

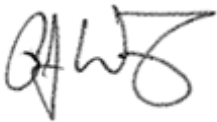
Last week, the Department shared drafts of revised guidance regarding accountability for Alternative Education campuses (AECs), including policy guidance, application forms and a selection of measures form. The major updates are highlighted below. Following review by the Education Data Advisory Council, these documents have now been updated and finalized. All documents are available at the link below.

In the coming weeks, to help schools choose measures and determine if additional evidence is appropriate, CDE will provide districts and schools with preliminary AEC indicator ratings based on the state data from 2007-2010. CDE will also provide districts with information about how these indicator ratings roll up into preliminary plan type assignments, and, following a district comment period, will share these with schools.

Please note that the first upcoming deadline for AECs is July 1. By July 1, districts/the Institute must submit (1) the Application and Renewal Form for AEC Status Designation, and (2) the Selection of Accountability Measures for AECs Form.

Let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Wenning, Associate Commissioner

For more information:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/OPP/AEC.htm>

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## **MAJOR UPDATES**

Details are included in the Policy Guidance, but the below is a summary of the major decisions:

- The district/Institute must use (1) the state's AEC framework or (2) a local AEC framework to be approved by the Department. Frameworks must meet the criteria outlined below and in the Policy Guidance. CDE will generate the state AEC framework report for all schools that select it, but local AEC framework reports must be generated by the district/Institute.
- For all frameworks, the below criteria apply:
  - AEC frameworks must demonstrate progress towards the key performance indicators of Achievement, Growth, Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness, and Student Engagement.
  - In order to comply with statutory requirements, AEC frameworks must give the greatest weight to Postsecondary Readiness and Growth.
  - Where available, state data must be included in an AEC's framework.
- For the state's AEC framework, the below criteria apply:

- AEC frameworks will use consistent indicator weights for Achievement, Growth, Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness and Student Engagement.
- AEC frameworks at the high school level will weigh the indicators as follows: – Achievement = 15%
  - Growth = 35%
  - Postsecondary Readiness= 30%
  - Student Engagement = 20%
- AEC frameworks at the elementary and middle school level will weigh the indicators as follows: – Achievement = 20%
  - Growth = 50%
  - Student Engagement = 30%
- When state data is used, AECs will use consistent/common cut-points. To inform cut-points, CDE will provide state data with statewide percentiles and AEC percentiles.
- AEC percentile cuts for state data would be norm-based as follows: – Below the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile = Does not meet AEC Norms
  - At/above 40<sup>th</sup> percentile = Approaching AEC Norms
  - At/above 60<sup>th</sup> percentile = Meets AEC Norms
  - At/above 90<sup>th</sup> percentile = Exceeds AEC Norms
- AECs and their districts/authorizers would select supplemental measures to the state data used in the AEC framework, subject to department approval.
- Where available, three years of data will be used (minimum N = 20 for growth, 16 for all other measures).

**ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS (*draft only, pending EDAC approval*)**

Materials are available at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/OPP/AEC.htm>

- **Accountability for Alternative Education Campuses: Policy Guidance 2011-12**
  - Includes description of the evaluation process; minimum framework requirements; pre-approved measures, metrics and cut-points.
- **Application and Renewal Form for Alternative Education Campus Designation 2011-12**
  - You must both e-mail this completed form and fax a signed copy to DeLinda Rose, [rose\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:rose_d@cde.state.co.us) or 303-830-0793.
- **Selection of Accountability Measures for Alternative Education Campuses 2011-12**
  - Where the state’s AEC framework is used, selected measures and the accompanying data on district/Institute supplemental measures must be submitted in this format so that the state can generate a performance framework report.
  - You must both e-mail this completed form and fax a signed copy to DeLinda Rose, [rose\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:rose_d@cde.state.co.us) or 303-830-0793.
- **Comments and Responses on Proposed AEC Framework Requirements**
  - These comments are based on the feedback received following the April 4th AEC stakeholder meeting.