

From: [Medler, Lisa](#)
To: [Medler, Lisa](#)
Cc: [Haniford, Rhonda](#); [Stein, Kirby](#); [Barrett, Susan](#); [Simon, Andreia](#); [Hutton, Whitney](#); [Huchton, Marie](#); [Loften, Erin](#)
Subject: Accountability Pause and April UIP Submission Flexibility Update
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Attachments: [image404922.png](#)
[image111296.png](#)
[image118939.png](#)
[image461088.png](#)
[image974209.png](#)

Dear Accountability Contacts,

We hope that you are enjoying the emerging spring weather. This reminds us all of where we were a year ago as the anniversary of the COVID lockdown quickly approaches. Thanks so much for your ongoing patience and flexibility as we adjust the state accountability systems to respond to these unusual times. This communication is to provide you with updates on the accountability pause and the State Board of Education's decision to adjust UIP posting requirements in April.

Accountability Pause. In response to disruptions associated with the pandemic, it does seem possible that a second year of a state accountability pause will occur in 2021-22 -- assuming legislation is passed and signed by the Governor. We are keeping an eye on this bill ([HB 21-1161](#)). The US Department of Education has also communicated openness to pausing federal identification of schools (i.e., Comprehensive Support, Targeted Support, Additional Targeted Support) through this [letter](#). The Federal Programs Unit is collecting feedback and public comment on the waiver request at: ESSAquestions@cde.state.co.us. We will keep you posted on developments and implications for future practice.

UIP Posting Flexibility. In response to the COVID-19 Policy Implications Stakeholder Group's recommendations, the State Board of Education approved rules yesterday afternoon to make the April 2021 public posting window optional; the new rules enable districts and schools to carry over the most recently posted plan to cover 2020-21. Read Act reporting requirements are still in place, however. See details below. Districts and schools are still welcome to submit plans by April 15 through the online UIP system and CDE will post those plans immediately. For districts wishing to exercise this new flexibility, no action is needed. CDE will add a note to the website explaining improvement plan status.

As a reminder for the 2021-22 school year, all school and district UIPs will be due for public posting on October 15, 2021. This is the launch of the new permanent timeline shift. CDE [recommends](#) that planning for the next school year begin this spring, as your local data becomes available. The state will review plans for identified schools and districts (i.e., Priority Improvement, Turnaround, On Watch, ESSA Comprehensive Support) when they are submitted in the fall, so feedback will be available much sooner in the year. Biennial flexibility will be available for eligible districts and schools. Given the complexity of the timelines, however, consult with CDE to confirm your timeline. The timeline spreadsheet on the UIP website is currently being updated to reflect the state board's latest flexibility. Please contact

Kirby Stein (stein_k@cde.state.co.us) with questions in the meantime.

READ Act Reporting Requirements in UIP. *All* districts must submit the new READ programming and assessment information by April 15, 2021, regardless of UIP flexibility (e.g., biennial flexibility, optional April window). The [reporting expectations](#) include reading assessments, core program, supplemental programs, and interventions for each school supporting K-3 students. Furthermore, a professional development plan should be reported for schools accepting READ dollars and/or the Early Literacy Grant. For more detailed information, visit the [UIP READ Act site](#). Here are some submission options:

- *If the district submitted this information earlier in the year:* Thanks for your submission. If you have any missing data, the CDE READ team will follow-up, as needed.
- *If the district is submitting a UIP in April:* An [Excel spreadsheet template can be found here](#). Once it is complete, attach it in the UIP online system. There are detailed data collection instructions available [here](#).
- *If the district is taking the UIP flexibility in April (i.e., submitting in October 2021):* Use the Excel spreadsheet linked above and send it to readact@cde.state.co.us by April 15th, 2021.

Note that CDE will conduct this collection through Data Pipeline beginning with 2021-22 reporting. CDE will release and post a report a public report using the READ data alongside UIPs. CDE is primarily communicating with READ respondents about transitioning to Pipeline. If you would like to be added to the READ respondent communications, reach out to Whitney Hutton (hutton_w@cde.state.co.us). If you have more specific questions on the READ Act programming requirements within the UIP, contact Susan Barrett (barrett_s@cde.state.co.us) or Andreia Simon (simon_a@cde.state.co.us).

Additional Questions

If you have any questions about state accountability and/or improvement planning, do not hesitate to reach out to me (medler_l@cde.state.co.us). If you would also like tailored assistance on your local improvement planning efforts, we can make arrangements to support you. We will be sharing the information in this communication with superintendents through the Update. However, please feel free to share this information with your superintendent sooner or other staff as you need.

Thank you for all that you are doing to support Colorado's children and their families. It is seen and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lisa Medler

Lisa Medler
Executive Director



P 303.866.6993

201 East Colfax Avenue, Room 401, Denver, CO 80203

Medler_L@cde.state.co.us | www.cde.state.co.us



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