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**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 10:44 AM

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**Subject:** Accountability Update: Growth Data, Request to Reconsider, New School Plan Types, Accreditation Contracts

Hello Accountability Contacts -- Hope you are sitting down with a cozy cup of coffee or tea. We are sharing a lot of accountability updates today! In summary, we are (1) releasing embargoed ACCESS and CMAS growth and matriculation files, (2) launching the 2021 amended request to reconsider process, (3) gathering plan types for any new schools and (4) renewing accreditation contracts for districts with Performance or Distinction plan types. Thanks so much, Lisa Medler

### **2021 Student Growth & Matriculation Data Available (Embargoed until after CDE has publicly released summary school and district achievement results)**

*Embargo.* The 2021 student level WIDA-ACCESS growth, CMAS growth, and matriculation data will be available to District Accountability Contacts later today via Syncplicity. This data is embargoed until after CDE's Assessment unit has publicly released summary school and district achievement results at which time the department will release growth data publicly by updating reports on the CDE website. The embargo is in place to provide time for you and your district colleagues to make sense of the data before the information is made accessible through [SchoolView](#). You may share data with internal staff to engage in analysis and planning, as needed. However, do not share data publicly (e.g., community members, media) until the end of the embargo period. Given the complexity of interpreting performance data at this time, this will also enable the department to provide appropriate context.

*Guidance and Statewide Results (highly recommended that you read this document).* A guidance document about the department's approach to calculating growth and statewide results has been attached. The growth data is being shared not as a part of the accountability process this year but to provide districts with additional information on student progress. Members of the [Technical Advisory Panel \(TAP\)](#) and the [COVID-19 Policy Implications Stakeholder Group](#) have expressed concerns about the potential for misuse of this data given its complexity and the department encourages careful consideration of the current context when interpreting results. The department in collaboration with national experts (i.e., [National Center for Improvement of Educational Assessment](#)) is using two approaches for modeling growth this year -- cohort- and baseline-referenced growth. The traditional *cohort-referenced growth calculations* reset median growth percentiles (MGP) each year to 50. Because it is norm-referenced against the current cohort of students, major changes in statewide trends may be masked. The new *baseline-referenced growth approach* compares current student progress against previous-year expectations so MGPs can vary above and below 50, indicating whether students made more or less progress than historical peers. This approach provides a comparison to past performance to detect statewide shifts. You are receiving calculations from both approaches in this data release for comparison purposes. When releasing data publicly, the department will be using the baseline approach only.

*File Layout.* The file layout and included fields remain relatively unchanged from previous years. The files to be shared along with their location in Syncplicity are reflected below.

- **CMAS & WIDA-ACCESS Growth Files:**
  - CMAS and ACCESS growth files will be available within the Growth 2021->ACCESS\_CMAS Growth' subfolder within your 'Accountability Contact' folder. The shared files include:
    - Two growth detail excel files with the student level growth data along with two header files that define the layout and fields in the detail files,
    - Two growth summary excel files that allow you to view your median growth percentiles and baseline growth percentiles for the state, by school and by disaggregated group.
  
- **Matriculation Files:**
  - Shared matriculation files will be available within the 'Matriculation 2021' subfolder located within your 'Accountability Contact' folder. The shared files include:
    - A student detail file with the student level data that was utilized for matriculation rate calculations,
    - A header file that provides the file layout and defines each field included within the student detail file,
    - A summary file that provides matriculation rates for the state, district, and schools. This includes overall rates along with rates based on CTE, 2-year higher education, and 4-year higher education enrollment.

A few things of note, for growth all 'on-track' fields are blank as they were not calculated for the current year. For all growth files, they now include an additional field for baseline growth named, 'SGP\_Baseline'.

*Syncplicity.* To log-in to Syncplicity go to: <https://my.syncplicity.com/>. For new users, you can create a free account by clicking on the register link located on the right-hand side of the page. For questions regarding Syncplicity please contact the CDE help desk via e-mail at: [helpdesk@cde.state.co.us](mailto:helpdesk@cde.state.co.us). For issues related to file permissions, please contact Dan Jorgensen at: [Jorgensen\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Jorgensen_d@cde.state.co.us).

*Questions.* For additional questions regarding the growth or matriculation data, please contact Amanda Callinan via e-mail at: [Callinan\\_a@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Callinan_a@cde.state.co.us) or Dan Jorgensen via e-mail at: [Jorgensen\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Jorgensen_d@cde.state.co.us)

## **Districts and Schools on the Accountability Clock: Participation in Request to Reconsider**

With the State Board's approval of the 2021 request to reconsider rules at the August board meeting, the department is launching the process for eligible schools and districts. The 2021 process is different from the past process due to the [accountability pause](#) and some limitations on data availability. CDE may review state and local data, as well as qualitative measures (e.g., UIP, site visit). Details on the modified request to reconsider process for schools and districts on the accountability clock (i.e., Priority Improvement, Turnaround) are now available on the [CDE website](#), including [guidance](#), the Local Data Tool which can be used to determine eligibility for

[districts, schools](#) and [AECs](#), and an [intent to submit](#) form. If the district needs technical assistance or has general questions, sign up for office hours [here](#). Submissions are due by September 30, 2021 in the Accreditation Portal tab within the UIP online system.

The department will contact you if your district or one of your schools meet the participation and threshold expectations for the expedited review -- meaning that the school or district's 2021 achievement and growth data met 2019 performance expectations. These schools and districts will not need to participate in the review of local data and qualitative data (e.g., site visit).

### **Districts with New Schools: Assign a Plan Type (Required for New Schools)**

While 2019 plan types are being rolled over to 2021 because of the accountability pause, CDE does not have data for new schools for the 2021-22 school year to assign plan types. As is standard practice, districts must identify a plan type for the new schools based on your district's own evaluation of the school's performance within the accreditation form.

To collect the plan type, CDE will be using the Accreditation Portal in the UIP online system that is accessible to the district's identified Accountability Contact. Additional detail will be shared by next week through an email from Lisa Steffen regarding access. The accreditation form needs to be completed for new schools by September 30, 2021. Signatures from the superintendent and board president will still be required.

### **Districts Accredited and Accredited with Distinction: Accreditation Contracts**

Thanks to districts accredited with Priority Improvement or Improvement that completed their 2021-22 accreditation contracts by July.

Districts Accredited with Performance or Distinction: A customized accreditation contract for your district will be made available to superintendents next week; district superintendents and board presidents will have until December 1, 2021, to sign it. To clarify, the district contract is typically automatically renewed. Because of the accountability pause and updates to language in the contract, the department recommends that all districts sign updated contracts this year. This will also enable the department to publicly post all signed contracts on the CDE website. As Commissioner Anthes is committed to providing as much flexibility as possible to districts during the pandemic, this is not a required submission this year for the district. Please contact [accountability@cde.state.co.us](mailto:accountability@cde.state.co.us) if you would like to delay updating the contract.

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