



# School and District Accountability



The goal of our education system in Colorado is to prepare all students for success in the workforce or college.

Each year, every school and district receives a performance rating to let parents and communities know how well they are doing in meeting this goal.

Part of the reason students take state assessments (see list of state assessments on back) is to help determine school and district performance ratings. The other reason students take state assessments is to give parents and teachers additional information about how individual students are doing.

Information from state assessments, along with such postsecondary measures as graduation rates and college matriculation rates, factor into performance ratings assigned to schools and districts. In addition to giving parents, students and communities information about how their schools are doing, the ratings can help identify successful models that others can learn from. The ratings also help the Colorado Department of Education, State Board of Education and legislators make decisions about how to help struggling schools.

## RATINGS ARE BASED ON THREE CATEGORIES OF PERFORMANCE:

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Average scores on state assessments in each grade.

The average is sometimes called the “mean scale score.”

Using the average score ensures that the achievement of all students is incorporated into this component of school ratings.

How scores are weighted  
for Elementary and  
Middle Schools

40%  
Academic Achievement

60%  
Academic Growth

### ACADEMIC GROWTH

Progress students make in their achievement on assessments from one year to the next. Growth is calculated on the following assessments:

- CMAS assessments in English language arts and math
- PSAT and SAT assessments given to high school students
- ACCESS assessment for students who are still learning the English language

How scores are weighted  
for High Schools and  
Districts

30%  
Academic Achievement

40%  
Academic Growth

30%  
Postsecondary Readiness

### POSTSECONDARY READINESS

High school and district ratings depend on the following factors, which indicate how well schools are preparing students for college and the workforce.

- Graduation rates
- Dropout rates
- Matriculation into a college or career certificate program
- Average scores on the SAT college entrance exam

# School and District Accountability

## RATINGS ASSIGNED TO SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS

Every year districts receive a District Performance Framework (DPF) report, which determines their accreditation rating. Schools receive School Performance Frameworks (SPF), which determine their school plan types. Districts may submit additional performance data to CDE through the Request to Reconsider process to best describe the performance of the school or district.

### SCHOOL RATINGS

Turnaround

Priority Improvement

Improvement

Performance Distinction

### DISTRICT ACCREDITATION RATINGS

Turnaround

Priority Improvement

Improvement

Accredited

Accredited With Distinction

## STATE ASSESSMENTS

State assessments determine how well students are mastering our Colorado Academic Standards – a rigorous grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are successful in college, careers and life. Assessments used to calculate school and district performance ratings are:

- Colorado Measures of Academic Success in math and English language arts -- 3rd through 8th grade
- PSAT – 9th and 10th grade
- SAT – 11th grade

## LEARN MORE

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/parentfactsheet>

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/performanceframeworks>

**View all CDE fact sheets:** <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfaqs>



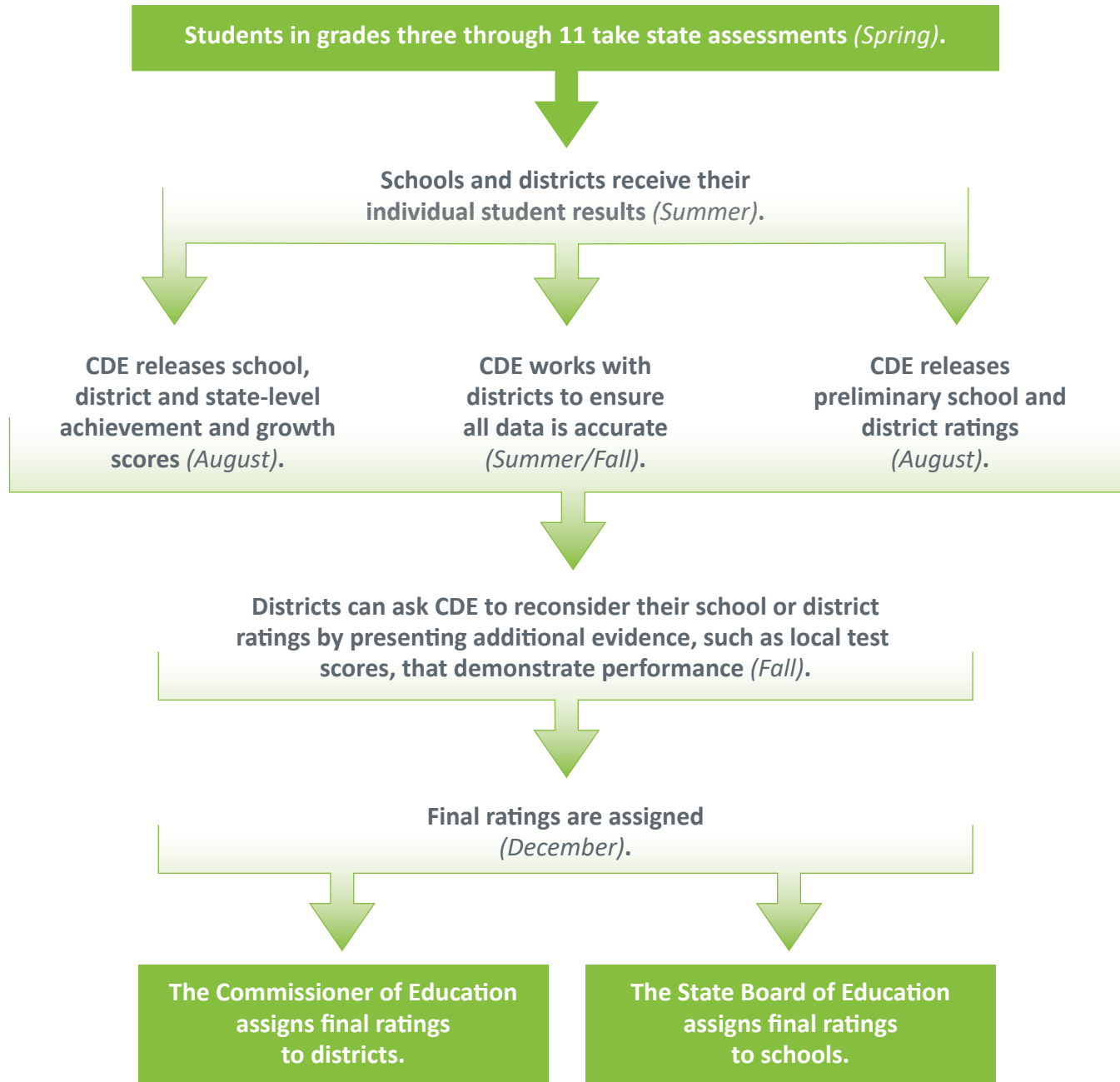
**COLORADO**  
Department of Education



# School and District Accountability



## Process for Assigning School and District Ratings



### LEARN MORE

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/parentfactsheet>

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/performanceframeworks>

**View all CDE fact sheets:** <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfaqs>

