

HB 18-1355

Overview



COLORADO
Department of Education

SUMMARY

House Bill 18-1355 modifies Colorado's accountability law to ensure all students receive a high-quality education that prepares them for college, career and life. Further, the bill makes certain that school districts have the support and oversight to achieve that goal.

KEY COMPONENTS OF HB 18-1355

The changes described below are organized by general topic area. The sidebar provides a high-level timeline for the implementation of these items.

Accountability Ratings

The following two items require rulemaking to occur by the State Board of Education. It is anticipated this will occur in the 2018-19 school year.

- **Performance Indicators:** HB 18-1355 retains the statutory requirement to calculate accountability frameworks using the current performance indicators, but it removes specific calculation details from statute and delegates them to the State Board of Education.
- **Request to Reconsider Process:** The bill codifies current practice under state board rule regarding a district's ability to request a reconsideration of the district's or school's initially assigned rating.

Accountability Clock/Performance Watch Process

The following three components pertaining to the renaming and redefining of the accountability clock do not require rulemaking. These provisions go into effect with the 2019 performance frameworks.

- **Performance Watch:** "Performance watch" replaces what was previously referred to as the "accountability clock." A school or district in Priority Improvement or Turnaround (PI/T) is on performance watch. After receiving two consecutive PI/T ratings, a school or district must receive an Improvement rating or higher for two consecutive years to exit performance watch. If a school, for example, is on Year 2 of performance watch and then receives an Improvement rating, the school will be on a "hold year" and will still be considered to be on performance watch in Year 2. If the school receives another Improvement rating or higher the following year, the school will be off of performance watch. If the school, however, receives another PI/T rating, then the count of years continues where it left off and the school advances to Year 3 of performance watch. For additional scenarios, please see the table on Page 3 of this document. After five years of consecutive or nonconsecutive PI/T ratings while on performance watch, the state board must direct the school, district or Institute to take one of the actions, or pathways, outlined in statute.
- **Timing:** Beginning with the 2019 performance frameworks, school and district ratings will go into effect immediately upon state board approval of the final ratings. This means that the state board will direct an action in the fifth year of a PI/T rating for schools and districts on performance watch. This will shorten the current process (under which schools and districts receive six years of PI/T ratings before the state board directs an action) by a year.
- **Early Action:** Schools, districts or the Institute can request that the state board direct an action prior to the completion of the five years on performance watch, after consulting with the district accountability committee.

Timeline

- Fall 2018 – Notice of Rulemaking for School Transformation Grant Rules
- Fall 2018 – EASI application for school support grants opens
- 2018-19 School Year: Optional community meetings
- Winter 2018 – Notice of Rulemaking for Accreditation Rules (performance indicators; request to reconsider)
- Spring 2019 – State Review Panel visits take place based on HB18-1355 guidance
- Fall 2019 – All provisions of HB18-1355 go into effect

- **Beyond 5 Years:** One critical change in HB 18-1355 is that if student academic performance continues to put a school or district in Priority Improvement or Turnaround beyond Year 5 of performance watch, then the state board may in any year—and must every two years—require the district to continue the previously directed action or undertake additional or different actions. The state board will consider the State Review Panel’s recommendation and the length of time a district has had to implement the previously directed action, whether that was enough time and whether the action was implemented with fidelity. Schools and districts beyond Year 5 of performance watch are also still required to earn two consecutive years of Improvement ratings or higher before being considered off of performance watch. This provision applies to all schools or districts that have already had a state board directed action and remain in Priority Improvement or Turnaround on the 2018 performance frameworks.

Performance Watch Year 5 Pathways

HB 18-1355 made the following two revisions to the potential actions that may occur when a school or district reaches its fifth year of performance watch. The other statutory actions remain the same (district reorganization, school closure, conversion to charter, innovation status, and, for current charter schools, replacing the governing board or operator). These changes do not require rulemaking and will go into effect immediately.

- **Accreditation Removal:** The bill eliminates statutory language mandating that the state board remove district accreditation after reaching five years of PI/T ratings on performance watch and clarifies that it is one of the six options available to the state board when directing an action to a school district.
- **External Management:** HB18-1355 clarifies that external management entities can fully or partially manage schools, but the entity must be research-based and have a proven track record of school improvement.

Performance Watch Requirements

The following additional requirements for schools and districts in PI/T will go into effect in fall 2019. Districts, however, may choose to hold a community meeting or engage in enhanced improvement planning during the 2018-19 school year if that serves their needs, and CDE staff will be available to support those efforts.

- **Year 3 Community Meeting:** Schools and districts in the third year of PI/T (or earlier at district’s request) are required to incorporate additional information into a meeting concerning their improvement plan and make additional efforts to ensure parental participation. Together, districts and CDE are required to ensure the presentation of certain information including an explanation of the accountability system, options immediately available to improve performance, and what being on performance watch entails.
- **Improvement Plans:** In the fourth year of PI/T while on performance watch, schools and districts will be required to plan for all possible statutory actions.

School and District Support

HB 18-1355 increases access to supports for those on performance watch through the following two changes.

- **School Transformation Grant:** The previously named School Turnaround Leadership Development Grant is renamed as the “School Transformation Grant” with an expanded scope. In addition to leadership development grant activities, schools and districts on performance watch (including those in Improvement or Performance on a hold year) also will be able to apply for grant funds to support educator professional development, to implement activities geared towards instructional transformation, or to plan or implement one of the statutory options for schools and districts with persistent low performance. The rulemaking process for this grant program is anticipated to begin September 2018 so that schools and districts may access these grant funds during the 2018-19 [Empowering Action for School Improvement \(EASI\) application and funding cycle](#).
- **Local Board Training:** The bill allows CDE to make training available to local school boards, parents and teachers on governance and turnaround best practices.

EXAMPLE SCENARIOS UNDER HB 18-1355

The following table illustrates a variety of scenarios that could occur with the implementation of HB 18-1355 and the transition to a performance watch system.

LEGEND		PI/T=Priority Improvement or Turnaround Rating		I/P = Improvement or Performance Rating			
Example	2016 Performance Frameworks	2017 Performance Frameworks	2018 Performance Frameworks	2019 Performance Frameworks *HB 18-1355 GOES INTO FULL EFFECT*	2020 Performance Frameworks	2021 Performance Frameworks	Years on Perform. Watch per HB18-1355, as of 2021 Frameworks
A	PI/T - Year 1	PI/T - Year 2	PI/T - Year 3	PI/T - Year 4 Performance Watch	I/P - HOLD YEAR (remain on Performance Watch-Yr 4)	PI/T- Year 5 Performance Watch	5
B	PI/T- Year 1	PI/T - Year 2	PI/T - Year 3	I/P HOLD YEAR (remain on Performance Watch - Yr 3)	I/P - Off Performance Watch	I/P	0
C	I/P	PI/T- Year 1	PI/T - Year 2	I/P - HOLD YEAR (remain on Performance Watch - Yr 2)	PI/T - Year 3 Performance Watch	PI/T - Year 4 Performance Watch	4
D	PI/T- Year 1	I/P	PI/T- Year 1	PI/T- Year 2 Performance Watch	I/P - HOLD YEAR (remain on Performance Watch - Yr 2)	PI/T- Year 3 Performance Watch	3
E	PI/T- Year 1	PI/T - Year 2	I/P	PI/T- Year 1	PI/T- Year 2; Performance Watch	I/P - HOLD YEAR (remain on Performance Watch - Yr 2)	2
F	I/P	I/P	PI/T- Year 1	PI/T- Year 2 Performance Watch	I/P - HOLD YEAR (remain on Performance Watch - Yr 2)	PI/T- Year 3 Performance Watch	3
G	I/P	I/P	I/P	I/P	PI/T- Year 1	PI/T- Year 2 Performance Watch	2
H	PI/T- Year 1	PI/T - Year 2	I/P	PI/T- Year 1	I/P - Off Performance Watch	PI/T- Year 1	1
I	I/P	I/P	I/P	PI/T- Year 1	PI/T - Year 2 Performance Watch	I/P - HOLD YEAR (remain on Performance Watch - Yr 2)	2

Where can I learn more?

- Performance watch information: www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/accountability_clock
- EASI grant application information: www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/easiapplication
- View all CDE fact sheets: www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfaqs