



COLORADO
Department of Education
Commissioner of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

Oct. 4, 2019

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

First, let me thank you for the engagement over the past several months on the topic of accountability. I know it has created a lot of discussion, anxiety and varying opinions. I received the letter that many of you sent and I have spoken with several others. I really appreciate all of the perspectives and I thank you for sharing your concerns with me. It has made me think very deeply about our accountability systems and the varying purposes and perspectives of it. I wanted to take some time to assure you that the department is listening and that we are sharing your feedback with the State Board. They may vote at their Oct 10 meeting, but they may continue the discussion. If you need a reminder on the scenarios, refer to the email sent by Alan Dillon (now retired) on Sept 6 or go to this link: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/sbeinterestareas>.

In the meantime, I want to provide you with as much information as possible. The Accountability Analytics team has created an interactive report to allow you to see the ratings outcomes for your district schools (elementary and middle schools) associated with each of the different scenarios. The tool shows the results of an analysis that was run using data from the 2019 one-year performance frameworks. You will see the proposed On Track Growth to Target as a new performance indicator, and then each of the four different cut-point scenarios were applied. You will also be able to see how these simulated ratings would compare to the 2019 preliminary framework ratings. This is only simulated data and will not be used for other purposes. At this point, the tool is only being shared with superintendents for their own districts. Below, you will see instructions on how to access the tool, a summary of the scenarios, a walkthrough of the report and a brief FAQ.

I recognize the tremendous work that is being done in your districts. That has never been in doubt. I really hope that you will continue to engage with this new information and be in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Katy Anthes, Ph.D.
Commissioner



Instructions to Access the Accountability Data Simulation Tool

To access the tool, click on the link below. When you click on the link, you will initially be taken to a screen that prompts you to enter your login credentials for CDE’s identity management system (IDM). Once you enter your IDM credentials (the same as you use for RANDA, Data Pipeline, Online UIP), you will see the report. **If you have any trouble accessing your report, contact Josh Perdue. You may reach him by email at perdue_j@cde.state.co.us or by phone at 303-2014-7203.**

https://tableau.cde.state.co.us/views/PerformanceFrameworkImpactAnalysisOptionsforRatingsCut-Points_15699420005590/GrowthtoTargetImpact?iframeSizedToWindow=true&:embed=y&:showAppBanner=false&:display_count=no&:showVizHome=no

	Timeframe for On Track Growth	Increase Cut-Score for Performance Rating	Distinction Category?
On Track Growth Only	2 years for Catch Up; 3 years for Keep Up	--	--
Scenario A	2 years for Catch Up; 3 years for Keep Up	Up 6%	No
Scenario B	2 years for Catch Up; 3 years for Keep Up	Up 6%	Yes - 10%
Scenario C	2 years for Catch Up; 3 years for Keep Up	Up 8%	No
Scenario D	2 years for Catch Up; 3 years for Keep Up	Up 8%	Yes - 10%

Walkthrough of the Report

The top half of the report is a crosstab showing how the distribution of ratings for schools within the district would change for each of the different rating cut-point scenarios. Users select which cut-point option they’re interested in from a dropdown filter. Preliminary ratings from the 2019 frameworks are listed on separate rows in the left-hand column, and then ratings associated with the selected scenario are shown in columns from left to right. The numbers represent counts of schools. A summary of changes is shown to the right of the main table. In the example below, from a total of 48 schools, two schools would have higher ratings under the selected cut-point option, 12 would have lower ratings, and 34 would have the same ratings they received under the 2019 frameworks. Hovering over any of the cells in the table will display demographic information and performance indicator outcomes for that specific set of schools.

Beneath the table, the report lists the individual schools represented in the counts. For each school, the 2019 rating is shown along with the rating that would be earned under the selected cut-point scenario. Hovering over the rating in the list will show demographic information and performance indicator ratings for that specific school. Note that at this time the tool only shows impact data for schools that serve students at the elementary and middle school levels. Information about DPF impacts and impacts on schools that serve high school students will be available at a later date.



Ratings with Selected Option

(Hover over cells for details about demographics and ratings outcomes)

2019 Ratings	Priority Improvement	Improvement	Performance	Totals - 2019	Higher Rating with Selection	2
Priority Improvement	6	2		8	No Change with Selection	34
Improvement	2	16		18	Lower Rating with Selection	12
Performance		10	12	22		
Totals - Selected Option	8	28	12	48		

Frequently Asked Questions

If the State Board adopts one of the scenarios, when will we see it reflected in the frameworks?

The State Board can adopt a longer transition period. The earliest that districts would see new cut-scores would be in the 2021 performance frameworks. The 2020 frameworks would include the data for information purposes.

These scenarios only cover elementary and middle schools. Will the State Board adjustments for high schools and districts too?

Most likely. The State Board decided to hold off talking about high schools since there are new post-secondary workforce readiness (PWR) indicators that need to be integrated into the frameworks through recent legislation. The department is mocking up possible approaches now and will be asking for input from the field over the coming months.

