BACKGROUND

Under legislation passed in spring 2018 ([HB18-1355](https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/housebill1355-factsheet)[[1]](#footnote-1)), Colorado’s Accountability Law now includes additional improvement planning requirements for schools and districts in year four of the accountability clock. Specifically, a general explanation for how the school/district may put into effect each of the potential state board directed actions must be included within the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP). Given the significant actions that the State Board of Education may direct, the intent of planning at this stage is to begin considering any long-range planning that may be necessary for directed action implementation. This resource provides additional detail about the requirement and provides some options for meeting expectations beginning in 2019-20.

End of Clock Recommendation Process

If a school or district receives a plan type of Priority Improvement or Turnaround for five years, then the State Board of Education must direct an action to the local board of education. The State Board has discretion to take action prior to the end of the Accountability Clock for schools and districts with Turnaround plans.

Schools and districts on the Accountability Clock for any period of time should be implementing research-based strategies of appropriate scope and intensity to improve student outcomes. After five years, the State Board of Education will direct action from a limited list of options. In considering appropriate actions, the State Board will refer to a recommendation from the State Review Panel and a report from the Commissioner of Education. School districts may also provide a proposal for their preferred pathway to the State Board.

## Pursuant to Colorado law, to improve performance, the State Board of Education may direct action to schools and districts that reach Year 5 or later on the accountability clock – this does not apply to schools/districts that are “on watch.” The possible directed actions are detailed [here](https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/accountability_clock)[[2]](#footnote-2) and include:

## Innovation Status: Provide flexibility from certain state and local rules.

## Management by a Public or Private Entity: Require a district or school to work with an external management partner.

## Convert School to a Charter School: Convert a district run school to a charter school.

## Change Charter Operator/Board: Require a charter school to replace its operator or governing board.

## School Closure

## District Reorganization: Consolidate the district with a neighboring district(s).

INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLETE REQUIREMENT

In the future, a form will be built into the online UIP system. In the interim, this requirement can be fulfilled by attaching a separate document to the schools’ or districts’ UIP(s). A potential form has been included in this resource.

## Using the steps below, complete the Year 4 Accountability Clock Form and add as an attachment to the school’s or district’s UIP.

* Review all of the possible directed actions. These options are laid out in statute. The State Board will be looking for evidence that the school/district sincerely explored all possibilities. Note: The EASI grant (available in the fall) offers dollars to assist with exploring and planning these options.
* Consider the viability of implementing each action, identifying those that would have the most positive impact on student performance within your unique context. Think about which pathway(s):

## Has the greatest likelihood of improving student outcomes?

## Has the highest likelihood of being implemented to a high level?

## Would garner stakeholder support?

## Would meet needs that the district or school cannot currently provide?

* Record findings in the Year 4 Accountability Clock Form, focusing on the preferred action(s). However, think about findings for all applicable options.
* Explain how these findings were decided in collaboration with the district authorizer.
* Explain the district’s role in implementing the preferred action(s), including any barriers and needed supports.
* (If currently implementing a Turnaround plan) Explain how the current chosen Turnaround strategy aligns with the preferred action(s).
* Briefly address the other actions, explaining why they are not viable options for the school.

## Where can I learn more?

* CDE staff can help schools and districts understand each potential action, how they can review options, and meet requirements. Reach out to your [CDE Support Coordinator](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeawards/easi-contacts)
* CDE Accountability, Performance and Support resources: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability>
* [View all CDE fact sheets](http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs): [www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfaqs](http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfaqs)

**Year 4 Accountability Clock Form**

Upload this form into the school/district online UIP under “Add Attachment”. Contact the Improvement Planning office or your assigned Support Coordinator with any questions.

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| **District Name:** |  | | **School Name:** | |  | | |
| **Names & roles of leaders completing form:** |  | | | | | | |
| **Describe the preferred action(s), including an explanation of the rationale, viability, and basic implementation. Include a description of the role of the district, stakeholder engagement and possible barriers.** | | | | | | | |
| Innovation Status | External Management | Convert to a Charter School For Non-Charters Only | | Change Charter Operator or Board For Existing Charters Only | | School Closure | District Reorganization For District Only |
|  | | | | | | | |
| **Describe any current practices the school/district is implementing that supports the preferred action(s).** | | | | | | | |
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| **Describe the process used to consider the remaining applicable options and a rationale for why they may not be preferred actions at this point in time.** | | | | | | | |
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1. HB 1355 Fact Sheet: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/housebill1355-factsheet> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Colorado Performance Watch: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/accountability_clock> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)