

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

Meeting Summary | May 7, 2024

Published Agenda

10:00-10:05 AM	Welcome and Overview
10:05-11:30 AM	Discussions with Parents
11:30-11:50 AM	Presentation: Dr. Erin Kane, Superintendent of Schools, Douglas County School District
11:50-12:10 PM	Orientation to Public Comments Survey Results
12:10-12:40 PM	Lunch
12:40-1:40 PM	Presentation and Consideration of Study Group Drafts
1:40-1:50 PM	Break
1:50-3:50 PM	Study Group Work Time: Process Feedback and Plan Next Steps
3:50-4:00 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.

In Attendance

Task Force Members:

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>	Absent
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>	Virtual
Kathleen Durán	<i>Expert in English Language Acquisition and Bilingual Ed</i>	In-person
Lindsey Gish	<i>Teacher (Middle School)</i>	Absent
Alison Griffin	<i>Workforce Development and Education Organization</i>	In-Person

NAME	REPRESENTING	VENUE
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>	Absent
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>	Virtual
Ryan Marks	<i>District Administrator (Accountability)</i>	In-Person
Nicholas Martinez	<i>Statewide Parents/Families Organization</i>	In-Person
Tony May	<i>Local School Board Member (Rural)</i>	Virtual
Dr. Robert Mitchell	<i>Teacher (Rural)</i>	In-Person
James Parr	<i>District Administrator (Rural Accountability)</i>	In-Person
Catie Santos de la Rosa	<i>Teacher (Elementary)</i>	In-Person
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

Panelists:

- Lydia Aguilar, Parent
- Ruth Andrade-McGinnis, Parent
- Anjana Basnet, Parent
- Courtney Cabrera, Parent
- Sherri Colton, Parent
- Sherrell Lang, Parent
- Mariza Ramirez, Parent

Facilitators: Sheila Briggs, Adam Brumer, and Kelly Jasiura

Summary

Welcome and Overview

The chair and vice chair welcomed the Task Force members and shared that during the meeting today, the group would hear from parents about their experience with the accountability system and discuss the responses to the public survey. The group would also work together to draft opportunities, challenges, and observations, and recommendations as necessary, for each of the study groups – specific to the accountability system frameworks. They then reviewed the objectives for the meeting, which included:

- Hear from parents about their experience with Colorado’s accountability system
- Review and consider input from public comment survey
- Draft opportunities, challenges, and observations on the accountability system’s Frameworks
- If ready, begin to formulate recommendations

The chairs briefly went over the agenda and reviewed the Task Force’s norms and charge. They also reminded the Task Force to submit their stakeholder consultation notes to the facilitators so the full Task Force could view the notes from these conversations.

Discussions with Parents

The facilitators then introduced the parent panelists who would speak to the Task Force about their experience with the accountability system, and when possible, on the issues currently under consideration by the Task Force.

The first panel consisted of parents with students enrolled in larger school systems. The parent panelists included Lydia Aguilar, Anjana Basnet, and Mariza Ramirez. All participating parents were members of the Resident Leadership Council (RLC). Note: the RLC was established in 2014 as a grassroots volunteer organization associated with the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in order to represent and be a voice for residents who live in Aurora, especially those from immigrant, refugee, and under-served communities.

The second panel was made up of parents with students enrolled in districts in rural and/or smaller communities. The parent panelists included Sherrell Lang, Courtney Cabrera, and Sherri Colton. These panelists included representatives from the School and District Accountability Committees (SAC/DAC) and the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE), as well as a parent of a student enrolled in special education programming.

Each panel consisted of 20 minutes of moderated discussion, followed by about 15 minutes of Q&A from the Task Force. The panelists spoke about where and how they received information about their student’s school and district, what characteristics make up a high-quality school, and how parents can participate in holding schools and districts accountable, among other topics.

Following the panels, the chairs thanked the panelists for their time, and then the full Task Force engaged in a debrief to discuss what they learned from the panels. The findings from the panel, in addition to those from other stakeholder consultations, will be used to inform the Task Force’s opportunities, challenges, and observations, and recommendations as necessary.

Presentation: Dr. Erin Kane, Superintendent of Schools, Douglas County School District

Following the parent panels, Dr. Erin Kane, Superintendent of Schools for Douglas County School District – a member of the task force – gave a brief presentation on her experience as a superintendent and how it informs her perspective on Colorado’s accountability system. Back in March, the Task Force took time to hear from task force members, particularly those with school- or district-level roles, about their experience with the accountability system and how the system impacts their ability to advance academic opportunities and address inequities. Dr. Kane was not able to attend that meeting, and so was given an opportunity speak instead at the May meeting.

Dr. Kane shared challenges and potential solutions around many of the topics the Task Force was considering, including subgroup calculations, timing of test results, testing opt-outs, n-size, tests that are limited to grade-level standards, comparability, and reports for educators and parents. Overall, she emphasized that an accountability system should incentivize improvement in outcomes for students. Following her presentation, she answered questions from fellow Task Force members.

Orientation to Public Comments Survey Results

Next, the Task Force began to review and consider input from the April 2023 public comment survey. The chairs opened this section by thanking the Task Force for sharing the public comment survey with stakeholders. The survey, offered in both English and Spanish, was open from March 27 – April 28 and was shared on CDE’s website and through their communications channels. The Task Force members also received suggested email and social media messages to share with their networks. The survey ultimately recorded over 1,800 responses; 576 of those included information that could be used to inform the Task Force’s study group conversations.

The facilitators then shared a brief overview of the demographics of the survey respondents and a few highlights from the survey responses. Of note, the survey largely received responses from educators in the central part of the state who worked in suburban districts. In addition, of the top 10 districts as determined by the number of responses received by members of that district’s community (e.g., educators, parents, school officials, etc.), all but one of them were from the top 20 districts as determined by population in Colorado. This means that most of the survey responses came from the most populous parts of the state.

A few highlights from the survey responses shared with the Task Force included:

- Many of the survey responses aligned with topics the Task Force has already been discussing in their study groups, for example the impact of counting multiple subgroups on the School Performance Framework (SPF) or the challenges associated with the lag in reporting assessment data
- Many respondents also shared input on what the accountability system should consider factors beyond test scores, for example, access to social and emotional learning
- The facilitators categorized some of the survey responses according to which study group they were most relevant to; some of the responses were relevant to all study groups, whereas some were not relevant at all to the Task Force’s charge

The facilitators then gave a brief overview of how to use the filtering function in Excel so Task Force members could more easily sort through the survey data and find responses from specific groups of respondents. They finished by answering questions from the Task Force. The Task Force will use the survey data to inform their draft opportunities, challenges, and observations, and recommendations as necessary.

Presentation and Consideration of Study Group Drafts

The Task Force then engaged in an activity to review and provide feedback on individual study group’s drafts of the opportunities, challenges, and observations relating to the accountability system’s

frameworks. The goal of this exercise was to gain consensus around the content. Once the content is agreed upon, the facilitators will put it in a report format, after which the Task Force will have multiple opportunities to review the language and share additional feedback.

The five study groups include:

- Impact of n-size and participation rates on SPF ratings
- Recognition of trends between groups of students
- Assessments used for accountability ratings
- Measures sufficient for high school
- Measures sufficient for early grades

The groups that were prepared to receive feedback on their opportunities, challenges, and observations summaries were Impact of n-size and participation rates on School Performance Framework ratings; Recognition of trends between groups of students; and Measures sufficient for early grades. These study groups began by reviewing written feedback on their draft summaries from the Task Force and then shared the following reflections with the full group:

- Approach they took to put together the draft
- Values they considered
- Anything the study group feels strongly about
- Anything the study group wrestled with, and where they landed
- Anything the study group left out of this draft but is still considering including

Each study group then engaged in a conversation with the full Task Force on the feedback they received to reach agreement on the content included in these summaries. It is possible, though, that additional edits will need to be made in future meetings even if a section gains consensus, to make sure the content aligns with other sections.

The groups who did not present on their opportunities, challenges and observations summaries were asked to complete their drafts by May 24 so they could receive feedback from the Task Force at the next meeting.

Study Group Work Time: Process Feedback and Plan Next Steps

The study groups were then given independent work time on their opportunities, challenges and observations, and to begin drafting final recommendations, as necessary. The Task Force members were also asked to discuss and fill out their answers to the following questions included in the Action Planning template to process the feedback they received during the day's meeting:

- What progress did you make?
- Do you plan to meet between now and June?
- What additional support do you need from the Task Force, Facilitators, or CDE?

Closing and Next Steps

The meeting adjourned at 3pm, and the Task Force members were invited to use the remaining meeting time to continue working in their study groups.

Summary of next steps

- Task Force members will revise their draft opportunities, challenges and observations, and propose recommendations as necessary, by May 24
- 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 continue to conduct stakeholder consultations
- CDE and the facilitators will work to propose dates for the Task Force meetings in August and beyond

The next meeting will take place in August; the date and time are to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting summary prepared by Education First