

August 19, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Thanks to those of you who expressed interest in participating in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) committee work that will support the drafting of Colorado's ESSA state plan. We are writing to follow up on the Hub/Spoke process and give a general update on how you can stay involved.

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) first introduced a proposed Hub/Spoke committee process at the State Board of Education meeting in April. We then presented the idea across the state during the months of May and June as part of ESSA Listening Tour events, the Listening Tour webinar, conference presentations and other ESSA stakeholder listening events. Finally, we followed up with information about committee membership, process, and timelines in two memos from Associate Commissioner Barbara Hickman in July and published updates and announcements via CDE's Scoop newsletter, CDE Monthly Update, ESSA email distribution list as well as CDE's ESSA website and blog.

Since it was first proposed in April, we have received an overwhelming response from teachers, parents, business organizations, education groups, district staff, school staff, advocacy groups and many others requesting to participate in the ESSA Hub and Spoke committee process. CDE staff have been collecting and sorting through lists of these committee requests with a goal of trying to find appropriate committee placements for the many interested individuals. Membership for the ESSA Hub committee has been finalized and many Spoke committees have reached or are near capacity. In order to move the work forward and meet upcoming submission deadlines, we will close committee membership once committees begin their work. We have created ESSA Hub and Spoke committee webpages and will post lists of members and meeting dates for each committee as they become available. All committee meetings are open to the public. You can find the links to the Spoke webpages on our ESSA State Plan Development webpage: (http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/essa_stateplandevlopment).

In addition to the requests from individuals to participate, existing working groups and committees such as the ESEA Committee of Practitioners, the Accountability Work Group, the Special Education Advisory Council, the EL Stakeholders Advisory Group, the Statewide Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education, the Early Childhood Leadership Commission and others are a fundamental part of the development of Colorado's ESSA state plan. However, formal committee work is only one part of the ESSA state plan development and CDE is committed to providing multiple avenues and opportunities for interested individuals and organizations to review plans as they are being developed and to provide feedback as part of the ESSA plan development process. Even if you are not on a committee, that does not mean you have missed your opportunity to influence that committee's work! Here are the ways we have and will continue to incorporate your voices:

- During the ESSA Listening Tour, group meetings and related events, CDE collected feedback from nearly 1,500 participants. We will use their feedback to inform our drafts, and we hope to



schedule follow-up communication and opportunities to review ESSA draft plans with those who attended the first tour.

- CDE will post all Hub and Spoke committee work on our [ESSA State Plan Development](#) website, including the drafts and presentations from the Spokes to the Hub. We encourage you to view those materials and provide feedback directly to the ESSA committees as they work.
- Sign up for our newsletter to receive updates on the ESSA state plan development process and receive notifications of upcoming feedback and involvement opportunities. Please follow this link to sign up for our list to receive updates: (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESSA_vettinglist).
- ESSA Hub committee meetings are open to the public and we will provide opportunities to submit feedback directly to that committee. Live audio streaming and recording options are in the works. You can find information about the first Hub committee meeting, including the agenda, Hub committee membership list, and presentation materials on our ESSA State Plan Development website: (http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/essa_stateplandevlopment). Their next meeting will be held on September 12 in the [State Board of Education board room](#).

As you can see, there are many ways to be involved in the process. We continue to be impressed with the public's level of interest at participating in the challenging task of helping to draft the state's ESSA plan. This work needs community involvement and we are so thankful that schools, districts, and community representatives have stepped up. We will continue to offer ways to be involved with the process as it goes forward. Thank you again for your interest.

Respectfully,



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