

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

Meeting Summary | April 2, 2024

Published Agenda

10:00-10:05 AM	Welcome and Overview
10:05-11:00 AM	Discussions with Teachers
11:00-11:45 AM	Learning from the Local Accountability Systems Grant
11:45-12:15 PM	Lunch
12:15-2:00 PM	Study Group Work Time
2:00-2:10 PM	Break
2:10-3:20 PM	Study Group Exchanges
3:20-3:40 PM	Study Group Work Time: Process Feedback and Plan Next Steps
3:40-4:00 PM	Closing and Next Steps

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
Dr. Wendy Birhanzel (chair)	<i>Superintendent</i>	In-person
Hon. Rebecca McClellan (vice chair)	<i>State Board of Education</i>	In-person
Tomi Amos	<i>Charter Network Leader</i>	Virtual
Dr. Rob Anderson	<i>Superintendent (Urban)</i>	In-person
Amie Baca-Oehlert	<i>Statewide Teachers Organization</i>	In-person
Pamela Bisceglia	<i>Statewide Organization Specializing in Equity and Inclusion</i>	In-Person
Dr. Brenda Dickhoner	<i>Charter School Institute (Governing Board Member)</i>	In-Person
Kathleen Durán	<i>Expert in English Language Acquisition and Bilingual Ed</i>	Virtual
Lindsey Gish	<i>Teacher (Middle School)</i>	In-person
Alison Griffin	<i>Workforce Development and Education Organization</i>	Virtual
Don Haddad, Ed.D.	<i>Superintendent</i>	In-Person
Dr. Rhonda Haniford	<i>Colorado Department of Education</i>	In-Person

Tammi Hiler	<i>Governor's Office Representative</i>	In-Person
Ted Johnson	<i>District Administrator (Rural Accountability)</i>	In-Person
Erin Kane	<i>Superintendent</i>	In-Person
Dr. Anne Keke	<i>Local School Board Member</i>	In-Person
Ryan Marks	<i>District Administrator (Accountability)</i>	In-Person
Nicholas Martinez	<i>Statewide Parents/Families Organization</i>	Virtual
Tony May	<i>Local School Board Member (Rural)</i>	Virtual
Dr. Robert Mitchell	<i>Teacher (Rural)</i>	Absent
James Parr	<i>District Administrator (Rural Accountability)</i>	In-Person
Catie Santos de la Rosa	<i>Teacher (Elementary)</i>	Virtual
Mark Sass	<i>Statewide Teachers Organization</i>	In-Person
Dan Schaller	<i>Charter School Organization</i>	In-Person
Jen Walmer	<i>Statewide Education Policy Organization</i>	In-Person
Lisa Yates	<i>Superintendent (Rural Participant in Local Accountability System Grant)</i>	In-Person

CDE Staff: Lisa Medler, April Thompson, and Aislinn Wales

Presenters:

- Emily Muellenburg, Madison Stockton, Shannon Larsen (Teach Plus)
- Kelly Osuna, Lacey Taschdjian, Beth Schroeder (Colorado Education Association)
- Robert Reichardt (LAS Grant Evaluator)

Facilitators: Sheila Briggs, Adam Brumer, and Kelly Jasiura

Welcome and Overview

The chair and vice chair welcomed the Task Force members and shared that during the meeting today members would again have time to continue working in their study groups to plan for final recommendations. In addition, the group would have an opportunity to hear from teachers across Colorado and Local Accountability System grantees on their experience with the state's accountability system. The chairs also reminded Task Force members to submit their stakeholder consultation notetaking forms to the facilitators, so the whole Task Force can review the information from these conversations.

They then reviewed the objectives for the meeting, which included:

- Hear from teachers about their experience with Colorado's accountability system, and from local accountability system grantees about their work to supplement the state accountability system
- Study the frameworks to draft findings and recommendations, as necessary
- Share feedback with other study groups to refine findings and recommendations, as necessary

The chairs briefly went over the agenda and reminded the group of the Task Force's norms and charge.

Discussions with Teachers

The facilitators then introduced representatives from TeachPlus and the Colorado Education Association (CEA). Teachers affiliated with these organizations gave the Task Force additional insight into educators' experience with the current accountability system, and when possible, on the issues currently under consideration by the Task Force.

Emily Muellenburg, Madison Stockton, and Shannon Larsen from TeachPlus presented first, sharing findings and corresponding recommendations from their research on what teachers across the state thought the purpose of public schools should be. Their findings showed that respondents believed public schools should do more than just prepare students academically. The presenters also shared examples of how other states measure school quality and student success in their accountability systems.

Then, Kelly Osuna, Lacey Taschdjian, and Beth Schroeder, members of the CEA, shared their experience with the accountability system. They shared the impacts of the current accountability system on both urban and rural districts, and how the accountability system impacts academic opportunities and inequities particularly for Colorado's students who are marginalized.

Both groups of presenters took questions from the Task Force. When they were finished, the chairs thanked them for joining the meeting.

Learning from the Local Accountability Systems Grant

Next, Lisa Medler from CDE gave an overview of the [Local Accountability Systems Grant](#), which grants "money to local education providers that adopt local accountability systems to supplement the state accountability system." Robert Reichardt then gave to the Task Force an overview of his evaluation of the Local Accountability System Grant.

After the presentations, Task Force members met with Local Accountability System grantees, who were also meeting on-site at the same time for a grantee convening. The opportunity to meet and converse with grantees gave Task Force members an opportunity to learn about the ways districts are thinking about local approaches to ensure accountability.

Task Force members continued their conversations with grantees during lunch.

Study Group Work Time

Following lunch, the facilitators shared with the Task Force an updated Roadmap to guide the Task Force's work through November, finishing with the submission of the final report to the legislature on or before November 15, 2024. The facilitators also shared an update on the English and Spanish public comment forms, which were released earlier in the week. The Task Force members were reminded to continue sharing these forms with stakeholders to gather additional feedback on the accountability system.

The facilitators then reviewed the activity for the Task Force members to complete in their study groups that day – which was to begin writing a draft of background information on the issues they have been studying since the past several months. As a precursor to the recommendations, the members were asked to begin codifying their thinking and learning into a full description of opportunities, challenges, and observations. These descriptions are meant to elevate concrete examples from within Colorado, details gathered from reviewing accountability system data, findings from stakeholder consultations, discussions in Task Force meetings, and members’ own experiences with the accountability system. The opportunities, challenges, and observations will ultimately be the evidence that set up the Task Force’s final recommendations. The Task Force was asked to complete their drafts by April 30, so other Task Force members could provide feedback ahead of the next meeting on May 7. If groups are not able to complete their summaries by April 30, then they would receive feedback from the full group later.

Upon sharing these instructions with the Task Force, some members noted they thought it would also be valuable to communicate the group’s values around what the accountability system is meant to accomplish. The facilitators noted this would be a good addition, and encouraged members to discuss values related to their study group topic when drafting their descriptions of opportunities, challenges, and observations.

The Task Force then broke into their study groups, and the facilitators joined each group to answer any further questions about the new roadmap or the descriptions of opportunities, challenges, and observations.

The study groups are currently focused on the following topics related to the frameworks:

- Impact of n-size and participation rates on SPF ratings
- Recognition of trends between student groups (demographic, other categories)
- Assessments used for accountability ratings
- Measures sufficient for high school
- Measures sufficient for early grades

Study Group Exchanges

Following the study group time, the groups engaged in a full group share out highlighting their discussions around opportunities, challenges, and observations, in addition to initial thinking around recommendations. The Task Force members then organized into small groups, made up of members from different study groups, to facilitate further cross-study group sharing and feedback.

Study Group Work Time: Process Feedback and Plan Next Steps

After the cross-study group exchanges, Task Force members rejoined their study groups to share what they learned, consider whether they will meet between meetings, and identify additional support needed.

They used an action planning template to answer the following questions:

- Are you planning to meet between now and May 7? If so, when? What issues are you prioritizing?
- Do you anticipate having any issues with completing your draft opportunities, challenges, and observations by April 30? If so, what and how can we help?
- What are 2-3 findings or recommendations your study group feels needs much more work?
- What additional support do you need from Task Force members or CDE?

Closing and Next Steps

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.

Summary of next steps

- Task Force members will complete the post-meeting survey
- Task Force members will engage in study group meetings, in accordance with open records and meetings laws
- Task Force members will draft their description of opportunities, challenges, and observations by April 30, in order to gather feedback from the full Task Force
- Task Force members will continue to conduct stakeholder consultations and promote the public comment survey
- The facilitators will provide a brief summary of data collected from the public comment survey at the next meeting

The next meeting will take place on March 7, 2024, at the Adams County Human Services Center.

The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting summary prepared by Education First