

Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI)

Accountability Pathways Planning and Implementation

EASI Route: Offered Services



COLORADO
Department of Education

INTRODUCTION

The Accountability Pathways Planning and Implementation is intended to support Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and schools with planning for and implementing the statutory options, or pathways, for persistently low-performing schools and LEAs. For those nearing the end of the Accountability Clock, the grant can support exploring the pathways, taking thoughtful action, and increasing readiness for discussions with the State Board of Education. For those who receive a directed action from the state board, the grant can support implementation of the approved pathway plan.

Who Can I Contact For More Information?

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ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

LEAs that meet the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- A school that is in Year 3, 4 or 5 of Priority Improvement or Turnaround for a planning grant; or a school that has had an action directed by the State Board of Education for an implementation grant
- An LEA that is in Year 3, 4 or 5 of Priority Improvement or Turnaround for a planning grant; or an LEA that has had an action directed by the State Board of Education for an implementation grant.

LEAs who have not begun to plan for the end of the Accountability Clock or who are in the early stages of pathway planning for an identified school are encouraged to apply. LEAs who have recently received a directed action from the state board after having reached the end of the Accountability Clock, or have schools in such a situation, may also apply to support implementation of the directed action.

AVAILABLE FUNDS

Awards range from \$30,000 for LEAs applying on behalf of one school to \$200,000 for LEAs applying on behalf of multiple schools and/or the LEA itself.

ALLOWABLE USE OF FUNDS

Funding from this opportunity may be used for:

- Consulting and technical assistance for pathway planning or implementation
- Visiting other sites with successful or promising implementation of a pathway option
- Diagnostic reviews for the purpose of identifying systemic issues and determining pathway fit
- Events, facilitated meetings, or community gatherings regarding pathway planning/implementation
- Translation services
- Stipends for teachers to attend pathway planning or implementation activities
- Travel to CDE-led convenings or meetings regarding grant activities
- Technical assistance on strategic resource allocation for pathway planning/implementation
- Costs incurred during the recruitment of and negotiations with an innovation partner, management partner, and/or a charter school operator. Such costs may include stipends for staff time or legal fees incurred during the establishment of contracts with partners
- Fees for third-party providers contracted to implement the state board directed action



Note: Funds from this opportunity must be used to supplement and not supplant any federal, state, and local funds currently being used to provide activities. There will be no carryover of funds. Unobligated funds at the end of the fiscal year will be returned to the CDE to be redistributed.

EVALUATION AND REPORTING

Each LEA that receives an Accountability Pathways grant is required to report, at a minimum, the following information to CDE:

- An end-of-grant report that includes:
 - A list of program activities that were implemented during the grant period;
 - A description of lessons learned from grant activities;
 - An overview of the identified pathway and the plan for implementing the pathway, or actions conducted to fulfill the implementation plan;
 - An assessment of the process of developing and/or implementing the pathway plan in terms of challenges and successes; and
 - A reflection on the level of satisfaction with the supports received during this process.
- Integration of the pathways work within the school or LEA's Unified Improvement Plan (UIP).
- An Annual Financial Report (AFR).

In addition, the LEA will be expected to present their pathway plan that was developed with the support of CDE staff to the State Board of Education prior to any end-of-clock statutory deadlines, if the school or LEA remains on the Accountability Clock. LEAs using grant funds for implementation activities will be required to comply with all progress monitoring requirements requested by CDE staff and the state board.

PROGRAM ASSURANCES

LEA/Administrative Unit Commitments:

- Identify a point person with decision-making authority who will lead the planning or implementation process for the school(s) being served by the grant. This person must be an LEA employee that sits on the Superintendent's leadership team and has the authority to work with the local school board.

School Leadership Commitments:

- School leader will participate on the LEA "team" in all grant activities
- School leadership team and staff representatives attend events, meetings, and community gatherings
- School leader collaborates with LEA and CDE on developing a timeline for pathway planning and implementation

Where can I learn more?

- On the Accountability Clock webpage (www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/accountability_clock), you can find:
 - Overview of the Accountability Clock
 - Accountability pathway resources
 - CDE Advisory List of Providers for management partnerships and charter management organizations, networks and schools
 - Examples of pathway plans for schools/districts that have reached the end of the Accountability Clock
 - Explanation of upcoming changes to the accountability clock based on the passage of HB18-1355