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**Cc:** [Haniford, Rhonda](#); [Huchton, Marie](#); [Steffen, Lisa](#); [Jorgensen, Dan](#); [Stein, Kirby](#); [Kokotovic, Marina](#)  
**Subject:** Accountability Update (5.5.2021)  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 3:02:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [Sample 21-22 Contract Template.docx](#)  
[image031912.png](#)  
[image251313.png](#)  
[image001333.png](#)  
[image308855.png](#)  
[image097411.png](#)

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Hello Accountability Contacts:

Hope all is going well as you are beginning to wrap up the school year. This is the third accountability contacts communication this spring. Highlights of this communication include: (1) state use of assessment data and the Colorado growth model, (2) accreditation contract sample – see attachment, (3) optional industry credential submission and (4) 2021-22 UIP Template. Now that we know about the accountability pause for 2021-22, we will continue to share information as it becomes available.

### **Use of State Assessment Data and Colorado Growth Model**

The spring 2021 state assessment results may help reveal the impact of COVID-19 on learning across our state, including which student groups have been most affected and where the state needs to focus its resources. We are investigating appropriate interpretations of the data given lower than usual student participation and group representativeness and the conditions under which growth can be calculated. Here is what we can report at this time:

- The assessments will provide information to parents about their students' learning this year.
- Spring 2021 CMAS data may help provide a baseline for measuring the differential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery efforts across Colorado student groups and inform allocation of federal, state and local resources and supports.
- CDE is currently working with both the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment (NCIEA) and the University of Colorado's Center for Assessment, Design, Research and Evaluation (CADRE) to help establish protocols to guide use and interpretation of aggregate results for accountability purposes (including request to reconsider this year) depending upon the observed levels of student participation and group representativeness. We are also working with these partners to help determine whether skip-year-skip-grade growth can be calculated for informational purposes from 2019 to 2021 for the grades and contents with required testing this spring.

### **Accreditation Contracts**

As mentioned in my April 14 communication, the department is preparing accreditation contracts for all districts. An example contract for the 2021-22 School Year is attached. Updates to the contract include reference to the 2020 and 2021 accountability pause in 22-11-206(3)(a) C.R.S., additional detail regarding the Gun Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. 7961, Provisions of Section 22-8-1013(8) C.R.S. concerning participation in statewide assessments, and if applicable, updates to schools on the clock, on watch, or any active orders from the State Board of Education.

*Districts Accredited with Improvement, Priority Improvement and Turnaround.* The accreditation contract customized for your district is expected to be available by late May via DocuSign and must be signed by the Superintendent and Board President by mid to late June. Signatures will follow the same process as last year, including Superintendents assigning signature authority using DocuSign. We are delaying the release of the contracts a bit as we have requested that the legislature extend the 12 month term (June 2021-June 2022) to an 18 month term (June 2021 – December 2022) to align with policy changes as a part of HB 18-1355. Language has been added to the School Finance Act. Once we know if the extension has passed, then we will be in touch with your updated contracts (hopefully with an 18 month term) and more detailed instructions.

*Districts Accredited with Performance or Distinction.* A customized accreditation contract for your district will be available in June; district superintendents and board presidents will have the fall to sign it. To clarify, your district contract is typically automatically renewed. Because of the accountability pause and updates to language in the contract, we are recommending 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 district during the pandemic, this is not a required submission this year for your district. Please let me or Lisa Steffen ([steffen\\_l@cde.state.co.us](mailto:steffen_l@cde.state.co.us)) know if you would like to delay updating your contract.

### **Optional Industry Credential Submission**

The optional industry credential submission is once again available to interested districts. District PWR program contacts have already been notified. Data from 2020-2021 must be submitted by June 30, 2021 to meet the requirements of the Career Development Incentive Program. This same data will be used as part of matriculation rate calculations in the accountability framework reports during the subsequent school year. The [intent to participate](#) form will remain open through the submission due date. The reporting of all students that were enrolled in the 2020-21 school year who successfully earned/completed any of the qualified programs between October 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 are eligible for inclusion. The final submission deadline is 11:59 pm on June 30th via the accountability contact Syncplicity accounts.

For information about the submission process, please see the attached guidance document and recorded [webinar](#). For more information about the CDIP program, please contact Marina Kokotovic ([kokotovic\\_m@cde.state.co.us](mailto:kokotovic_m@cde.state.co.us)). For more information about matriculation rates and how industry credentials are included in state accountability frameworks and/or the Syncplicity submission process, please contact Dan Jorgensen ([jorgensen\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:jorgensen_d@cde.state.co.us)).

### **2021-22 Unified Improvement Plan Template**

Thank you to all districts that submitted school and district plans to be publicly posted this year. The plans have been published on [SchoolView.org](https://www.schoolview.org). The template rolled over from the 2020-2021 template to the 2021-22 template on April 30th, 2021. Now, all schools that log into the system will log into their 2021-22 UIP. Districts will continue to have access to all past plans, but the District, School, and AEC dashboards now default to the 2021-2022 template. Adjustments and enhancements to the template and related guidance may be made over the summer as

requirements are reviewed. Customized directions for UIP completion will be made available in the prepopulated report in Section 1 of the UIP Online System in July. With the new October timeline, CDE recommends using locally available data and begin your improvement planning work this spring. Training and assistance is available. Please contact Kirby Stein ([stein\\_k@cde.state.co.us](mailto:stein_k@cde.state.co.us)) with any questions.

### **Additional Questions**

If you have any questions about any of these topics, do not hesitate to reach out to me or anyone on the Accountability Analytics or School Improvement and Planning teams. You can also view updates about the accountability pause on our website at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/accountabilitypause>. Just like the last communication, we will be sharing the information in this communication with superintendents through the next edition of the Update. Please feel free to share this information with your superintendent sooner or other staff as you need.

Good luck wrapping up the end of the school year!

Sincerely,

Lisa Medler

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Lisa Medler  
Executive Director  
Accountability and Continuous Improvement



**#ThankATeacherCO**

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**Colorado State Board of Education  
School District Accreditation Contract**

**«District\_Name»**

<b>District Accreditation Rating</b>	«Final_Rating_2019»	«Year_on_Accountability_Clock_as_of_Dece»
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**1. Parties**

This contract is between the local school board for «District\_Name», hereinafter referred to as the District, and the Colorado State Board of Education, hereinafter referred to as the State Board, to administer accreditation in accordance with part 2 of article 11 of title 22 and 1 CCR 301-1.

**2. Length of Contract**

This accreditation contract shall have a term of one year.

**3. Renegotiation**

The contract may be renegotiated at any time by the parties, based upon appropriate and reasonable changes in circumstances upon which the original terms of the contract were based.

**4. Attainment on Performance Indicators**

The District will be responsible for overseeing the academic programs offered in its schools and ensuring that those programs meet or exceed state and local expectations for levels of attainment on the statewide performance indicators, as specified in 1 CCR 301-1.

**5. Adoption and Implementation of District Plan**

The District shall create, adopt and implement «article» «Plan\_Type», as required by the Colorado Department of Education (Department), in accordance with the time frames specified in 1 CCR 301-1. Said plan will conform to all of the requirements specified in 1 CCR 301-1.

**6. Accreditation of Public Schools and Adoption and Implementation of School Plans**

The District will implement a system of accrediting all of its schools, as described in section 22-11-307, C.R.S., which may include measures specifically for those schools that have been designated as Alternative Education Campuses, in accordance with the provisions of 1 CCR 301-57. The District will ensure that plans are implemented for each school in compliance with the requirements of the State Board pursuant to 1 CCR 301-1.

**7. Accreditation of Online Schools**

The District will implement a system of accrediting its online schools, as defined in section 22-30.7-102(9.5), C.R.S. This system shall adhere to section 22-11-307, C.R.S., including a review of the online school’s alignment to the quality standards outlined in section 22-30.7-105(3)(b), C.R.S., and compliance with statutory or regulatory requirements, in accordance with section 22-30.7-103(3)(m), C.R.S.

## 8. Consequences of Continued Low Performance

**[B1: If District is on clock or on watch]** If a District continues to perform at a level that results in being Accredited with a Priority Improvement Plan or Turnaround Plan, the State Board must direct the District to take significant action, in accordance with section 22-11-209, C.R.S. For purposes of calculating whether a district has been Accredited with Priority Improvement or Accredited with Turnaround Plan for a number of years, as described in section 22-11-207(4), C.R.S., the Department will exclude the 2020 and 2021 accreditation ratings, as required by subsection 22-11-207(4)(c), C.R.S. The Department will treat the 2022 accreditation ratings as if they were consecutive to the 2019 accreditation ratings.

**[B2: If any schools are on clock or watch]** Schools that continue to perform at a level that results in being required to adopt a Priority Improvement or Turnaround Plan will be subject to restructuring or closure, in accordance with the provisions of section 22-11-210, C.R.S. For purposes of calculating whether a public school has been required to implement a Priority Improvement or Turnaround Plan for a number of years, as described in section 22-11-210(1)(d)(II), C.R.S., the Department will exclude the 2020 and 2021 school plan type assignments, which will not be calculated pursuant to section 22-11-210(2.6)(a), C.R.S. The Department will treat the 2022 school plan type assignments as if they were consecutive to the 2019 school plan type assignments.

**[B3: If district or school has active directed action from SBE]** The district is expected to continue implementation of the State Board directed action for [district, school names], in accordance with section 22-11-209 and/or section 22-11-210, C.R.S. The specifics of the order(s) can be viewed at [www.cde.state.co.us/xxx](http://www.cde.state.co.us/xxx).

## 9. Substantial and Good-Faith Compliance with Applicable Statutes, Regulations, and Department Policies and Procedures

The District and the District's public schools will substantially comply with all statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to the District and District's public schools and all Department policies and procedures applicable to the District and District's public schools, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Provisions of article 44 of title 22 concerning budget and financial policies and procedures;
- Provisions of article 45 of title 22 concerning accounting and financial reporting;
- Provisions of section 22-32-109.1, C.R.S., concerning school safety and the Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. 7961;
- Provisions of section 22-7-1013(8), C.R.S., concerning statewide assessments, including that:
  - The District and District's public schools will not impose negative consequences—including prohibiting school attendance, imposing an unexcused absence, or prohibiting participation in extracurricular activities—on a student or parent if the parent excuses his or her student from participating in a statewide assessment. If a parent excuses his or her student from participating in a statewide assessment, the District and the District's public schools will not prohibit the student from participating in an activity, or receiving any other form of reward the District or District's public schools provide to students for participating in the statewide assessment; and
  - The District and District's public schools will not impose an unreasonable burden or requirement on a student that would discourage the student

from taking a statewide assessment or encourage the student's parent to excuse the student from taking the statewide assessment.

### **10. Consequences for Non-Compliance**

If the Department has reason to believe that the District is not in substantial compliance with one or more of the statutory or regulatory requirements applicable to the District, the Department shall notify the District that it has ninety (90) days after the date of notice to come into compliance. If, at the end of the ninety-day period, the Department finds the District is not substantially in compliance with the applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, meaning that the District has not yet taken the necessary measures to ensure that it meets the applicable legal requirements as soon as practicable, the District may be subject to the interventions specified in sections 22-11-207 through 22-11-210, C.R.S. If the District has failed to comply with the provisions of article 44 of title 22 or article 45 of title 22, the District does not remedy the noncompliance within ninety (90) days and loss of accreditation is required to protect the interests of the students and parents of students enrolled in the District public schools, the Department may recommend to the State Board that the State Board remove the District's accreditation.

If the Department determines that the District has substantially failed to meet requirements specified in this accreditation contract and that immediate action is required to protect the interests of the students and parents of students enrolled in the District's public schools, the Department may lower the District's accreditation category.

### **11. Monitoring Compliance with Contract**

For purposes of monitoring the District's compliance with this contract, the Department may require the District to provide information or may conduct site visits as needed.

## 11. Signatures

Local School Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

District Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Colorado State Board of Education Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date