed by the city of Manitou Springs hopes to build the health culture of the community, an important and integral part of local history.

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Manitou Springs School District 14 is a small yet diverse community located at the foot of Pikes Peak. Western El Paso County is well known for its recreation opportunities. Manitou Springs School District #14 (MSSD#14) sits on the flanks of Pikes Peak. Our community reflects the active culture of outdoor enthusiasts, athletes, and naturalists with a passion for the environment. MSSD14 Schools have embraced healthy and environmental choices in its schools for many years. Programs including a healthy salad bar at all schools; school wide recycling and reusable lunch trays are already incorporated within our District. Colorado Connections for Healthy Schools awarded Manitou Schools as exemplary programming built around health and wellness.

In January 2011 MSSD #14 was selected by the Colorado Governor's Energy Office (GEO) as one of five pilot Colorado schools districts as a model for developing Sustainability Management Plans. This selection acknowledges the leadership of MSSD #14 for developing district and community

sustainability awareness and best practices.

The MSSD #14 Mission is to create ongoing stewardship of resources (sustainability) which transfers into personally integrated life decisions. The goal of the District is to accomplish sustainability via curriculum, stewardship, and community/student engagement. This District commitment to sustainability stewardship is evident through our aggressive energy management program begun in 2005 which has reduced energy consumption by 40%.

MSSD#14 received the SEC (Federal Electronics Challenge) Gold Award. Our district showcases active student involvement and a commitment to leadership in 21st Century Learning by integrating environmental sustainability into preK-12 education where appropriate and integrating technology at all learning levels.

We are committed to modeling the way to intentionally live in a way that we use fewer resources so that present and future generations can thrive.

**Sustainability: Use less, use it again!**





ANITOU SPRING  
HIGH SCHOOL

# COMMUNITY VALUES

Members of our MSSD#14 Sustainability Leadership Team describe our community and school district as being united by a strong sense of community with a keen awareness and appreciation for the natural beauty of the area resting at the foot of Pikes Peak. This environmental awareness is reinforced with a strong sense of the historical community culture of health and wellness which continues today.

The Manitou Springs community, which includes the small towns and villages of lower Ute Pass, values and nurtures relationships, collaboration, and the legacy of learning which MSSD has earned through a commitment to student expression, problem solving, creativity, and empowerment.

MSSD #14 in partnership with the community encourages a culture of resourcefulness, innovation, and risk taking to support students as they constantly move forward to the leading edge of what is new.

Manitou and MSSD#14 embrace a culture of sustainability through awareness of the responsibility of stewardship and learning. Sustainability efforts already existing with MSSD#14 include: energy efficiency, recycling, composting, local food, wellness, and technology to move to a paperless district.

# DEFINING SUSTAINABILITY

Thanks to  
Don's GARDEN  
& SHOP  
for Hudson Springs  
Garden Club



## MISSION

We all know the saying “It takes a whole village to raise a child.” In Manitou Springs, we also know that it takes a whole village of children to change the world. By choosing stewardship and curriculum for our two goals, our team recognized the importance of the kids in making true change within the district, community and world. Some serious challenges lay ahead for all of us and sustainability and the environment are both going to be an important part of that future. It is the goal of our district to empower our kids to take this on as their own personal challenge. It is only then that we will move forward and achieve the plans that we have set forth in this SMP document.

## VISION

Our vision is to create ongoing stewardship of resources within the District 14 community in such a way that it transfers into personally integrated life decisions for all of us. This is what sustainability means to us. We chose the slogan “Use Less. Use it again.” to represent a simple application of this stewardship. The end result of all of the curriculum building around these ideas will be that our students and community intentionally live in a way that we use fewer resources so that present and future generations can thrive.

# DEFINING AN SMP

AN SMP FOCUSES ON WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE:

## PEOPLE



IMPACT BUILDING  
OCCUPANTS

## PLANET



THE ENVIRONMENT

## PROFIT



THE ORGANIZATION'S  
FINANCES

## WHAT IS AN SMP?

A Sustainable Management Plan is a commitment and a tool which will move our School District systematically toward increased sustainability, "meeting the needs of the present without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to do the same".

## THE GOAL FOR THE MANITOU SCHOOL DISTRICT 14 SMP IS TO:

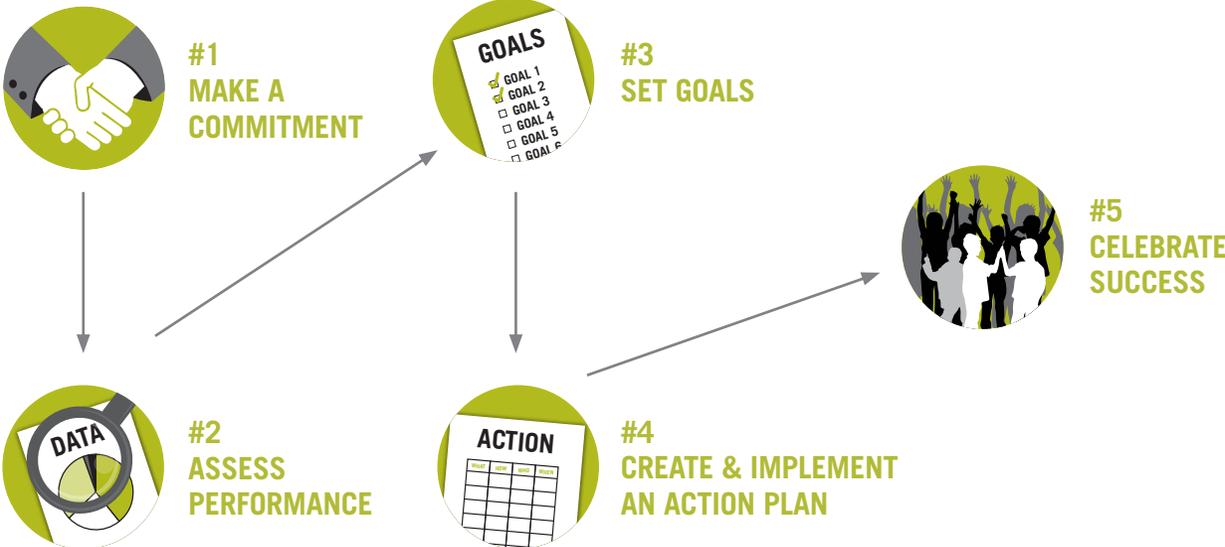
- Develop awareness and best practices to preserve our natural resources
- Provide a healthy and fiscally responsible school district
- Educate our leaders of the future to be good stewards of their environment
- Inspire students to be leaders for development of renewable resources
- Use resources strategically
- Highlight successes of existing District efforts
- Take advantage of emerging opportunities
- Become a community leader in sustainability awareness and best practices
- Position the district to be ready for the question, “What is your District doing to be sustainable?”

This SMP will communicate to our District and to our community that our school district is efficiently run. This district efficiency will help lower costs and will result in improved performance.

The Manitou School District #14 Sustainability Management Plan (SMP) is the first step in formalizing a Sustainability Management System (SMS). An SMS will support a culture of sustainability within our school district.



# THE SMP 5 STEP PROGRAM



# DISTRICT SMP GOALS

# SHORT TERM GOALS

## SHORT TERMS GOALS: DISTRICT GOALS FOR YEAR ONE

- Identify the Goal
- Develop Goal Statement
- Establish the Baseline
- Develop Action Steps for Implementation with specific deliverables and deadlines



# SMP GOAL ONE – STEWARDSHIP

Manitou Springs School District #14 is committed to developing increased awareness of all opportunities for conservation of energy and resources through awareness, education and best practices.

ACTIVE PROCESS	WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Save Energy & Resources to reduce carbon footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage new Director of Facilities &amp; Grounds in SMP process</li> <li>Director to collaboratively with Sustainability Leadership Team to establish plan for conservation to reduce carbon footprint</li> <li>Use data to establish baselines; identify milestones</li> </ul>	Director of Facilities and Grounds/SMP Leadership Team	May 2012
Create everyday habits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate SMP process to classrooms</li> <li>Assess what is being done now</li> <li>Identify new opportunities based on conservation awareness</li> </ul>	Classroom teachers/ students	Begin communication/ assessment with Oct 11 Announcement
Transportation	Assess opportunities for transportation		May 2012

ACTIVE PROCESS	WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Develop student awareness through use of iPads for move to paperless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate SMART objectives; Introduce iPads</li> </ul>	SMART program leads; Jackie Paris; classroom teachers	Begin Fall 2011
Reduce Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turn off vending machines</li> <li>• Utilize energy meters</li> <li>• Use technology to reduce paper</li> <li>• Engage Food Services and Transportation</li> <li>• Assess and establish baselines</li> </ul>	District/Department Leadership; Director of Facilities & Grounds; staff; classroom teachers	Begin Fall 2011
Engage in Consistent Interdisciplinary Communication and support with Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish regular meeting times for Sustainability Leadership Team</li> <li>• Prepare regular communication regarding progress of SMP</li> </ul>	Sustainability Leadership Team	Continue Fall 2011
Identify a problem; initiate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain Stewardship Focus in all District Activities</li> </ul>	Classroom teachers; students; WORRMS	WORRMS track and report "calls for action" to Sustainability Leadership Team

# SMP GOAL TWO – CURRICULUM

As a critical component of a 21st Century education, Manitou Springs School District #14 will integrate environmental sustainability into preK-12 education as appropriate.

ACTIVE PROCESS	WHAT	WHO	WHEN
One SHIP that addresses the goal statement each year		CSH Teams	Annually
Develop one particular/ specific lesson to address goal statement		Science Department and Team	Annually
Utilize Community resources		-Fin Up -RMFI -Rainbow Falls -PHC	
Document Communicate Celebrate Sustain		All preK-12 classrooms	Quarterly



High efficiency boilers recently installed that provide energy and financial savings.

## LONG TERMS GOALS

Manitou Springs School District #14 is committed to making Stewardship and Curriculum long term District sustainability priorities. The 2011-2012 school year will focus on assessing where we are and establishing our baselines. Once the baselines are established, specific metrics will be set as sustainability milestones. The Sustainability Leadership Team will be accountable for consistently moving our Sustainability Management Plan forward



# MAINTAINING DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY MOMENTUM

The Manitou Springs School District #14 Sustainability Management Plan will be monitored, evaluated, and updated by the Sustainability Leadership Team.

A Sustainability Policy endorsed by the Manitou School District #14 Board of Education will provide the authority and accountability requirements for the leadership team.

To maintain interdisciplinary representation, vacancies on the Sustainability Leadership Team will be filled as they occur.

## THE MANITOU SCHOOL DISTRICT #14 SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP TEAM WILL:

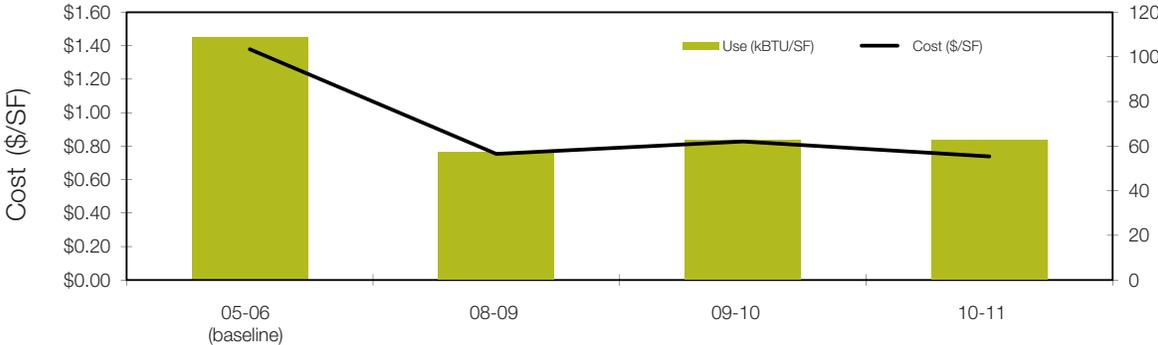
- Annually select a Team lead
- Establish/publicize regular Team meetings to assess District progress toward SMP goals
- Communicate quarterly on SMP progress (metrics/results)
- Annually review/realign SMP
- Prepare/present/publicize annual Sustainability Report to the Board of Education
- Communicate a District culture of sustainability (“the way we do things around here”)
- Annually identify champions at individual schools who will facilitate the creation of sustainability awareness/ best practices in each school through active engagement of staff, faculty, students, and parents
- Encourage/acknowledge environmental clubs and learning programs which teach concepts of sustainability and environmental science
- Distribute monthly energy consumption reports to schools for comparison/analysis with the same month/previous year
- Acknowledge specific achievements (individual, school, District)
- Celebrate successes!

A photograph of a mechanical room. In the center is a large, white, cylindrical tank with a circular access door on its side. To the left, there is a row of grey electrical cabinets. To the right, there is a large red cylindrical tank. The room is filled with white pipes and various mechanical components. The text "STEWARDSHIP BY THE NUMBERS" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

# STEWARDSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

Manitou Springs School District began its energy conservation efforts in 2005 by entering into a energy performance contract. This contract allowed the District to update critical infrastructure and improve efficiency throughout all district facilities. Over the last three years it is estimated that the District has saved approximately \$471,000 in avoided energy costs. Due to these extremely successful efforts in energy conservation the focus of this sustainability plan is to expand into additional areas including carbon emissions and solid waste reductions. On the following page is a graphical representation of the Manitou Springs School Districts energy conservation programs performance to date.

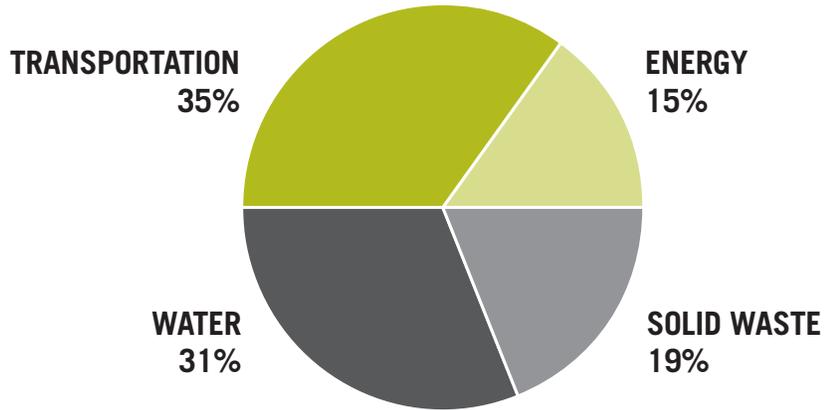
### MANITOU ENERGY COST & USE - WEATHER CORRECTED



# WHAT AREAS SHOULD WE FOCUS ON?

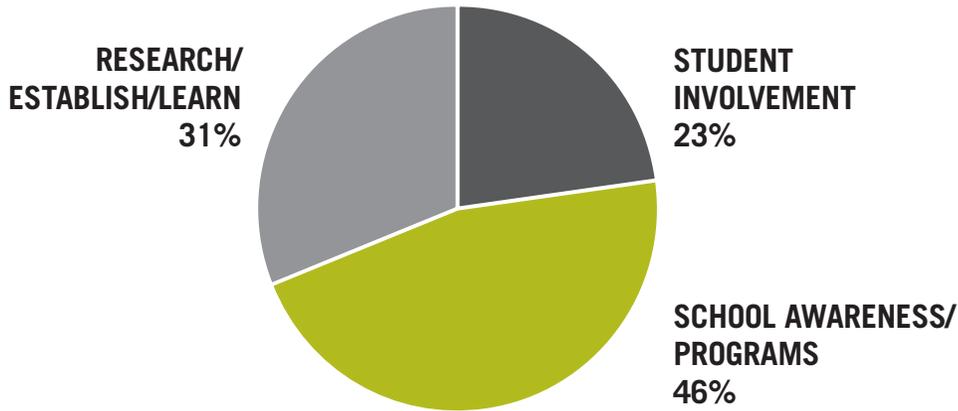
In order to better set our goals and learn what the most important aspects of sustainability were in our community we surveyed the residents of Manitou Springs about how to best practice good stewardship.

**MANITOU SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY GOALS  
RESPONSES BY CATEGORY**



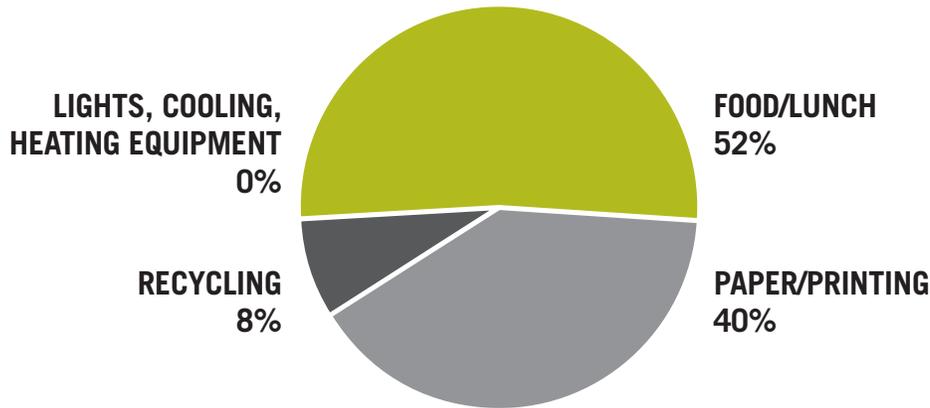
# WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS TO TEACH STUDENTS GOOD STEWARDSHIP?

MANITOU SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY GOALS  
RESPONSES BY SUBCATEGORY



# WHAT SPECIFIC AREAS SHOULD SCHOOLS FOCUS ON TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE?

MANITOU SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY GOALS  
RESPONSES BY SPECIALTY





**WE PROVIDE  
STEWARDSHIP  
& SUSTAINABILITY.**

**OUR STUDENTS  
RECEIVE A  
21ST CENTURY  
EDUCATION.**



## **MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

405 El Monte Place  
Manitou Springs, CO 80829

Telephone: 719 685 2024

**[www.mssd14.org](http://www.mssd14.org)**