



**Education Data Advisory Committee (EDAC)**  
**2023-24 Annual Report to the State Board of Education and the**  
**Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives**

*July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024*

**EDAC Summary**

The Education Data Advisory Committee (EDAC) is a statewide representative group of school district volunteers that reviews all Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and other state agency PK-12 data collections to ensure the collection method is valid and non-duplicative of existing data collections. EDAC provides recommendations to lessen the overall data collection burden, if possible, in partnership with CDE.

In the 2023-24 review period, EDAC formally met for nine scheduled committee meetings and conducted six emergency reviews to ensure the scope of data collections were reviewed and EDAC stamps were issued in a timely manner. Over the course of the year, EDAC reviewed a total of 222 data collections, which was a 20% increase from 2022-23 but a 4.7% increase compared to the 2021-22 year.

**Accomplishments**

- Following the prior year, EDAC saw notable turnover with five of the ten membership seats becoming vacant due to members reaching the end of their term or early departure. EDAC actively engaged with the field and membership groups and associations to identify new members to continue to broaden the representation across districts of all sizes and geography.
- To improve the clarity and overall submission and review process, EDAC worked closely with CDE staff to update the data collection forms and ensure that necessary documentation was being obtained and compiled as efficiently as possible. This included the consolidation of multiple documents into a single, comprehensive form.
- Continued to focus on the partnership between EDAC and Colorado agencies by evaluating data required by non-CDE agencies, EDAC assists CDE staff with their focus to improve partnerships with other agencies.
- EDAC members worked closely with district staff and data respondents in the field to foster understanding of the review process and the value of the EDAC stamp – which illustrates that a collection has been reviewed, vetted, and is ready to be implemented.

**Form Review – Purpose and Process**

EDAC reviews fall into one of two categories: 1) Full Review or 2) Update Review. Full Reviews are required for any collection that was not previously reviewed by EDAC or has substantial changes from its previous review. An Update Review is required for collections that were reviewed in a prior year and do not have significant changes. Collections are limited to three consecutive update reviews before they must return to EDAC for a full review. Stamps are posted to each collection declaring whether a collection is mandatory, required to obtain benefit, or voluntary. The definitions of these labels are:

- **Mandatory.** The form must be completed by all appropriate agencies. Funding may or may not be attached to this collection, but it is statutorily required. Any funding that an agency would otherwise receive may be withheld if this form is not completed.
- **Required to Obtain Benefit.** Funding or services are attached to the completion of this form. An agency may choose to not complete the form, but related funding/services will then not be available.
- **Voluntary.** The collection is not a direct requirement of state or federal legislation but may yield useful data with sufficient and representative sample size.

### **Reflections from 2022-2023 Year**

As previously noted, with five openings for the 2023-24 review cycle, EDAC began the year with a concentrated focus not only on recruitment and ensuring a comprehensive representation across subject matter and district characteristics (e.g., enrollment size, geographic location, etc), but EDAC also dedicated time to the onboarding and training of these new members. Over the past year, the voice and confidence of these new members have grown tremendously, and as more tenured members complete their term, the opportunity for these new members to grow their role and enhance their voice will continue. Committee turnover and new membership presents an opportunity to engage new districts and associations and garner feedback from stakeholders not previously received. These new voices provide a fresh perspective of the needs and opportunities within the educational data collection environment and the firsthand experience from new stakeholders will contribute to the continuous improvement of this essential work. EDAC membership and the recommendations from this committee is an essential aspect of the data environment and incorporating opportunities for members of the field to share their experience and ensure the most efficient ways of collecting data are implemented.

At its core, EDAC is a data governance committee which provides value feedback and is a critical component of the overall educational data environment. Colorado is unique and lucky to have such a committee, and it will prove more and more valuable as the state enhances it's cross-agency data governance in the years ahead.

### **Future Focus Areas**

- Explore the tools, structures, and processes available to minimize potential risk and exposure of Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
- Continue to identify elements of collections that can be improved/adjusted to enhance the inclusivity and clarity of the language present.
  - The educational landscape in Colorado is diverse in terms of structures governing schools and educational programs. EDAC has an obligation to ensure that data collections and documents consider the variety of governance structures, such as Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) and the Charter School Institute (CSI), in order to ensure collections are applicable to all educational governing bodies in the state and can be completed without additional burden to stakeholders.
  - Examples of this work include accurately identifying the appropriate term applicable to the collection such as Local Education Agency (LEA), and Administrative Units (AU), as opposed to district or other applicable structure.
- Continue to evaluate the necessity of sensitive data such as educator Social Security Numbers (SSN) and identify less sensitive, alternative data components that could meet the needs of the required data collection.
- Throughout the submission and data collection review process, continue to evaluate the tools and processes used to collect data and foster the willingness across EDAC and state agencies to explore the processes and collections to continuously improve the systems, methodologies, governance, and objectives
- Work closely with CDE staff to continue to promote EDAC's scope and specifically focus on concerns and supports across the diversity of school systems across Colorado. Specifically supports for systems such as small and rural districts, staffing concerns, and systems where technical assistance or additional support may be beneficial.
- CDE staff will engage with CDEC, and guide EDAC to play a central data governance role with the early childhood agency, to ensure district data collection burden is minimized.