

# Pathways for Priority Improvement and Turnaround DISTRICTS Under the Colorado Accountability Act of 2009

November 26, 2013

This document was prepared by CDE staff, with the collaboration and approval of the Colorado Office of the Attorney General.

This document is intended to work in conjunction with the narrative addendum.



COLORADO DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

IF one of these conditions is true: C.R.S. § 22-11-209(1)

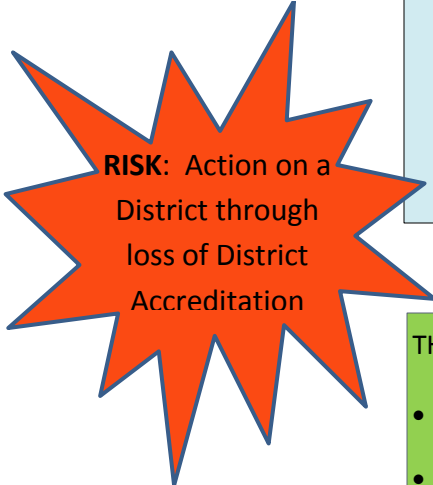
- (a) The district or the Institute is accredited with **Turnaround** and the department determines that they have failed to make substantial progress (early action); or...
- (b) The district or the Institute has been in the accredited with **Priority Improvement plan category or lower** for five consecutive school years; or...
- (c) The district or the Institute has substantially failed to comply with provisions concerning budget and financial policies...

## District Planning

If a district is assigned a Turnaround plan, they shall complete the UIP Addendum (Section V) and select one or more of the required strategies:

- Turnaround Partner
- School/District Management
- Innovation School
- School/District Management Contract
- Charter Conversion
- Restructure Charter
- School Closure
- Other action of comparable or greater significance

Districts with Priority Improvement plans are expected to select major improvement strategies that lead to dramatic change.



## CDE Staff Recommendations

THEN the Commissioner...

- Shall assign the State Review Panel to evaluate the district's or the Institute's performance
- May recommend to the state board that a district's accreditation be removed

## State Review Panel

The panel shall report to the Commissioner and the state board recommendations concerning whether the district's:

- (a) leadership is adequate
- (b) infrastructure is adequate
- (c) readiness and apparent capacity to plan effectively
- (d) readiness and apparent capacity to engage productively with the assistance provided by an external partner
- (e) likelihood of positive returns on state investments of assistance and support
- (f) necessity that the school remain in operation

C.R.S. § 22-11-210(4)

...the State Review Panel shall critically evaluate the district's performance and determine whether to recommend:

C.R.S. § 22-11-210(5)(a)

For a **School District**:

For the **Institute**:

**A. District Reorganization**  
(22-30-102)

**A. Institute Board be abolished and a new board appointed by Gov.**

**B. Take over management** of district or one or more schools

**B. Take over management** of institute or one or more of its schools

**C. One or more schools be converted to a charter school**

**C. One or more of its schools be closed**

**D. One or more schools be granted Innovation status**  
(22-32.5-104)

**E. One or more schools be closed**

## State Board of Education

### District Accreditation

The state board **MUST** remove district's accreditation if a district is at the end of the five-year clock.

*"The state board by rule shall specify how long a school district or the institute may remain in an accreditation category that is below accredited; except that the state board shall not allow a school district or the institute to remain at accredited with priority improvement plan or below for longer than a total of five consecutive school years before removing the school district's or the institute's accreditation as provided in section 22-11-209."* 22-11-207(4)

*"If the state board removes a school district's or the institute's accreditation, the state board shall notify the school district or the institute of the actions the district or institute is required to take."* 22-11-209(3)

In order to re-accredit a district, the state board may require actions:

- From the State Review Panel's recommendation, or
- From the Commissioner's recommendation, or
- Modifications from any recommendations, or
- Any other action

School District or Institute makes required action by the state board

### Reinstatement of Accreditation

*"After the school district or the institute takes the required actions, the state board shall reinstate the school district's or the institute's accreditation at the accreditation category deemed appropriate by the state board."* (22-11-209)(3)

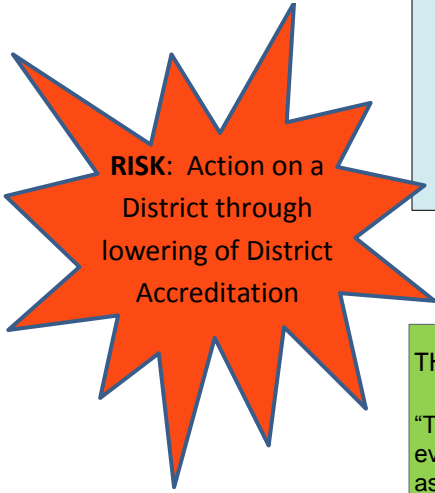
The state board may reinstate accreditation at Priority Improvement or Turnaround continuing the period on the accountability clock beyond the fifth year.

# Pathways for Priority Improvement and Turnaround SCHOOLS Under the Colorado Accountability Act of 2009

November 26, 2013

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IF one of these conditions is met:

- (a) The school is assigned a **Turnaround** plan category and the department determines that they have failed to make substantial or adequate progress; or...
- (b) The school is assigned a **Priority Improvement plan category or lower** for five consecutive school years; or...
- (c) The school is assigned a Priority Improvement or Turnaround plan category for any period of time and has **failed to make substantial or adequate progress...**

**School Planning**

If a school is assigned a Turnaround plan, they shall complete the UIP Addendum (Section V) and select one or more of the required strategies:

- Turnaround Partner
- School/District Management
- Innovation School
- School/District Management Contract
- Charter Conversion
- Restructure Charter
- School Closure
- Other action of comparable or greater significance

Schools with Priority Improvement plans are expected to select major improvement strategies that lead to dramatic change.

CDE Staff Recommendations

**THEN... the Commissioner**

"The commissioner **may** assign the state review panel to critically evaluate a public school's priority improvement plan and **shall** assign the state review panel to critically evaluate a public school's turnaround plan." C.R.S. § 22-11-210(4)

**State Review Panel**

The panel shall report to the Commissioner and the state board recommendations concerning whether the school's:

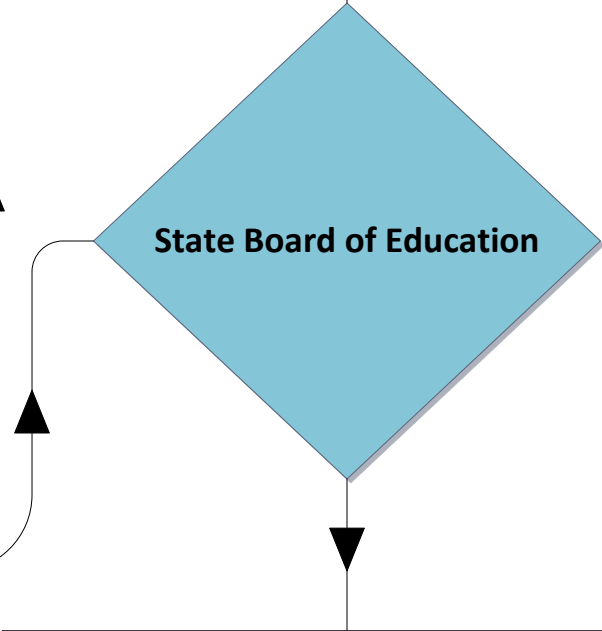
- (a) leadership is adequate
- (b) infrastructure is adequate
- (c) readiness and apparent capacity to plan effectively
- (d) readiness and apparent capacity to engage productively with the assistance provided by an external partner
- (e) likelihood of positive returns on state investments of assistance and support
- (f) necessity that the school remain in operation

C.R.S. § 22-11-210(4)

...the State Review Panel shall critically evaluate the public school's performance and determine whether to recommend:

C.R.S. § 22-11-210(5)(a)

- (I) ...that a district public school should be **managed by a private or public entity other than the school district**
- (II) that the public or private entity operating the charter school or the governing board of the charter school should **be replaced by a different public or private entity or governing board**
- (III) ...that the district public school be **converted to a charter school**
- (IV) ...that the district public school be **granted status as an innovation school**
- (V) ...that the public school **be closed**, or with a district or institute charter school, that **the charter be revoked**



**State Board Actions**

"...the state board shall not allow a public school to continue implementing a priority improvement or turnaround plan for longer than a combined total of five consecutive school years before requiring the school district or the institute to restructure or close the public school." C.R.S. § 22-11-210(1)(d)

The state board **shall** determine which of the State Review Panel's recommended actions the local district board or the Institute's board shall take.

"The state review panel shall present its recommendation to the commissioner and to the state board. Taking the recommendations into account, the state board shall determine which of the actions... the local school board... or the institute for an institute charter school shall take regarding the public school and direct the local school board or institute accordingly." C.R.S. § 22-11-210(5)(b)

"...the department may change a school district's or the institute's accreditation category... if the department determines that... [they] failed to meet a requirement specified in the accreditation contract and that immediate action is required to protect the interests of the students..." C.R.S. § 22-11-208(1)(b)