Hello Accountability Contacts --

Happy spring break! Hopefully you were on a warm, sunny beach when you heard about Colorado's spring snowstorm(s). We have some accountability updates to share: clarifications on coding parent excusals, new accountability resources, announcement on the opening of the second cohort of the Local Accountability Systems Grant and an upcoming statewide convening, a request for input from the 1241 Task Force, and reminders on the new UIP template and upcoming rollover. Please let me or the team (accountability@cde.state.co.us) know if you have any additional questions. Take care, Lisa Medler and the Accountability & Continuous Improvement Team

Considerations for Coding Parent Excusals

Parent excuse codes are used when a parent excuses their child from participating in state content assessments. For accountability purposes, these codes are used to remove records from the accountability participation rate calculation that determines whether a school or district's rating is decreased due to participation. The Assessment Division shared clarifying language about the coding process last week. If you did not already receive the communication, scroll down to the bottom of this email and/or refer to the guidance document. More information about participation requirements and accountability implications, as well as unique considerations for 2024, are available in the 2024 Participation and Accountability Guide.

Updated 2024 Accountability Resources Available Now

A variety of accountability resources for 2024 are posted on the Accountability Resources website, including:

- Newly Arrived Multilingual Learners - Performance Framework Implications (PDF): This resource describes how newly arrived multilingual learners (MLs) are included in performance framework calculations.
- Summary Accountability and Improvement Planning Changes for 2024 (PDF): This document describes the changes related to accountability and improvement planning for 2024.
- 2024 Participation and Accountability Guide (DOC): This resource describes assessment participation requirements and the role of participation in both state and federal accountability. It has been updated for 2024.
- On Track Growth Fact Sheet (PDF): This document summarizes the on track growth measure and timeline for implementation. As a reminder, the State Board of Education voted to pause inclusion of On Track Growth in the performance framework. However, they did direct CDE to calculate this measure for elementary and middle schools based on Spring 2024 test results for informational public reporting.
- SBD and Accountability Fact Sheet (PDF): This resource describes the Student Biographical Data (SBD) review process and its impact on accountability calculations and reporting.

Local Accountability System Grant - Public Meeting and Cohort 2 Applications Open

The Local Accountability System Grantees will be having a public meeting in coordination with the 1241 Task Force on April 2nd from 11am-4pm. To learn more about grantee experiences and evaluation findings, register virtually or in person at the Local Accountability System website.

Requests for proposals are now open for Cohort 2 of the Local Accountability System Grant. This three year grant will allow schools, districts and BOCES to receive funds and technical assistance to support innovations in local accountability infrastructure.

- View the Local Accountability System Grant Application RFA
- Application Information Webinar: Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Register to attend
- Intent to Apply Due: Friday, April 5, 2024
- Applications are due April 22nd in GAINS.

Request for Input from the Accountability, Accreditation, Student Performance and Resource Inequities Task Force (1241 Task Force)

The 1241 Task Force wants your insights on the state's accountability system. Help us improve academic opportunities and address inequities. Survey is open through April 28. Your input is crucial! #Education #Colorado #Accountability https://tinyurl.com/1241PublicComment

UIP Feedback Released on a Rolling Basis
Schools and districts on Performance Watch (i.e., Priority Improvement, Turnaround, On Watch, On Hold) or ESSA Comprehensive Support are being reviewed by the School Improvement and Planning Team. Feedback will be shared with district accountability contacts and will be available in the Collaborate Tab of the plan Online UIP System as it is available. Reach out to the UIP team for support in implementing feedback: https://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/uip_contacts.

UIP Template Roll Over April 15: New Streamlined Template Option for 2024-25

The UIP template will roll over on Monday, April 15, changing from the 2023-24 template to the 2024-25 template. Once the template rolls over, school users will only have access to the 2024-25 template; previous UIPs and feedback will be view-only. District users can still access, edit, and post 2023-24 UIPs, if needed.

For the 2024-25 school year, schools and districts have the option to use the new streamlined Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) Template beginning on April 15. This template will be accessed by district staff in the online portal, and school users can be given access by district LAM assignment. For more information visit the online system website.

DAC - CDE Assessment Update

March 21, 2024

Bookmark us! http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment

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Important Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

Week of March 19th	CMAS materials scheduled to arrive in districts
March 22nd	Deadline for school Test Coordinators to complete SAT/PSAT Test Administration training
March 29th	Deadline for school Proctors and Monitors to complete SAT/PSAT Test Administration training.
March 29th	CMAS preparing of test sessions begins - CMAS math and ELA, grade 11 science
April 5th	CMAS preparing of test sessions begins - CMAS grades 5 and 8 science

General Information

Coding for Parent Excuse from Participating in State Testing

The attached document provides guidance on the application of parent excuse coding for both CMAS and PSAT/SAT. Parent excuse coding was created to indicate which missing assessment scores resulted from non-participation in a state content area assessment because a parent excused their child from testing. This coding complements state statute which requires local education providers to establish a process that allows parents to excuse their child from state content assessment participation.

Since the parent excuse code became available and as recently as last summer, districts have discovered and reported instances of local inadvertent parent excuse miscoding for students who completed testing. In these cases, students, parents, and educators expected to receive results; however, the parent excuse coding processed and prevented the production of scores.

This year's process will include automated checks to ensure that students who participate fully in state content assessments receive a score. These checks will prevent incompatible coding (i.e., parent excuse) for students who had the opportunity to respond in all CMAS units of testing or who engaged with PSAT/SAT testing.

In the rare case that a parent excusal from participation in the state assessment is received while a student is actively testing in the last unit of a CMAS assessment or while a student is actively participating in a PSAT/SAT testing room, the attached guidance includes the steps that will allow the processing of a parent excuse code. The number of records impacted by this update should be extremely limited.

NOTE: Parent excusals should not be solicited, including after absences for non-related issues. If the student is absent for the entire testing window, absent should be coded.

For More Information

If you have general questions or need assistance, contact:

- CMAS, **Sara Loerzel** (Loerzel_S@cde.state.co.us)
- PSAT/SAT, **Melissa Carpenter** (Carpenter_M@cde.state.co.us)
- CoAlt & Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, **Arti Sachdeva** (Sachdeva_A@cde.state.co.us)
- ACCESS for ELLs & Accommodations for Students whose Primary or Home Language is not English, **Heather Villalobos Pavia** (VillalobosPavia_H@cde.state.co.us)
- NAEP and Assessment Technology, **Collin Bonner** (Bonner_C@cde.state.co.us)
- Colorado Assessment Literacy Program, **Angela Landrum** (Landrum_A@cde.state.co.us)

http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment