

COMMISSIONER'S RURAL EDUCATION COUNCIL



April 2018 Highlights

The Commissioner's Rural Education Council spring meeting was hosted by Superintendent Alan Dillon and the DeBeque School District on April 18th. The Council toured the district and was met with great hospitality from staff and students alike. Agenda items included an overview of the proposed educator talent rules, science standards, an accountability focus group, transportation supports and much more. Read more about the work of the Council below!

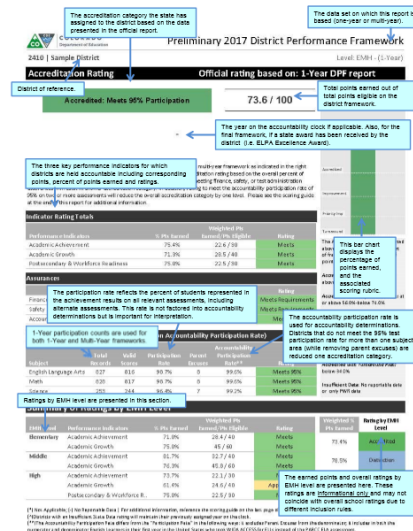


New Transportation Guidelines

The Council reviewed the new rules of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that will take effect in February 2020. A letter explaining the new rule went out to all superintendents in February of 2018, detailing new federal training requirements. Susan Miller, Lead Transportation Consultant at CDE, talked through the supports CDE plans to put in place to aide districts in meeting new requirements, including training materials free of cost.

Focusing on Accountability

Ashely Piche, Director of Accountability and Data Analysis, led a focus group with the intent of defining accountability and getting more of an understanding of the perception of accountability in relation to rural schools and districts. The Council provided feedback on the UIP, dissected data and communication around data, and identified additional supports that could potentially be beneficial for schools and districts in working with the current state systems of accountability.



April Highlights

At its April meeting, the Council talked through the upcoming changes to College in Colorado programming with Misti Ruthven, Executive Director of Innovation and Pathways, and Andy Tucker, Director of Postsecondary Readiness. ICAP implementation, resources, and supports were discussed. Colleen O'Neil, Executive Director of Educator Talent, guided the Council through proposed educator talent rules. Feedback was provided on the proposed as rules set to be reviewed at a rulemaking hearing on May 10th at the regular meeting of the State Board of Education.

Floyd Cobb, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, reviewed changes to the science standards. Gathering feedback on the proposed changes to the standards has been a recent concentrated effort throughout the state. Christine Harms of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center led a group discussion on school safety. The Council engaged in conversation on challenges and opportunities related to school safety and will continue to look at ways to work together. The Colorado School Safety Resource Center also discussed supports the center can provide, such as training and consultation.

Rural Education Council Facts

The Rural Education Council is comprised of superintendents representing each of the eight regions in Colorado, two rural principals, a rural teacher; representatives from the Colorado Association of School Boards, the Colorado Association of School Executives and the Colorado BOCES Association, two rural board of education members and the Colorado Rural Schools Alliance. For a complete listing of Rural Education Council members, as well as agendas and other information, visit the Rural Education Council [web page](#).

The next meeting of the Rural Education Council will be held on July 23rd in Breckenridge.

For questions or more information, contact Denille LePlatt, Director of Rural Services, at 720-520-5118 or leplatt_d@cde.state.co.us.

Regional Presentations

In an effort to build partnerships and collaboration, regional presentations are part of every quarterly meeting. This month, Council member and Superintendent of De Beque School District, Alan Dillon, provided a tour of the district's beautiful facilities and talked through the process of building stakeholder relationships while undergoing large-scale changes in a small community. He emphasized the importance of community engagement and support when planning projects. Below, Superintendent Dillon highlights positive changes to classrooms and shows off his new parking lot (and mode of transportation).

