

**COLORADO ACCOUNTABILITY, ACCREDITATION, STUDENT PERFORMANCE
AND RESOURCE INEQUITY TASK FORCE**
(created by H.B. 23-1241)

Meeting Summary | March 12, 2024

Published Agenda

10:00-10:05 AM	Welcome and Overview
10:05-10:35 AM	Discuss Proposed Road Map Revisions and Stakeholder Consultation Updates
10:35-12:00 PM	Whole Group Share Out: Experiences with the Accountability System
12:00-1:30 PM	Study Group Work Time and Working Lunch
1:30-3:00 PM	Cross Study Group Exchanges
3:00-3:10 PM	Break
3:10-3:40 PM	Study Group Work Time: Process Feedback and Plan Next Steps
3:40-4:00 PM	Closing

Note: Throughout the meeting, the chair and vice chair made real-time adjustments in conversation and facilitation, resulting in variations from the original agenda for some topics and time ranges.

Task Force Members in Attendance

NAME	REPRESENTING	VENUE
Dr. Wendy Birhanzel (chair)	<i>Superintendent</i>	In-person
Hon. Rebecca McClellan (vice chair)	<i>State Board of Education</i>	In-person
Tomi Amos	<i>Charter Network Leader</i>	Absent
Dr. Rob Anderson	<i>Superintendent (Urban)</i>	In-person
Amie Baca-Oehlert	<i>Statewide Teachers Organization</i>	In-person
Pamela Bisceglia	<i>Statewide Organization Specializing in Equity and Inclusion</i>	In-Person
Dr. Brenda Dickhoner	<i>Charter School Institute (Governing Board Member)</i>	In-Person
Kathleen Durán	<i>Expert in English Language Acquisition and Bilingual Ed</i>	In-person
Lindsey Gish	<i>Teacher (Middle School)</i>	In-person
Alison Griffin	<i>Workforce Development and Education Organization</i>	Absent
Don Haddad, Ed.D.	<i>Superintendent</i>	In-Person
Dr. Rhonda Haniford	<i>Colorado Department of Education</i>	In-Person
Tammi Hiler	<i>Governor's Office Representative</i>	In-Person

Ted Johnson	<i>District Administrator (Rural Accountability)</i>	In-Person
Erin Kane	<i>Superintendent</i>	Absent
Dr. Anne Keke	<i>Local School Board Member</i>	In-Person
Ryan Marks	<i>District Administrator (Accountability)</i>	In-Person
Nicholas Martinez	<i>Statewide Parents/Families Organization</i>	In-Person
Tony May	<i>Local School Board Member (Rural)</i>	Virtual
Dr. Robert Mitchell	<i>Teacher (Rural)</i>	In-Person
James Parr	<i>District Administrator (Rural Accountability)</i>	In-Person
Catie Santos de la Rosa	<i>Teacher (Elementary)</i>	In-Person
Mark Sass	<i>Statewide Teachers Organization</i>	In-Person
Dan Schaller	<i>Charter School Organization</i>	In-Person
Jen Walmer	<i>Statewide Education Policy Organization</i>	In-Person
Lisa Yates	<i>Superintendent (Rural Participant in Local Accountability System Grant)</i>	In-Person

CDE Staff: Lisa Medler, April Thompson, and Aislinn Wales

Facilitators: Sheila Briggs, Adam Brumer, and Kelly Jasiura

Welcome and Overview

The chair and vice chair welcomed the Task Force members and shared that during the meeting members would have significant time to continue working in their study groups and plan for stakeholder consultations. In addition, the group would have an opportunity to hear from fellow Task Force members about their experience with the accountability system.

They then reviewed the objectives for the meeting, which included:

- Study the frameworks to draft findings and recommendations, as necessary;
- share with fellow task force members examples of how the accountability system impacts their efforts to advance academic opportunities and address inequities; and
- develop plans to consult with stakeholders in order to strengthen findings and recommendations.

They also briefly went over the agenda and reminded the group of the Task Force’s norms and charge.

Discuss Proposed Road Map Revisions and Stakeholder Consultation Updates

The facilitators then reviewed with the group the feedback they gathered from the February post-meeting survey and how they would incorporate the feedback in future meetings. They addressed the following topics:

- **Interim Report:** Given the Task Force’s feedback on the process taken to revise the interim report, to improve the process for the final report, the facilitators will aim to set clear deadlines to incorporate feedback and give Task Force members sufficient time to react to changes.
- **Study Groups:** Task Force members expressed an interest in participating in additional study groups besides just the one they are assigned to, and a concern that the study groups might limit conversations on other topics related to the accountability system. The facilitators reminded the group that any Task Force members can attend any of the study groups additional meetings, which are publicly posted, and that there would be ample time during meetings to comment on other groups’ findings and recommendations. In addition, if Task Force members feel there is a need for additional study groups to cover other topics related to the frameworks, they should raise these with the Task Force and the facilitators directly.
- **Roadmap:** Lastly, in response to feedback that the Task Force should continue its work beyond June, the facilitators announced that there would be additional meetings throughout the fall. The facilitators will present an updated roadmap at the next meeting, but they described that through the rest of the meetings, the Task Force will engage in a cycle of feedback gathering and recommendation refinement. This will allow the Task Force to gain consensus on all recommendations so they can be added to the final report. The facilitators did also note that if the group cannot reach consensus on a recommendation, then it will be stated as such in the report.

The facilitators then reviewed the various ways the Task Force can gather stakeholder feedback, which includes presentations at meetings, stakeholder consultations conducted by Task Force members, and a soon to be published public comment survey. The facilitators emphasized that no one way of gathering stakeholder feedback is more important than another, and that all feedback would be shared with the full Task Force and considered as the group drafts their findings and recommendations. Task Force members then shared with the group examples of how they have engaged stakeholders to date.

Whole Group Share Out: Experiences with the Accountability System

In response to feedback from the Task Force that there is a need to hear more about the experiences of those on the Task Force, members with school- or district-level roles were given an opportunity to share their experience with the accountability system and how the system impacts their ability to advance academic opportunities and address inequities.

The following Task Force members shared their experiences in one of three groups:

- **Rural school systems:** Jim Parr (Montezuma-Cortez School District RE-1), Lisa Yates (Buena Vista School District), and Amie Baca-Oehlert (Colorado Education Association)
- **Large school systems:** Nichols Martinez (Transforming Education Now) and Dr. Rob Anderson (Boulder Valley School District)
- **School systems that serve high percentages of diverse students:** Catie Santos de la Rosa (Montclair Innovation School), Dr. Wendy Birhanzel (Harrison School District 2), and Dr. Don Haddad (St. Vrain Valley Schools)

Topics discussed during these share outs included:

- Inequitable resources experienced by the state’s smaller, rural districts;

- the impact of a small n-size on a district's accountability rating;
- opportunities to expand accountability to incorporate factors that better represent the work of school districts, such as what is being done with the S-CAP districts;
- the lack of trust by educators in the current accountability system;
- how lower achievement among student subgroups can be masked in larger districts;
- the need for increased communications and transparency around the accountability system to better serve families;
- the impact socioeconomic levels have on accountability ratings;
- the difficulties with reliably comparing data across school systems under the current accountability system; and
- the benefits of adaptive testing and local assessment data to allow for more timely interventions.

Study Group Work Time and Working Lunch

The Task Force members then divided up into their study groups on the accountability frameworks to reflect on the share outs they heard from fellow members; share updates on any stakeholder consultations they conducted since the February meeting; review comments from fellow Task Force members on their draft findings and recommendations; and continue generating additional findings and recommendations or review existing ones.

The study groups are focusing on the following topics related to the frameworks:

- Impact of n-size and participation rates on SPF ratings
- Recognition of trends between student groups (demographic, other categories)
- Assessments used for accountability ratings
- Measures sufficient for high school
- Measures sufficient for early grades

Cross Study Group Exchanges

Following the study group time, the groups engaged in a full group share out highlighting the findings and recommendations they have developed to date. The Task Force members then divided into small groups, made up of members from different study groups, to facilitate further cross-study group sharing and feedback.

Study Group Work Time: Process Feedback and Plan Next Steps

After the cross-study group exchanges, Task Force members rejoined their study groups to share what they learned, consider whether they will meet between meetings, and create a game plan for stakeholder consultations.

They used an action planning template to answer the following questions:

- What do you plan to accomplish between now and April?
- How will you accomplish this?

- On what issues are you feeling good or not about?
- What additional support do you need from the facilitators or from CDE?

In addition, as a follow up to earlier conversations on stakeholder engagements, the facilitators shared that the April meeting will focus on speaking directly with local accountability grantees, parents, and students. Other stakeholder groups will be consulted largely through interviews and focus groups that Task Force members conduct on their own, to tailor these consultations to each study group's unique needs and through a public comment survey. The Task Force was asked to review a draft of this survey before it is finalized, and the CDE agreed to provide resources to translate the survey to Spanish. Once finalized, the survey will be posted on the CDE website and shared via social media.

Closing

The facilitators reminded the Task Force of next steps, and then thanked them for their hard work.

Summary of next steps

- The Task Force members will add comments to the public comment survey; the facilitators will finalize the public survey; and CDE will translate the survey into Spanish, post the final version, and share the final version via social media and email.
- The facilitators will propose a revised roadmap at the next meeting.
- Task Force members will continue to conduct stakeholder consultations and conduct meetings between meetings to further develop their findings and recommendations, as needed.
- Task Force members will complete the post-meeting survey.

The next meeting will take place on April 2, 2024, at the Adams County Human Services Center.

The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting summary prepared by Education First