



FACT SHEET

Next Steps on the Alternative Education Campus Accountability Work Group Recommendations

Per HB15-1350, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) was required to form a group of stakeholders from the Alternative Education Campus (AEC) community to gather feedback on the next iteration of Alternative Education Campus accountability, specifically the School Performance Framework to form the Alternative Education Campus Accountability Work Group (AEC AWG).

On December 1, 2015, the AEC AWG submitted five written recommendations to the CDE Commissioner, the Education Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the State Board of Education. The complete report can be found here: http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/2015_aec_awg_final_report

Below are the recommendations of the AEC AWG and the next action step moving forward from CDE, the State Board of Education, or the Legislature regarding the recommendations. At present, CDE can only implement Recommendation #3.

Recommendation #1: Qualitative Measures

(1) Add an additional performance indicator (opportunity measures) and adjust the ratings, per the table below:

Indicator	Current AEC Frameworks	Proposed
Academic Achievement	15%	5%
Academic Growth	35%	25%
Student Engagement	20%	20%
Post-secondary and Workforce Readiness	30%	30%
Opportunity Measures	N/A	20%

(2) Pilot a school quality review process program with at least 10 Alternative Education Campuses between April 2016 and April 2019.

Next Steps: The report was submitted to State Board of Education on December 1, 2015 and presented to State Board of Education on January 13, 2016. A change to SBE rules is required to add an additional indicator. A pilot is possible to implement, but funding would need to be secured in order to implement.

Recommendation #2: Development of measure-specific cut points

(1) Use the proposed “AEC Cut-Points Decision Trees” (see Appendix G in final report) to guide the process for determining AEC appropriate cut-points for AEC School Performance Framework (SPF) measures

(2) Use “Guiding Principles for AEC Accountability Measures” to guide how all measures are developed and applied to AECs (see Appendix H in final report).



Next Steps: CDE will incorporate "Guiding Principles for AEC Accountability Measures" into AEC Policy Guidance prior to the release of the Selection of Measures form on May 2, 2016. CDE is still awaiting resources to hire an independent consultant to review assessments, analyze assessment data, and develop guidance documents for cut-points for the current measures.

Recommendation #3: Consideration of the current "N" weighting system

Weigh achievement and growth results by the number of students included in each measure (as opposed to weighting each measure equally).

Next Steps: CDE will adopt this measure with the next iteration of the School Performance Frameworks, as this change is within CDE policy to implement.

Recommendation #4: Identification of possible methods and costs associated with using a comparison group

Identify a comparison group by using easily available data for identifying high risk conditions based on AEC student's characteristics prior to enrolling in the AEC.

Next Steps: CDE is not able to implement this recommendation without resources to hire an independent contractor to design and analyze the data.

Recommendation #5: Consideration of the 95% threshold for designation of an AEC, the student groups included, and the documentation and verification requirements

(1) Lower the high-risk threshold for designation of an alternative education campus from 95% high-risk to 90% high-risk.

(2) Modify five criteria for student groups included in the high-risk threshold to include: students with excused absences, foster care youth, students with trauma due loss of a parent or immediate family member, less severe mental health or behavioral issues, and middle school students in the definition of over-age and under-credited students.

Next Steps: As this recommendation requires a change in statutory language, the legislature will decide whether to put forth legislation on or before May 11, 2016, the end of the legislative session. AECs applying for the 2016-17 school year will still need to meet requirements per C.R.S. 22-7-604.5 pending any legislative action.

(3) Enhance CDE guidance documents to include more detailed information on documentation requirements for identification of high-risk criteria

Next Steps: CDE will update information on documentation assurances in the AEC Policy Guidance prior to the release of the applications on March 7, 2016. CDE will collaborate with the field pending resources on current best practices around collecting student high-risk data in a manner that balances student and family privacy with the need to ensure that the AEC statute is being upheld.

Where can I learn more?

- To find more information on the AEC Accountability Work Group please visit: www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/aec-workgroup
- To find more information on AECs please visit: www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/stateaccountabilityaecs
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs