



**COLORADO**

Department of Education

# Overview on *Alternative* Education Campuses in Colorado

Accountability & Data Analysis Unit

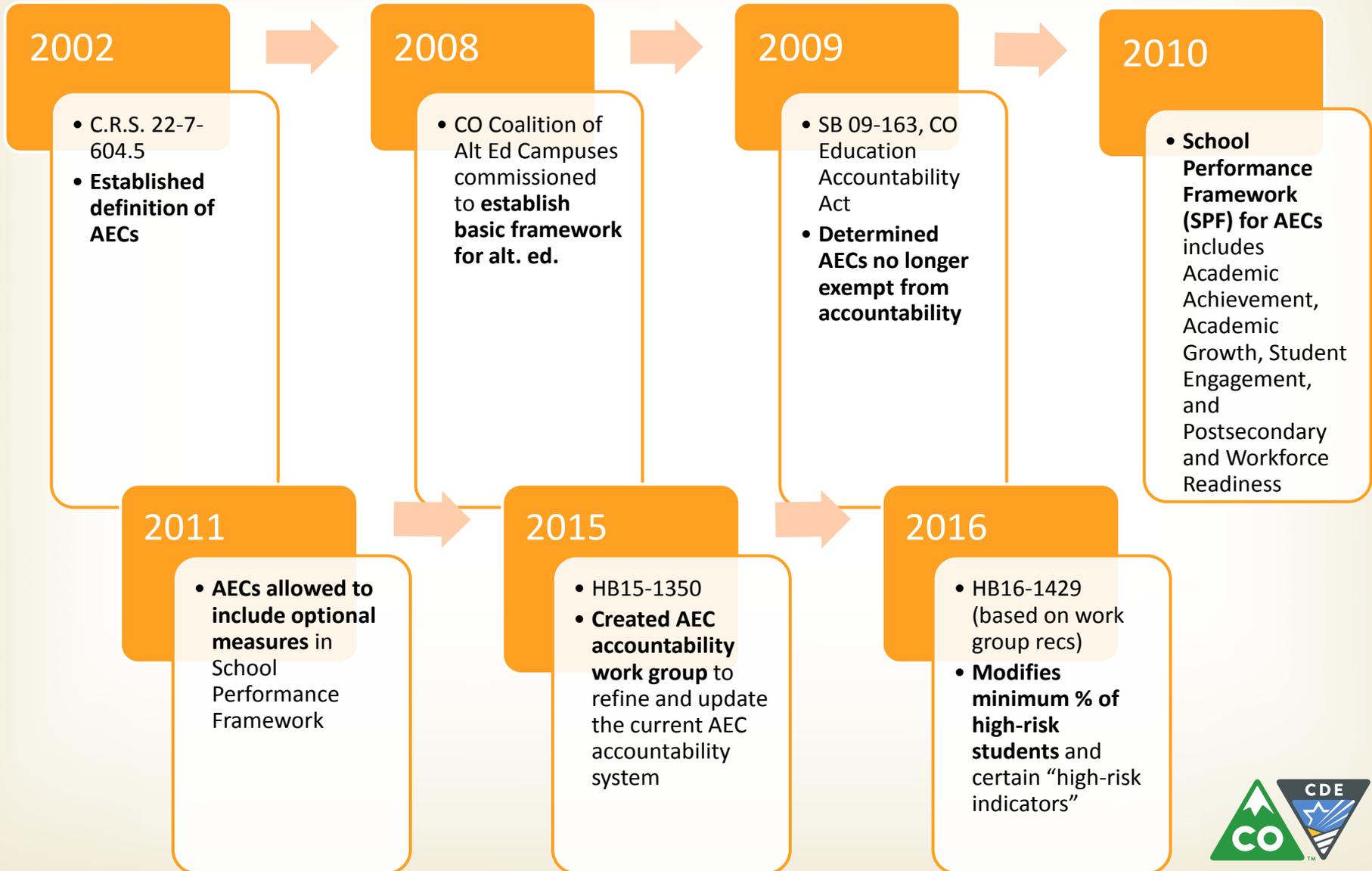
April 2018

# Alternative Education Campuses in Colorado



- In Colorado, schools that serve **primarily high-risk students** are called **“Alternative Education Campuses”**, or AECs for short
- As of the 2017-18SY, Colorado had **92 AECs**, which served just over **17,000 students** and represented 5% of schools in Colorado
- **AECs are outlined in C.R.S. 22-7-604.5 as schools:**
  - (I) “Having a specialized mission and serving a special needs or **at-risk population**”,
  - (V) “Having **nontraditional methods of instruction** delivery”,
  - (VI) (A) “Serving students who have **severe limitations...**”, and
  - (VI)(B) “Serving a student population in which more than **90%** of the students have an **individualized education program...**or meet the definition of a **high-risk student**”.

# History of AECs in Colorado



# “High-Risk Student” is a student who has one or more of the following conditions:

- juvenile delinquent
- dropped out of school
- habitually truant: 4 absences in one month or 10 absences in one year\*\*\*
- expelled from school
- history of personal drug or alcohol use
- history of personal street gang involvement
- history of child abuse or neglect or ward of the court\*\*\*
- has a parent or guardian in prison
- has an IEP
- family history of domestic violence
- repeated school suspensions
- parent or pregnant woman
- migrant child\*
- homeless child
- foster child\*\*\*
- history of mental or behavioral health issue or experienced significant trauma\*\*\*
- is over traditional school age for his or her grade level and lacks adequate credit hours for his or her grade level (high school students only)\*\*

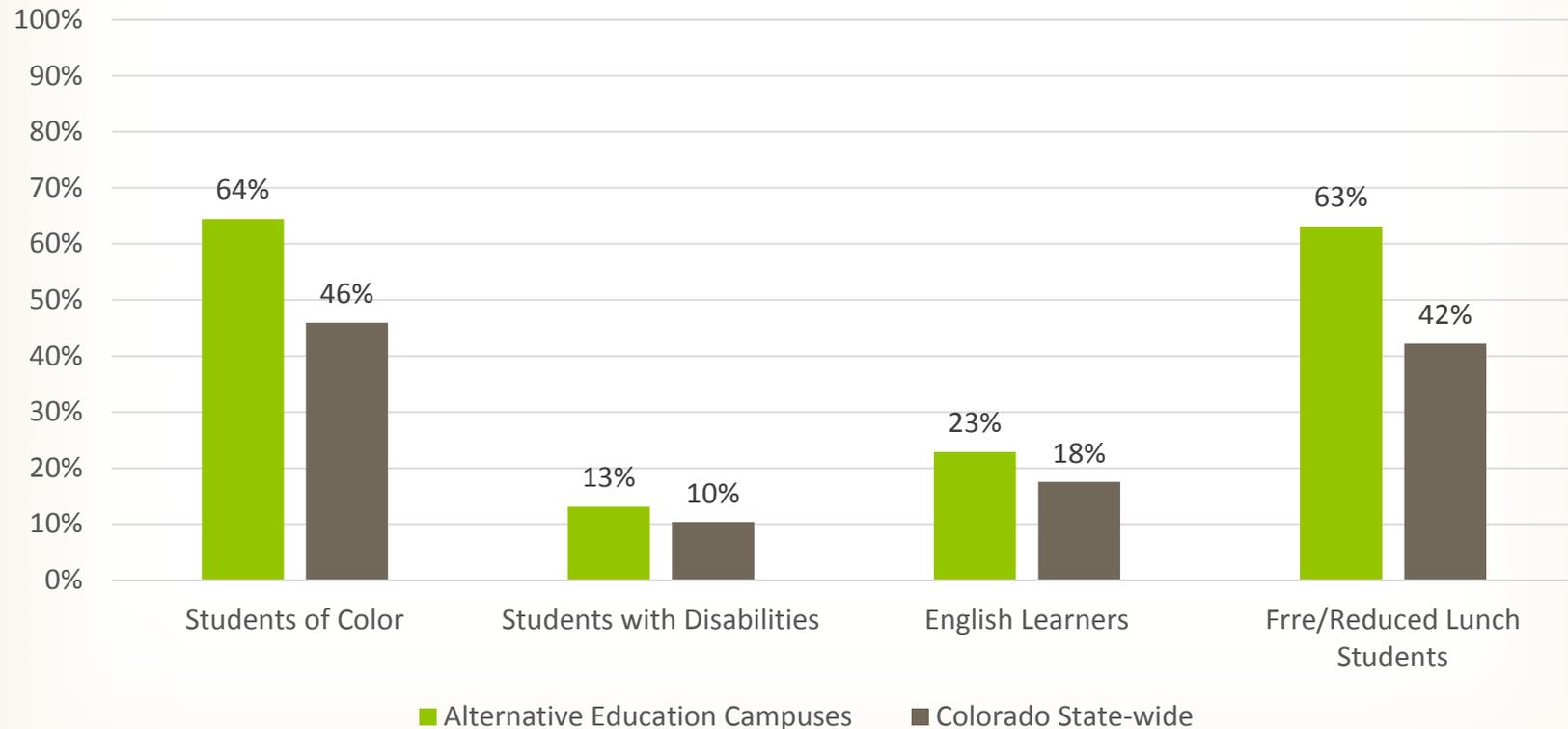
\*Added in 2010

\*\*Added in 2011

\*\*\*Added/Modified in 2016



# Enrollment Trends at Colorado AECs

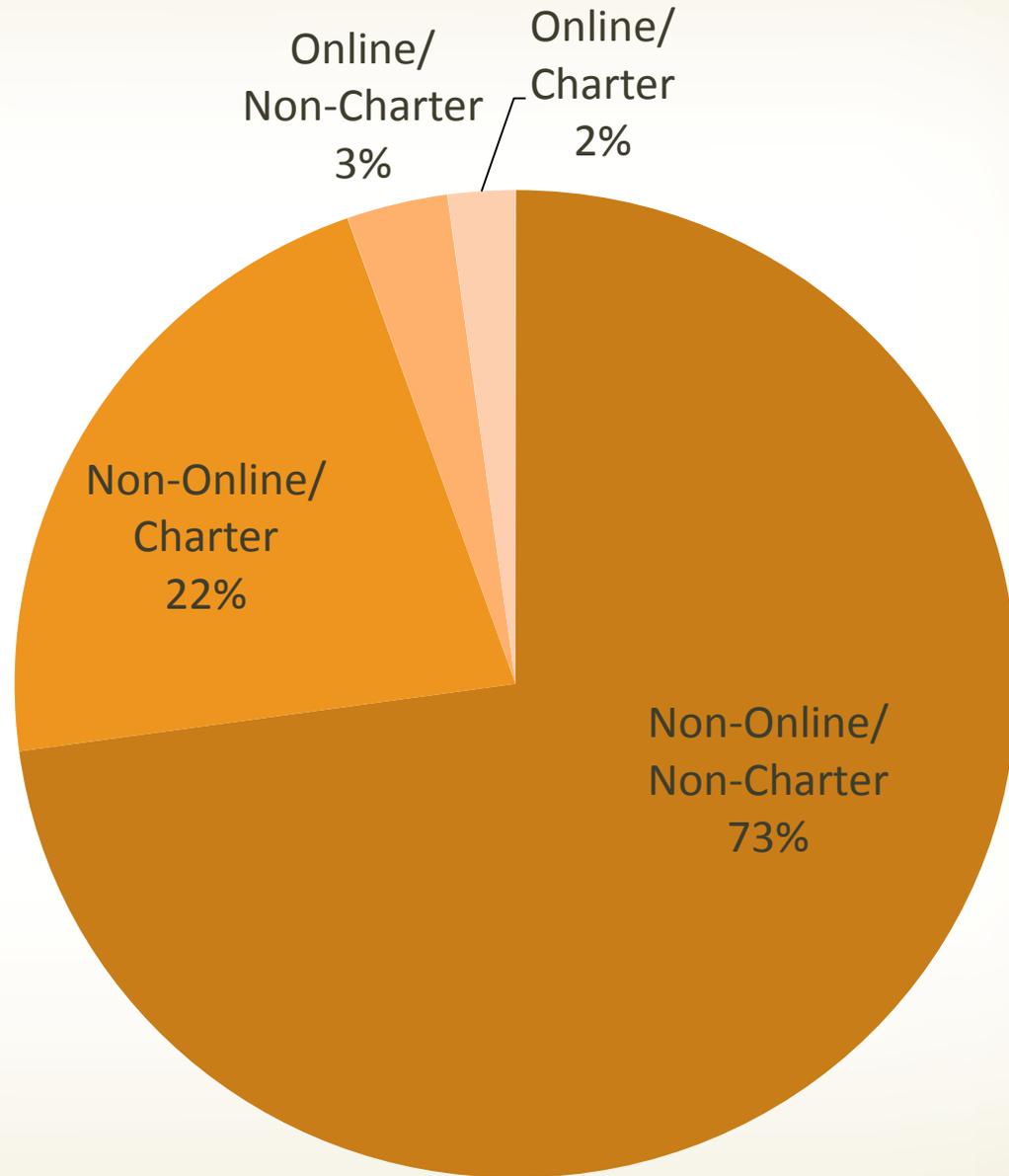


Alternative Education Campuses (AECs) in Colorado currently make up 2% of the total student enrollment. These schools enroll higher populations of highly at risk students.

## Types of AECs in Colorado

Nearly two-thirds of AECs in Colorado are district-run schools.

A small number of AECs in Colorado are online schools; these are evenly split between charters and district-run schools.



# Alternative Accountability in Colorado

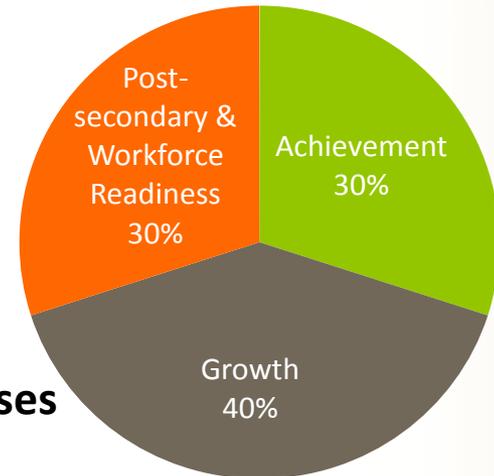


# School and District Performance Frameworks & AEC School Performance Framework

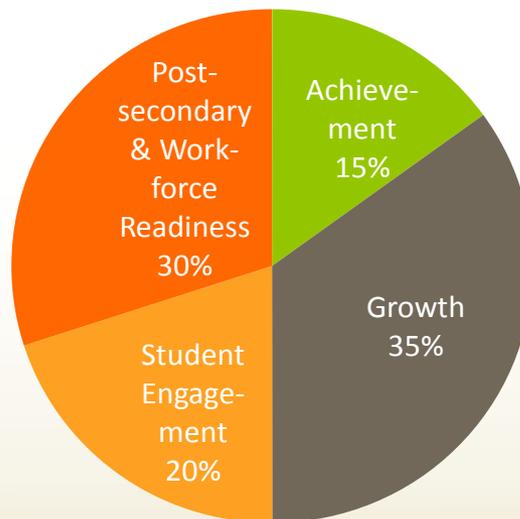
## Elementary and Middle Schools



## High Schools and Districts



## Alternative Education Campuses



# AEC Accountability: Flexibility with Optional Measures

Alternative Education Campuses receive a School Performance Framework annually, similar to traditional schools. The main exception is AECs are measured on Student Engagement measure and are allowed to submit local measures to include in their performance framework.

| Performance Indicator               | Weight |     | State-Required Measures and Metrics   | Optional Measures and Metrics   |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----|---|---|
|                                     | E/MS   | HS  |   |   |
| Academic Achievement                | 20%    | 15% | CMAS/PARCC mean scale score Reading, Math, Writing, Science, PSAT mean scale score                                  | NWEA MAP, Scantron, Acuity, Galileo, Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT), Test for Adult Basic Education (TABE), STAR, and/or Accuplacer                   |
| Academic Growth                     | 50%    | 35% | CMAS/PARCC median growth percentiles in Reading, Math, Writing, PSAT to SAT growth                                  | NWEA MAP, Scantron, Acuity, Galileo, Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT), Test for Adult Basic Education (TABE), ACCESS, STAR, and/or Accuplacer           |
| Student Engagement                  | 30%    | 20% | Attendance rate, Truancy rate   | Student Re-engagement, Returning students rate, Socio-Emotional or Psychological Adjustment   |
| Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness | N/A    | 30% | Completion rate (best of 4, 5, 6, or 7 year rate)<br>Dropout rate<br>Colorado SAT mean scale score<br>EBRW and Math | Credit/course completion, Workforce Readiness, Post-Completion Success<br>Successful transition (for non-degree granting schools only)<br>Graduation rate |

# AEC Accountability

- Approximately half of AECs submit optional measures.
- Optional measures typically have a positive impact on schools' AEC SPF ratings

**Measure Types by Indicator**

| Performance Indicator               | State-Required and Optional | State-Required Only | Optional Only | Total Optional | No Measures for this Indicator |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Academic Achievement                | 31.2%                       | 47.3%               | 11.8%         | 43.0%          | 9.7%                           |
| Academic Growth                     | 18.3%                       | 19.4%               | 26.9%         | 45.2%          | 35.5%                          |
| Student Engagement                  | 50.5%                       | 49.5%               | 0.0%          | 50.5%          | 0.0%                           |
| Postsecondary & workforce Readiness | 50.5%                       | 49.5%               | 0.0%          | 50.5%          | 0.0%                           |

N Schools on AEC SPF in 2017 = 93



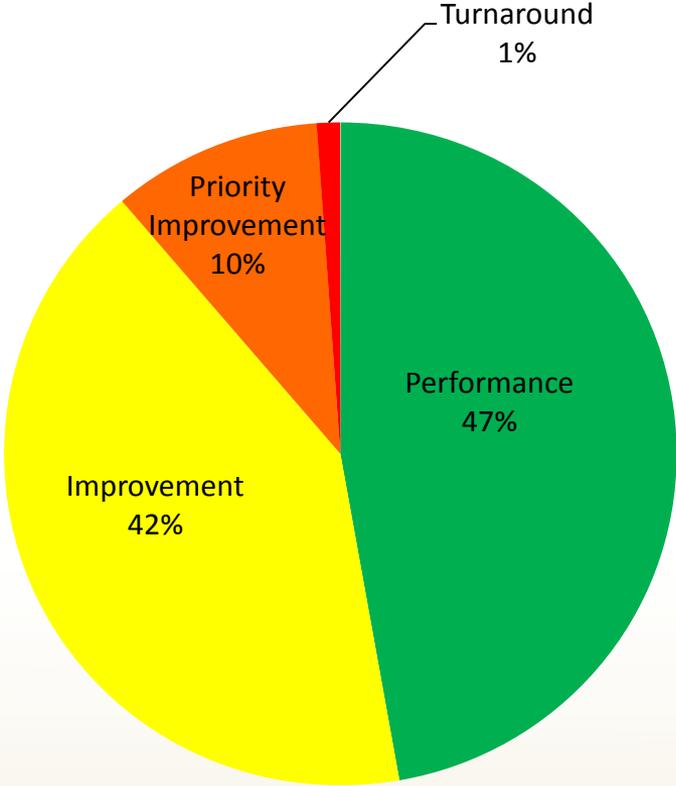
# AEC School Performance Framework: Indicator Ratings & Overall Rating

*AECs in Colorado are measured similarly to traditional schools, but the **weightings are lowered** to take into account the high-risk population served.*

- Schools receive a **rating** on each of the **performance indicators**:
  - **Exceeds** (4 pts), **Meets** (3), **Approaching** (2), **Does Not Meet** (1)
- The **ratings roll up** to an overall evaluation of the school's performance, which determines the **school plan type rating**:
  - **Performance**, **Improvement**, **Priority Improvement**, **Turnaround**
- Under SB 09-163, the "Colorado Education Accountability Act", if a public school is required to implement a **priority improvement plan** or **turnaround plan** for **5 consecutive school years**, the state board must recommend that the public school's school district or the institute **take one of several actions** specified in statute with regard to the public

# Performance of AECs in Colorado

2017 AECs by School Plan Type



# Alternative Education Campus (AEC) Results Over Time

| School Plan Types                     | 2011 |      | 2012 |      | 2013 |      | 2014 |      | 2016 |      | 2017 |      |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                                       | #    | %    | #    | %    | #    | %    | #    | %    | #    | %    | #    | %    |
| <b>AEC: Performance Plan</b>          | 25   | 33.3 | 28   | 36.8 | 30   | 38.5 | 34   | 40.5 | 41   | 45.6 | 42   | 46.7 |
| <b>AEC: Improvement Plan</b>          | 19   | 25.3 | 23   | 30.3 | 26   | 33.3 | 29   | 34.5 | 33   | 36.7 | 37   | 41.1 |
| <b>AEC: Priority Improvement Plan</b> | 17   | 22.7 | 14   | 18.4 | 12   | 15.4 | 13   | 15.5 | 12   | 13.3 | 9    | 10.0 |
| <b>AEC: Turnaround Plan</b>           | 11   | 14.7 | 11   | 14.5 | 10   | 12.8 | 8    | 9.5  | 4    | 4.4  | 1    | 1.1  |
| <b>Total</b>                          | 72   |      | 76   |      | 78   |      | 84   |      | 90   |      | 90   |      |

*No accountability data is available for 2015*

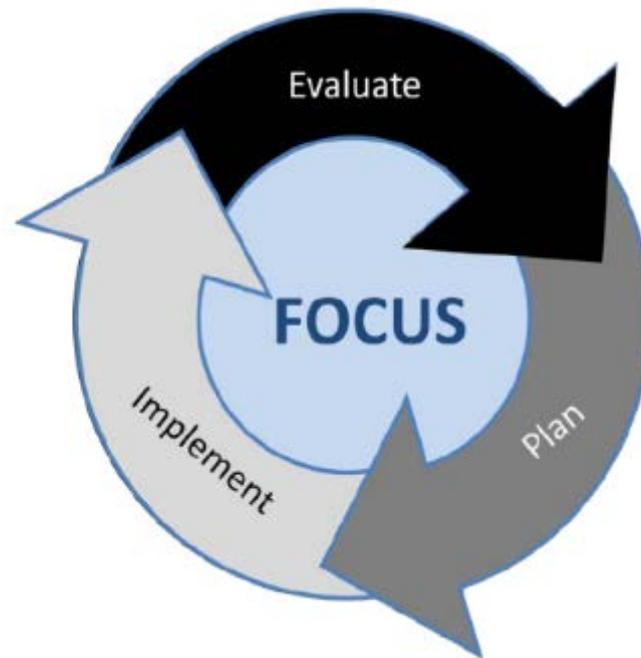


# Adjusted AEC SPF Cut-Points: Impact for Accountability

- AECs in Colorado are measured similarly to traditional schools, but the weightings are lowered to take into account the high-risk population served.
- Without allowing additional measures and revised cut-points in the AEC SPF, 71% of AECs would be on priority improvement or **turnaround** plans, whereas 19% were on the AEC SPF.
  - An additional 23% of AECs did not have sufficient data to produce a traditional SPF.
- AECs in Colorado are gradually improving over time. In 2014, 24% of AECs were on priority improvement or **turnaround** plans, and in 2017, only 19% were.
- AECs only constitute 5% of total schools in Colorado. However, AECs are disproportionately represented in **priority improvement** or **turnaround** plans—17 of those 102 schools (17%) are AECs.



# Improvement Planning for Alternative Education Campuses

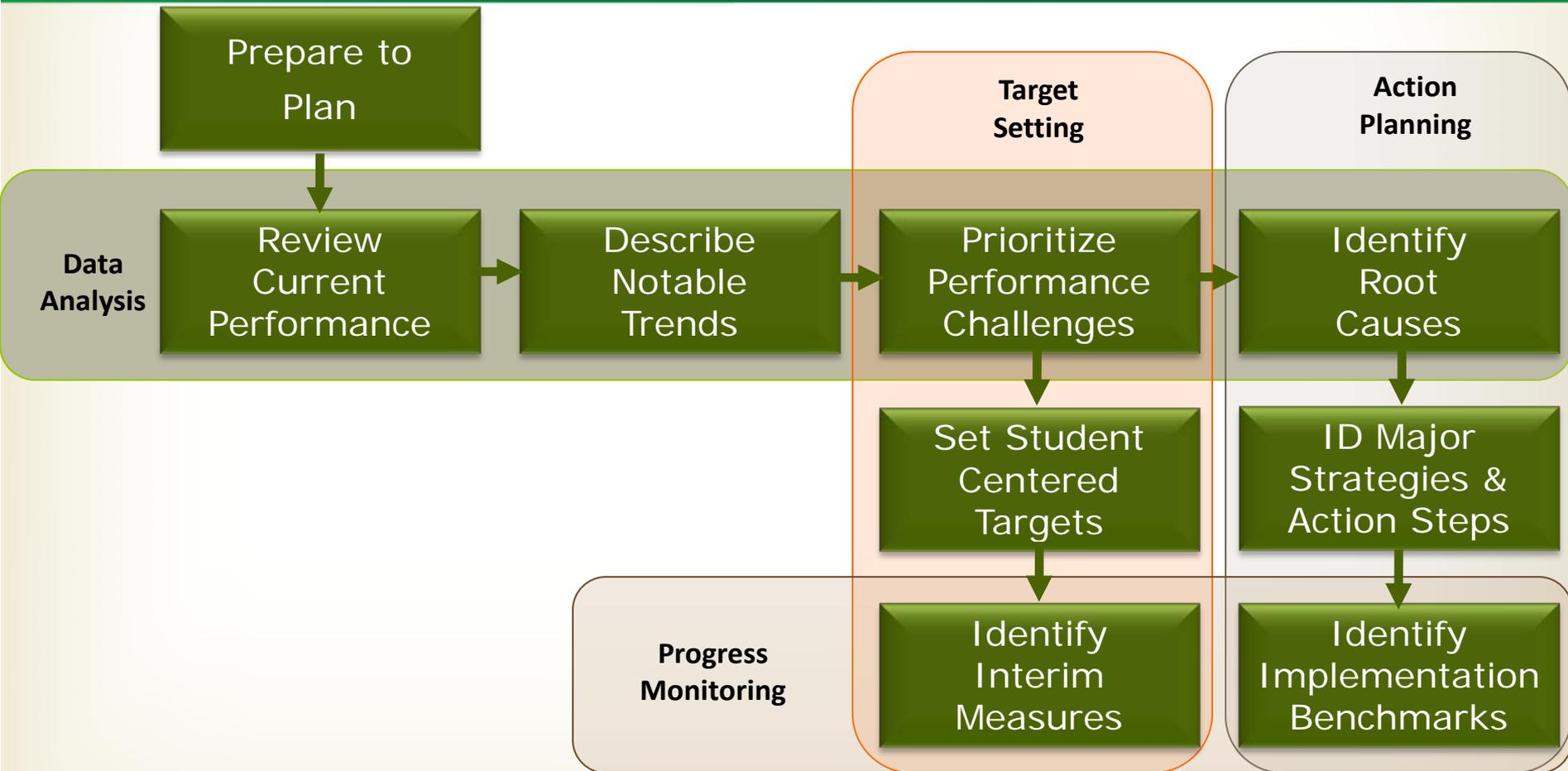


# What is Unified Improvement Planning?

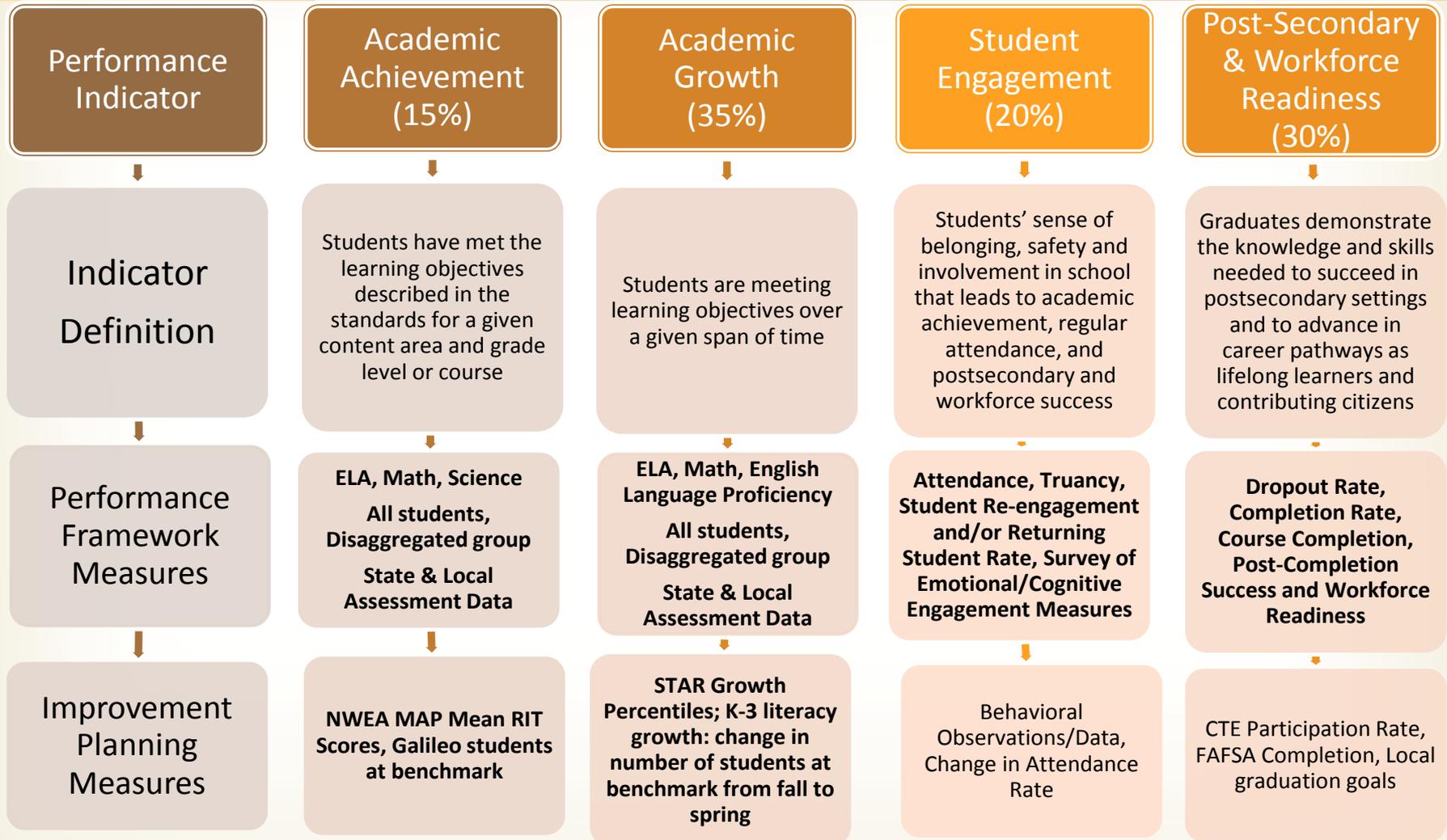
|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Alignment</b>     | A system to align improvement planning requirements for state and federal accountability into a “single” plan.   |
| <b>Documentation</b> | A common format for schools and for districts to document improvement planning efforts. Schools/districts on accountability clock must demonstrate a coherent plan for dramatic change and adjustments over time. Reviews conducted by CDE and the State Review Panel. |
| <b>Transparency</b>  | A process for including multiple voices, including staff, families and community representatives. Plans are also posted publicly.  |
| <b>Best Practice</b> | A statewide strategy to promote improvement planning based on best-practice, including use of state and local data and engagement in a continuous improvement cycle.   |
| <b>Support</b>       | A mechanism for triggering additional supports through CDE (especially for schools/districts on accountability clock).   |



# Unified Improvement Planning Processes



# How Accountability & Improvement Planning work together for AECs



Note: Measures in **bold** can be used in the Colorado AEC School Performance Framework



# Requirements for Alternative Education Campuses



1 CCR 301-57 (3.02) On or before July 1 of each year, the Institute or Local School Board for any Public School that desires to be designated an Alternative Education Campus pursuant to §22-7-602, C.R.S., shall file with the State Board a request for designation as an Alternative Education Campus.

1 CCR 301-57 (3.03) On or before August 20 of each year, the State Board shall approve the designation as an Alternative Education Campus for any Public School for which a request has been filed and that is found by the State Board to meet the requirements of these rules.

# AEC Application Timeline for 2017-18 school year

2017-2018

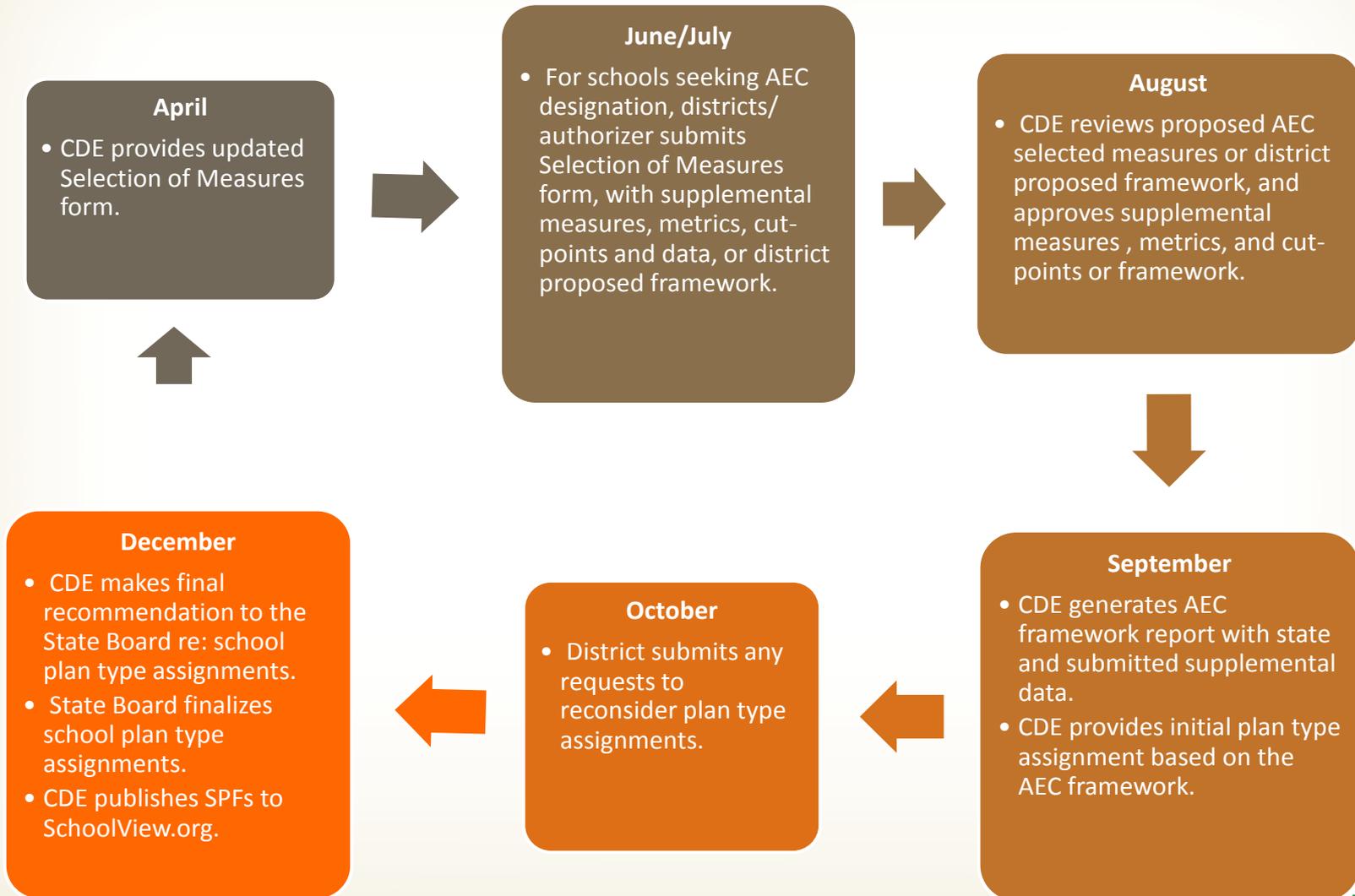
| School Year | Month/ Year  | Newly opened school<br>(Application)   | Existing AEC<br>(Renewal of Status)  |
|-------------|--|--|--|
| 2017-2018   | August 2017  | AEC collects information about entering students' high-risk status and keeps that information secure and on site.                  | AEC collects information about entering students' high-risk status and keeps that information secure and on site.                |
|             | September 2017                                       |  |  |
|             | October 2017   |  |  |
|             | November 2017  |  |  |
|             | December 2017  |  |  |
|             | January 2018   | School notifies CDE of intent to apply for AEC designation by January 15 <sup>th</sup>   |  |
|             | February 2018  | CDE releases pre-populated application template to districts.  | CDE releases pre-populated renewal template to districts.  |
|             | March 2018   |  |  |
|             | April 2018   | District completes AEC applications for schools (Deadline May 4).  | District completes AEC renewal applications for schools (Deadline May 4).  |
|             | May 2018   | CDE audits AEC applications. School may receive site visit given it is a new application. CDE makes recommendation to State Board. | CDE audits AEC applications. School may receive site visit if there are data anomalies. CDE makes recommendation to State Board. |
| June 2018   |  |  |  |
| July 2018   |  |  |  |
| August 2018 | State Board makes AEC status decision for 2018-2019. | State Board makes AEC status decision for 2018-2019.   |  |



All existing AECs must annually submit a “Selection of Measures Form” by the last Friday in June. This year it’s June 29, 2018.

- ✓ Districts select and submit accountability measures for their AEC(s).
- ✓ New AECs interested in applying for retroactive AEC designation during the request to reconsider process should submit measures.
- ✓ CDE approves or denies submitted accountability measures.
- ✓ Accountability measures are factored in the AEC SPF.
- ✓ State Board approves AEC plan type assignments in December.

# Optional Measures Process/Timeline



## Resources and Additional Help

For more  
information on  
AEC  
Accountability  
please visit:

- **AEC Webpage:**  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/stateaccountabilityaecs>
- **CDE Accountability Website:**  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/Accountability/index.asp>
- **Unified Improvement Planning Website:**  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/Accountability/UnifiedImprovementPlanning.asp>

**Jessica Watson**

**Watson\_J@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6778**

**B Sanders**

**Sanders\_B@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-2865**

