



FACT SHEET

Colorado Accountability

By Samantha Batel and Laura Jimenez August 2017

TABLE 1
Colorado school classification system

Design model	Performance index		
Summative classifications	Comprehensive support and improvement, targeted support and improvement, neither		
School classification indicators	Indicator weights		
	Elementary and middle schools		High schools
Academic achievement			
Subject(s)	Measure(s)	35.0%	30.0%
English language arts, math, and science	Mean scale score		
Student growth			
Subject(s)	Measure(s)	60.0% (includes English learner progress)	40.0% (includes English learner progress)
English language arts and math	Median student growth percentile		
English learner progress			
Median student growth percentile*	—	—	—
Early warning			
Reduction in chronic absenteeism	5.0%	—	—
Persistence			
Four-, five-, six-, or seven-year graduation rates and dropout rate	—	—	30.0%
College and career readiness			
	—	—	—
Enrichment and environment			
	—	—	—

*The state intends to include an additional measure that gauges the proportion of students on track to attain fluency in a future state plan update.

Note: A state's description of its school classification system may differ from this organization's, which was designed to make cross-state comparisons. This analysis assumes that all applicable indicators are used for school classifications. Actual indicators applied may vary based on student demographics and grade configurations.

Sources: The authors reviewed the submitted consolidated state plans of 16 states and Washington, D.C., under the Every Student Succeeds Act. See U.S. Department of Education, "ESSA State Plan Submission," available at <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/statesubmission.html> (last accessed July 2017).

TABLE 2
Colorado timeline to identify and intervene in schools

State-level annual activities to identify low-performing schools

First cohort timeline	
2017-18	Collect data to identify comprehensive and targeted support schools* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with districts on matching state-sponsored services with identified needs via information sessions and local site visits • Review and approve applications for funding • Launch district and school support system
2018-19	See above
2019-20	See above
	See above**
2020-21	and
Determine if schools met improvement targets by end of school year	

*Colorado will identify a new cohort of comprehensive and targeted support schools annually. Such schools must implement interventions for three years.

**Identify "chronically low-performing subgroup" schools in 2020-21.

Source: The authors reviewed the submitted consolidated state plans of 16 states and Washington, D.C., under the Every Student Succeeds Act. See U.S. Department of Education, "ESSA State Plan Submission," available at <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/statesubmission.html> (last accessed June 2017).

TABLE 3
Colorado school improvement funding

Grant structure and amounts

Competitive grants	✓*
Formula grants	✗
Maximum amount, comprehensive schools	Not described
Maximum amount, targeted schools	Not described

*Colorado's plan describes a monthslong matching process to determine if the amount of funding and other supports will meet the needs of the school. Since it appears that districts will not be allocated based on a single calculation, this analysis treats this strategy as competitive funding.

Source: The authors reviewed the submitted consolidated state plans of 16 states and Washington, D.C., under the Every Student Succeeds Act. See U.S. Department of Education, "ESSA State Plan Submission," available at <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/statesubmission.html> (last accessed June 2017).

TABLE 4
Colorado school identification details

Alignment with statutory requirements for school identification

School type	Outstanding issues in identification methods
Lowest performing, Title I	—
Low graduation rate	—
Chronically low-performing subgroups	—
Consistently underperforming subgroups	—
Low-performing subgroups	—

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A selection of Colorado's key school improvement strategies

- Turnaround Network: a professional learning community of educators in peer schools that receive enhanced services from the state
- Connect for Success: includes direct coaching and observation of practices in high-performing schools
- Turnaround Leadership Development Program: equips teachers, principals, and district staff with specific school turnaround competencies

Source: The authors reviewed the submitted consolidated state plans of 16 states and Washington, D.C., under the Every Student Succeeds Act. See U.S. Department of Education, "ESSA State Plan Submission," available at <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/statesubmission.html> (last accessed June 2017).