



COLORADO
Department of Education
Commissioner of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

Oct. 12, 2018

Dear Superintendents and Accountability contacts,

We hope your school year has gotten off to a great start! I can't believe we're already into October.

I know many of you have been hearing talk about conversations the state board is having around accountability—including at the Board meeting yesterday. I also know that many of you are anxious to get involved in these conversations.

We'd like to share a few important updates with you about these conversations and how you can be involved in any upcoming board decisions. We have had some preliminary conversations with various superintendent groups, the Technical Advisory Panel for Longitudinal Growth (TAP), the Association of Colorado Education Evaluators (ACEE) but we look forward to talking with more of you over the coming months.

2019 Performance Framework Target Setting

Per state statute and board rule, the State Board of Education sets targets within each Performance Indicator (Growth, Achievement, Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness) on an annual basis (by November of each year). The State Board discussed 2019 targets during this week's board meeting, and will vote on targets at the November board. State board members have expressed interest in adjusting targets within the Achievement Performance Indicator, specifically due to concerns with the differences between student outcomes and how school performance is described. (For example, about 40% of students are meeting expectations in English language arts, but the majority of our schools receive performance or improvement ratings). Materials from this week's discussion can be found here: [Accountability Areas of Interest & 2019 Performance Framework Target Setting](#), and a recording of the presentation and discussion will be posted on the [SBE Meeting Archives Page](#) later this month. The board is considering a number of different options for achievement targets including: keeping the targets consistent in 2019 with 2018, increasing the school targets to align with student level expectations, aligning with ESSA expectations. The board may also consider making adjustments to the targets for 2019, 2020 or another future year.

House Bill 18-1355 Rulemaking

HB 18-1355 passed in the spring of 2018, and modifies Colorado's accountability law. Many components of the bill will go into effect with the 2019 performance frameworks. An overview of the bill can be found here: [HB 18-1355 Fact Sheet](#). The State Board of Education will start the rulemaking process for HB 18-1355 in the spring of 2019, and CDE staff will be gathering feedback on draft rules this fall and winter around three specific components: Performance Indicators (weighting of Performance Indicators on Performance Frameworks and the inclusion of a revised Growth to Standard measure); School and District Ratings; and Request to Reconsider criteria. **CDE staff will be attending established stakeholder group meetings including regional superintendent and district administrator groups and gathering feedback**



via survey. Draft rules and the accompanying survey will be distributed to districts in early November. The rules are scheduled to be noticed in January with a hearing at the March state board meeting.

Growth to Standard Measure

State statute requires that a growth to standard measure be included on school and district performance frameworks. Growth to standard is defined as a measure of “student academic growth-to-standard, based on students’ progress toward meeting the state standards or, for students who meet grade-level expectations on the state standards, progress toward higher levels of achievement.” With the assessment transition from CSAP/TCAP to CMAS and the new statutory language, we have the opportunity to revise our growth-to-standard definition and calculation methodology. CDE staff has been working closely with the Technical Advisory Panel on Longitudinal growth (TAP) – a group of Colorado district leaders – to develop this measure. All TAP meetings are public, and agendas and recordings can be accessed online: [Technical Advisory Panel](#). The state board will consider the recommendations of the TAP in defining the growth to standard criteria in the board rules.

Accountability Data Tools

Both [DISH](#) and [Data Lab](#) have been populated with preliminary 2018 accountability data. Both of these tools have been updated recently, and we hope these they prove to be helpful in your district’s planning efforts. In response to feedback received from districts and other accountability stakeholders this spring, CDE has formed a task force to identify improvements in accountability and performance data reporting. We would love to work closely with a group of external (to CDE) stakeholders to design and pilot reports over the course of the 2018-19 school year. If you or anyone in your district has an interest in this work, please let us know by sending an email to accountability@cde.state.co.us with the subject: *Accountability Data Reporting Task Force*.

While we have highlighted several ways of getting involved—please let us know if you are having a meeting and want us to come, chat on the phone or submit comments about this via email. I know this is a sensitive and important topic. You can contact Alan Dillion if you have questions or would like to share your thoughts at Dillon_A@cde.state.co.us or Ashley Piche at Piche_A@cde.state.co.us. I will also be out on the road talking with you over the coming months.

Thank you for all of the tremendous work you do every day for Colorado students.



Katy Anthes, Ph.D.
Commissioner

