



FACT SHEET

Accountability Work Group

Overview

In the fall of 2014, the commissioner of education established a volunteer work group to make recommendations to CDE about how best to enhance the state's School and District Performance Frameworks (SPFs and DPFs). The original SPFs/DPFs were developed in 2010. Based on lessons learned from the role they play in the state's education accountability system, they are ready for updating. Over the past several years, districts have expressed interest to CDE in providing input on that redesign.

The Accountability Work Group (AWG) is comprised of 27 regional superintendents and other school and district representatives, including leaders from CASE, CASB, CEA and the Colorado League of Charter Schools. Following a series of meetings with stakeholders throughout the state to gather feedback on the work group's recommendations, the next iteration of the SPFs and DPFs will be released in fall of 2016.

During this same time, conversations have been occurring around piloting and developing new approaches to accountability that could incorporate local flexibility and options to provide parents, schools, districts, taxpayers and policymakers with more meaningful information about school performance.

Purpose for School and District Accountability

The AWG came to a consensus on a purpose statement for accountability, as a basis for making decisions on recommendations:

"The purpose of Colorado's state school and district accountability system is to provide valid and actionable information to enable districts, schools and stakeholders to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of their programs, with the goal that all students, regardless of background or learning need, meet state expectations for academic achievement and growth and are prepared for post-secondary and workforce success."

Approach

The work group used a variety of research to inform recommendations. A unified improvement plan and accountability needs survey was conducted in spring 2014 (which included 113 district respondents) and focus group sessions held with rural district representatives, evaluation experts and advocacy groups were held in summer 2014. The group has also gathered its own research on best practices and education accountability systems in other states. Additionally, the work group is working in collaboration with the Technical Advisory Panel for Longitudinal Growth for feedback on its recommendations from a technical perspective. Stakeholder feedback is being collected during the fall of 2015.

Timeline for Recommendations

- January 2015 – April 2016:
Workgroup and sub-group meetings
- July – November 2015:
Statewide input on key recommendations
- October 2015
State Board of Education to discuss AWG purpose and activities
- October – December 2015:
Data analysis on new assessment results; continued input
- December 2015:
Finalize SPF/DPF 2.0 recommendations; final specs for informational reports
- April – May 2016:
Informational reports released to districts with training
- September 2016:
Preliminary SPF/DPF reports released with communication tools



Recommendation Topics

The work group is organized in sub-groups that focus on the following topics: measuring growth/improvement; measuring postsecondary and workforce readiness; measuring equity/disaggregated outcomes; framework design; piloting accountability 3.0; and communications. Recommendations from the sub-groups are being vetted with the entire work group before release.

Work Group Members

Alex Carter, Montezuma Cortez
Bree Lessar, La Veta School District
Bruce Caughey, CASE
David Bahna, Adams 12 School District
Grant Guyer, Denver Public Schools
Jason Seybert, Weld RE-5J
Jason Ter Horst, Colorado Springs District 11
Johan van Nieuwenhuizen, Weld-RE1
Judy Skupa, Cherry Creek School District
Karin Reynolds, Academy 20 School District
Ken DeLay, CASB
Kirk Banghart Moffat, Consolidated District #2
Kristen Stolpa, Charter School Institute
Linda Barker, Colorado Education Association

Lisa Escarcega, Aurora Public Schools
Lisa Yates, Buena Vista School District
Lori Smith, Fountain/Ft. Carson #8
Margie Ruckstuhl, Harrison School District
Marty Lamansky, Steamboat Springs District
Monica Johnson, Strasburg 31J
Nora Flood, Colorado League of Charter Schools
Oliver Grenham, Adams County District 50
Peter Hilts Falcon District 49 (PPASA)
Rose Cronk, Woodlin School District
Steven Cook, Douglas County School District
Susan Meek, CASE
Troy Lange, Mountain BOCES
Zach Allen Moffat County & South Routt School Districts

Where can I learn more?

- Accountability: http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/accountability2_0
- Accountability Work Group: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/accountabilityworkgroup>
- Accountability in Transition: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/impact-of-assessment-transition-on-school-and-district-accountability>
- With accountability questions, e-mail: accountability@cde.state.co.us
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs