

**COLORADO ACCOUNTABILITY, ACCREDITATION, STUDENT PERFORMANCE  
 AND RESOURCE INEQUITY TASK FORCE**  
 (created by H.B. 23-1241)

Meeting Summary | January 17, 2024

**Published Agenda**

10:00-10:30 AM	Welcome and Overview
10:30-11:30 AM	Presentation: State Scan of Accountability Systems by CU Boulder
11:30-12:10 PM	Aligning on Resource Inequities
12:10-12:40 PM	Lunch
12:40-2:10 PM	Study and Discussion: Resource Inequities and the Accountability and Accreditation System
2:10-2:20 PM	Break
2:20-3:05 PM	Group Processing and Discussion
3:05-3:35 PM	Review Draft Interim Report
3:35-4:00 PM	Closing

*Note: Throughout the meeting, the chair and vice chair made real-time adjustments in conversation and facilitation, resulting in variations from the original agenda for some topics and time ranges.*

**Task Force Members in Attendance**

NAME	REPRESENTING	VENUE
<b>Dr. Wendy Birhanzel (chair)</b>	<i>Superintendent</i>	In-person
<b>Rebecca McClellan (vice chair)</b>	<i>State Board of Education</i>	In-person
<b>Tomi Amos</b>	<i>Charter Network Leader</i>	In-person
<b>Dr. Rob Anderson</b>	<i>Superintendent (Urban)</i>	Absent
<b>Amie Baca-Oehlert</b>	<i>Statewide Teachers Organization</i>	Absent
<b>Pam Bisceglia</b>	<i>Statewide Organization Specializing in Equity and Inclusion</i>	In-Person
<b>Dr. Brenda Dickhoner</b>	<i>Charter School Institute (Governing Board Member)</i>	In-Person

<b>Kathleen Duran</b>	<i>Expert in English Language Acquisition and Bilingual Ed</i>	In-Person
<b>Lindsey Gish</b>	<i>Teacher (Middle School)</i>	Virtual
<b>Alison Griffin</b>	<i>Workforce Development and Education Organization</i>	Virtual
<b>Dr. Don Haddad</b>	<i>Superintendent</i>	Absent
<b>Dr. Rhonda Haniford</b>	<i>Colorado Department of Education</i>	In-Person
<b>Tamara Hiler</b>	<i>Governor's Office Representative</i>	In-Person
<b>Ted Johnson</b>	<i>District Administrator (Rural Accountability)</i>	In-Person
<b>Erin Kane</b>	<i>Superintendent</i>	In-Person
<b>Dr. Anne Keke</b>	<i>Local School Board Member</i>	In-Person
<b>Ryan Marks</b>	<i>District Administrator (Accountability)</i>	In-Person
<b>Nicholas Martinez</b>	<i>Statewide Parents/Families Organization</i>	In-Person
<b>Tony May</b>	<i>Local School Board Member (Rural)</i>	Virtual
<b>Dr. Robert Mitchell</b>	<i>Teacher (Rural)</i>	Absent
<b>James Parr</b>	<i>District Administrator (Rural Accountability)</i>	In-Person
<b>Catie Santos de la Rosa</b>	<i>Teacher (Elementary)</i>	In-Person
<b>Mark Sass</b>	<i>Statewide Teachers Organization</i>	In-Person
<b>Dan Schaller</b>	<i>Charter School Organization</i>	In-Person
<b>Jen Walmer</b>	<i>Statewide Education Policy Organization</i>	In-Person
<b>Lisa Yates</b>	<i>Superintendent (Rural Participant in Local Accountability System Grant)</i>	Virtual

**CDE Staff:** Lisa Medler and April Thompson

**Presenters:** Elena Diaz-Bilello, CU Boulder and Chris Domaleski, Center for Assessment

**Facilitators:** Sheila Briggs, Adam Brumer, and Kelly Jasiura

**Welcome and Overview**

The Task Force chair and vice chair welcomed the meeting participants and noted that the day's meeting was meant to serve as a second part to the January 9 meeting, allowing Task Force members to continue their conversations on resource inequities and revisit the multiple components of CDE's accountability system.

They then reviewed the meeting objectives, which included:

- Review other states' accountability and accreditation systems to inform additional research and Task Force findings on Colorado's needs.
- Begin to summarize findings on Colorado's accountability and accreditation system: Colorado's current accountability and accreditation system does X well in comparison to others and could do Y differently in comparison to other states.
- Review a draft interim report: What suggestions to the report do Task Force members have after reviewing the draft?

They also reviewed the meeting norms and reminded the group that all deliberations of the Task Force must be done in the public view. This means that Task Force members should not reply all to Task Force emails, send private messages deliberating about the work, or other meet with Task Force members outside of official meetings.

They then walked Task Force members through the day's agenda and the Task Force's progress made against the roadmap. They also summarized feedback from the last post-meeting survey to show how member feedback is continuously incorporated into the planning and facilitation of meetings.

The chairs then invited the facilitators to lead the group through an opening connector.

### **Presentation: State Scan of Accountability Systems by CU Boulder**

Next, the chairs introduced the presenters, Elena Diaz-Bilello (Associate Director, CADRE) and Chris Domaleski (Associate Director, Center for Assessment), to present their state scan of accountability systems. This presentation was meant to help the Task Force review other states' approaches to accountability.

Diaz-Bilello and Domaleski presented design elements they have found critical to any accountability system. They include:

- **Theory of Action:** hypothesis for how the system will bring about the desired changes, including conditions and assumptions that must hold.
- **Guiding Principles:** core ideas that guide decisions about the system.
- **Design Priorities:** features that support the theory of action and guiding principles, as well as help navigate tradeoffs.
- **Characteristics and Features:** components that operationalize and support the theory of action, principles, and priorities.

Next, the presenters reviewed three different designs of school accountability system to show the Task Force varying approaches of other states, as well as the key differences between these examples and Colorado's own system. The cases included:

- **Oklahoma**, which has an accountability system that, according to the presenters, stays close to the requirements of ESSA.
- **Michigan**, which was presented as offering a dual system of accountability with multiple views of student success.

- **California**, which was described as including a dashboard approach to share information on school performance.

Diaz-Bilello and Domaleski then presented different methodological choices that they believe need to be made during the initial design of an accountability system, such as around school performance measures and the weighting of indicators. They finished their presentation emphasizing that there is no “gold” standard to creating an accountability system, and that system design involves tradeoffs and unintended consequences. Design decisions, they emphasized, are influenced by policy, practical, and technical factors; values and priorities should be determined early to inform design.

Following the presentation, Task Force members were given 10 minutes to reflect on what they heard, consider how this information might impact the Task Force’s work, and draft questions for the presenters. Diaz-Bilello and Domaleski then answered questions from the Task Force.

The facilitators noted that if the Task Force comes up with very specific questions on what other states are doing, CU Boulder would be able to help provide answers at a future point in time. The facilitators encouraged members to review the scans of other states’ accountability systems that were included in the pre-work.

### **Aligning on Resource Inequities**

Next, the Task Force revisited resource inequities and any potential connections the task force may want to make between resource inequities and the accountability system. Task Force members discussed ways in which it may be helpful to make connections between resource inequities and accountability, and ways in which it may not be given the task force’s charge.

### **Study and Discussion: Resource Inequities and the Accountability and Accreditation System**

Next, the Task Force was next meant to apply a framework and use it to examine and potentially begin to recommend ways in which the accountability and accreditation system can (or cannot) better address some resource inequities.

However, upon explaining the activity and framework, the Task Force chose to re-purpose the time to focus more explicitly on the various elements of the accountability system, continuing conversations from the January 9 meeting.

### **Group Processing and Discussion**

To continue their discussions on the elements of the accountability system, Task Force members were broken into the following role alike groups: school, district, state, and advocacy – with members of the Task Force who typically play an advocacy role being invited to join any group they’d like or form their own. They were asked to spend the next 30 minutes answering in the Task Force workbook the following questions for each element of the accountability system:

- What is working?
- What are the opportunities for improvement?
- What should the Task Force prioritize for further study and discussion?

The group then reconvened to share highlights from their break outs. The facilitators said they would work with the Task Force to prioritize for further discussion what is working and where there are opportunities for improvement in the current accountability system. This prioritization will inform revisions to the existing roadmap being used to guide the Task Force's efforts.

### **Review Draft Interim Report**

Lastly, Task Force members were given independent time to review the draft interim report, which is due to the Legislature on or before March 1, 2024. The facilitators shared that they would incorporate the Task Force's feedback, as well as the content discussed at the January meetings, in a second draft to be shared with the Task Force by January 31, 2024. Task Force members would then be able to offer a second round of comments and share any final feedback during the next meeting on February 21, 2024.

### **Closing**

The chairs closed the meeting by thanking the Task Force members for their hard work, and the CDE and Adams County staff for their tech and logistical support. Task Force members were then given time to complete the post-meeting survey.

#### *Summary of next steps*

- Education First will review and consolidate Task Force feedback in the workbook on the elements of the accountability system and solicit input from Task Force members on items to prioritize in the development of an updated roadmap
- Education First will incorporate Task Force member comments and content from the January meetings into a second draft of the interim report and share with the Task Force for further feedback
- CDE will continue to answer pending data requests from the Task Force, as necessary

**The next meeting will take place on February 21, 2024.**

**The meeting was adjourned.**

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**Meeting summary prepared by Education First**