



Dear Superintendent and District Staff (Accountability, Federal Programs, and Special Education Contacts),

Welcome back to a new school year. We appreciate your leadership and resilience and hope you were able to find some time to rest and rejuvenate. The purpose of this letter and the attached timeline addendum is to:

- Notify you that at least one school and/or your district have been identified for support through the state and/or federal accountability systems
- Provide you with clear guidance on any required steps that the district needs to take in response to this identification
- Provide you with an overview of the role CDE will play in supporting your district and schools, including links to a variety of available resources

State and Federal Identifications

To view **identifications for all schools in your district**, CDE has put together a [data dashboard](#) that includes state and federal identifications (from 2022-2025), CDE support lead assignments, and can be filtered by district, school, identification type, performance watch status, or prior EASI support. For a video walkthrough watch the [Identification Dashboard Walkthrough on Vimeo](#).

An explanation of how schools are identified for federal and state accountability is available in the [Colorado's Accountability Identification System for Districts and Schools fact sheet](#). Note: K-2 federal identifications are not included in this initial accountability identification information but are forthcoming. For a summary of important dates and activities (e.g., supports, grants, requirements) related to identification, see the attached [accountability timeline addendum document](#).

State legislative changes (H.B. 25-1278): The passage of [H.B. 25-1278](#) introduces significant updates to the education accountability system, with new performance frameworks set for implementation in fall 2027. The legislation does not affect the 2025 identification or state performance frameworks. For details, see:

- [Summary of H.B. 25-1278: Education Accountability System resource](#)
- [Summary Changes: Accountability and Improvement Planning in the 2025-26 School Year](#).

Syncplicity Access. [Click here to log-in to Syncplicity](#)

State Accountability. Performance framework data is embedded within the “Accountability Contact” folder and “Growth” and “Performance Framework” subfolders. Permissions to view these folders are limited to District Accountability Contacts (assigned by your district’s [Local Access Manager](#)). Permissions are updated in Syncplicity within 24-48 hours. For issues related to Syncplicity and/or file permissions, please contact accountability@cde.state.co.us.



Federal Accountability. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) School Profiles for each federally-identified school are available in the district's Syncplicity Folder called "ESSA Identification" in the subfolder for the current year and includes each identified school's performance on the ESSA indicators for all relevant years of identification. For questions, please email ESSAquestions@cde.state.co.us.

Required Actions for Identified Schools

Schools identified for support and improvement under the state and/or federal accountability systems must take additional actions. Beginning in 2025-26, all schools and districts will use the [streamlined UIP template](#), unless eligible for flexibility (e.g., biennial submission). See below for key fact sheets and resources.

- **State identified schools (Priority Improvement/Turnaround)**
 - **Years 1-2:** If your district has one or more schools in Years 1-2 on the state accountability clock (i.e., Priority Improvement or Turnaround) there are [additional UIP planning requirements](#) and [parent notification](#) requirements for those schools.
 - **Years 3+:** If your district has schools in Year 3+ on the state accountability clock (i.e., Priority Improvement or Turnaround), CDE will contact you about required next steps for and available support that may align with your improvement efforts. Please see below for resources related to required actions for Year 3+ schools.
 - [Parent Notification](#)
 - [Additional UIP planning requirements](#)
 - [Year 3 Community Meeting](#)
 - [Year 4 State Review Panel \(SRP\)](#)
 - [Year 5+ Accountability Pathways & State Board Hearings](#)
 - [Year 5+ Accountability Pathways Planning Resources](#)
- **Federally identified schools (CS Year 3+, TS, ATS)**
 - If your district has federally identified CS Year 3+ schools (lowest 5% and low grad), your CDE contact will provide support for Rigorous Action planning requirements. See [CDE's ESSA UIP Planning Requirements website](#) for details.

Details about these requirements and supporting systems can also be found in:

- [The Streamlined Unified Improvement Workbook](#)
- [CDE Accountability Resource Page](#)

Overview of CDE Supports and Resources

CDE is committed to providing a menu of supports to districts with identified schools to improve school performance, student engagement, and learning outcomes. See below for a summary.



- **Coordination of Supports** – CDE is committed to coordinating our supports to streamline district access to supports. CDE assigns a support lead (a primary point of contact) to districts who uses accountability identifications to match school and district needs with available support and resources. Your CDE support lead (found on the [data dashboard](#)) will get to know your district’s context, your schools’ needs, and help with accessing additional resources. Here is a list of [additional contacts](#) for key programs.
- **Improvement Planning & Accountability Supports**
 - *Support for effective planning* - professional learning and technical assistance to support development of effective improvement plans including short-cycle planning and effective performance management tools aligned to annual planning cycles.
 - *External diagnostic review* - CDE offers a variety of diagnostic review supports directly and through vetted external providers. An [external diagnostic review](#) can be helpful in assessing systems needs and identifying priorities for planning.
 - *Strategy guides* - CDE offers a variety of [strategy guides](#) designed to support selection and implementation of proven improvement strategies.
- **Supports for Effective Implementation of Improvement Strategies**
 - *Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI) Application*-The [EASI application](#) provides a variety of grants and supports designed to accelerate effective improvement practices. Your assigned support lead can assist with understanding EASI eligibility and finding the services that might be the most helpful to your schools. CDE provides several opportunities starting in October for eligible districts to learn more about the EASI application.
 - *Professional Learning Series* - The [2025-26 Menu of Professional Learning](#) is a scope and sequence of high quality PD aligned to the Four Domains for Rapid School Improvement and is available to ALL schools and districts across the state seeking to improve their implementation of best practices.
 - *Note:* CDE is piloting additional systems to better match CDE supports to district needs. Your support lead will discuss your district needs and connect you with additional resources.

We are grateful for the dedication you show to your students each day to meet the needs in your schools and communities. Please contact us or your support lead with any questions or feedback. This letter is being sent first to superintendents and key district staff (i.e., accountability contacts, local ESEA directors, special education directors), and will be shared with school board chairs later this week.

Thank you,

Lindsey Jaeckel,

Assistant Commissioner of School Quality & Support