Supporting Student Success

The use of data helps guide parents, teachers, schools, districts and state leaders as we work together to improve student achievement so all children graduate ready for college and career. While using data effectively to guide improvement in instruction and student achievement, the Colorado Department of Education takes seriously its moral and legal responsibility to protect student privacy and ensure data confidentiality.

Empowering Parents

At the beginning of a child's educational journey, school performance data helps parents make important decisions about the school or learning environment that is best for their child.

Throughout a child's school years, useful and rich data provide parents with the information they need to help support their children at school. Data also empowers parents to become effective advocates at the local and state levels for improvements in their child's education.

Supporting Teachers

When teachers have access to data on their students, they can be more effective in their efforts to improve student achievement. Information about students' performance enables teachers to personalize instruction to meet students' individual needs.

Informing District and State Leaders

State and district leaders need data on students' grades, attendance, demographics, growth, postsecondary enrollment – and remediation rates – to determine if policies are helping students prepare for success. Effective use of data provides a clear picture of student achievement to districts and state leaders, allowing them to determine which educational programs are working to increase student achievement and which are not.

Using Student Data

CDE uses individual student data to track our state's progress toward preparing all students for success in college and career.

What data is collected?

Data collected by CDE meets specific policy, practice, and service needs. No one can access the data who should not.

Data collected include:

- test scores,
- student and teacher attendance,
- demographics,
- financial information,
- learning disabilities,
- graduation and remediation rates, and
- interventions.

For more information about CDE's Information and Security Policy and data dictionary, visit: http://www.cde.state.co.us/data privacyandsecurity .

- *State assessment data* measure student and school performance while providing information that focuses our efforts to close the achievement gap.

- Data on post-secondary enrollment and remediation is a critical indicator of the overall effectiveness of state policies and programs.

Aggregate data, or information that does not contain personally identifying information, is used to provide school and district performance reports to parents and to monitor and evaluate specific programs. Aggregate data is also used in reports to the federal government that are required in order to receive federal funding for program participation, including special education, free and reduced lunch and English language learners The federal government does not have the authority to collect individual student data.

Protecting Student Information

Pledging to the Highest Standards of Data Security

CDE is committed to keeping student data safe, secure and private. CDE's Information and Security Policy fully adheres to federal and state law. In addition, CDE has implemented additional safeguards, including employee cyber-security training and a data governance committee.

Restricting Access to Student Information

Only authorized and authenticated CDE and district education officials and information services personnel have access to student data. Additionally, contract vendors with signed privacy obligations and requirements have limited access to contractually specified data.

Where can I learn more?

- For all CDE policies and documents on data privacy and security, visit
  http://www.cde.state.co.us/dataprivacyandsecurity
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs