



Colorado Department of Education – Communications Office
201 East Colfax Ave.
Room 103
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-866-3898
Fax: 303-866-6938

Dec. 9, 2008

News Release

School Accountability Reports for 2007-2008

The Colorado Department of Education today published the eighth annual School Accountability Reports, detailing achievement and other performance and profile data for 1,998 regular and alternative schools across the state.

The reports include familiar school ratings based on Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) and ACT results—excellent, high, average, low and unsatisfactory.

The reports also include new academic growth ratings based on data gleaned from the Colorado Growth Model. The “high,” “typical” and “low” growth ratings reflect the progress being made by all the students in the school toward meeting state standards for proficiency.

Colorado Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones urged parents, educators and community members to take a close look at the combination of achievement levels (excellent, high, average, low and unsatisfactory) and progress over time (high, typical, low).

“The beauty of the Colorado Growth Model is that it’s built on individual student progress over time,” said Commissioner Jones. “The result is a view of the effectiveness of schools in improving student achievement from where each student starts. Parents, educators, students and community members should see enormous value in looking at both the one-year snapshot rating and the growth indicator over time.”

Analysis of data from the School Accountability Report shows:

- High achievement on CSAP is strongly related to schools with high growth. Of the 348 high growth schools, 71.6 percent are rated either excellent or high on the School Accountability Reports. Another 21 percent of the schools are ranked as average on the SAR.
- Of the 1,077 schools with typical growth, 43.5 percent were rated as excellent or high on the accountability reports. Another 38.2 percent of these schools were ranked average.
- There are 24 schools in the state given “low” ratings, for instance, that are showing “high” growth rates.
- Conversely, there are seven schools given “excellent” ratings and another 53 given “high” ratings that are yielding “low” growth rates.

Complete reports for each school are available via the School and District profiles page on the CDE Web page,

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/scripts/districtprofiles/index.asp>

Rating Trends

In all, 11.9 percent of schools (223) were rated excellent in 2007-2008, up slightly from 11.8 percent in 2006-2007.

Another 32.5 percent of schools were rated high, up from 31.2 percent the year before. In addition, 35.9 percent of schools were rated average (down slightly from 36.2 percent the year before), 19 percent were rated low (down from 20.1 percent) and .6 percent were rated unsatisfactory (the same as the year before).

Combined, 44.4 percent of all students in the state attended a school rated high or excellent in 2007-2008; that's up from 43 percent in 2006-2007.

Changes In The Report From 2006-2007 to 2007-2008

- Academic Growth of Students Rating categories are now high, typical, and low and based on Median Growth Percentiles from the Colorado Growth Model. (Previous terms were significant

improvement, improvement, stable, decline and significant decline.)

- School Comparison has been moved from front panel to the School Information panel.
- School Comparisons include the Program Type, Academic Performance and Academic Growth Rating by school. Last year, School Comparisons only included Academic Performance.
- Student Performance pie charts replaced by bar charts for subgroups.
- "Teachers with tenure" and "Teacher with no tenure" has been replaced with "Teachers with three years or more of teaching experience" and "Teachers with less than three years of teaching experience."
- "Safe and Orderly School Features" replaced by "Non-CSAP Course Offerings."

New Report Sections

New additions to the report include a school pride and goals section, a "program type" description and a chart providing the student test scores used for calculating overall academic performance. Other changes include:

- Program type
- School Web site (or district Web site if school is unavailable)
- Bar graph of "Percent Proficient and Advanced for Elementary Grades for All Content Areas," including three-year history
- Chart of "Student Test Scores Used for Calculating Overall Academic Performance"
- New explanations provided for both the "Overall Academic Performance" on state assessments and the Academic Growth of Students
- School Pride and Goals

- Number of teachers with masters or doctoral degrees
- Financial Information:
 - Long Term Debt Proceeds
 - Total District Revenue per Pupil (Including Long Term Debt)
 - District Per Pupil Operating Revenue
 - State Average Per Pupil Operating Revenue
 - Debt Service
 - Other Expenditures
 - Capital Expenditures

For more information about the 2008 School Accountability Reports, contact Richard Wenning, Associate Commissioner, 303-866-6764; Dan Domagala, Chief Information Officer, 303-866-6961; Jo O'Brien, Assistant Commissioner, 303-866-6852.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

#