

# Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Indicator: New “Higher Bar” Measure in Performance Frameworks



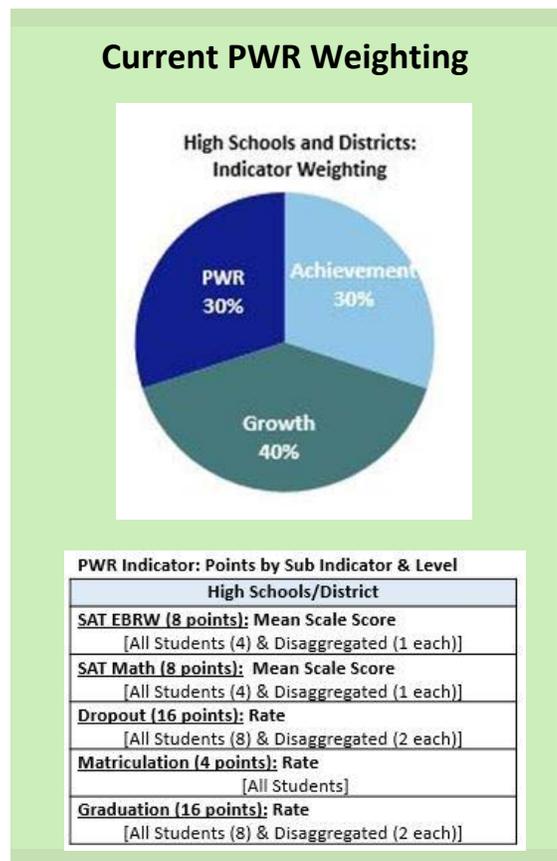
*The purpose of this fact sheet is to describe the implementation of the new “higher bar” measure to be included within the performance framework reports in 2023 (informational) and 2024 (for points). The intended audience is school and district administrators interested in understanding how Graduation Guidelines demonstration options will be used in the state’s accountability system.*

## Background

This resource provides the process and timelines for implementing the “higher bar” expectation outlined in S.B. 17-272. Note that there are two other Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) adjustments set in legislation that the department is working to integrate into the performance frameworks, including military enlistment (SB 18-012) and Successful Completion of AP, IB or Concurrent Enrollment (HB 18-1019). Implementation of the “higher bar” legislation adds a new PWR sub-indicator that assigns district and school performance frameworks points based on the percentage of enrolled high school students that achieve a state board determined “higher bar” on graduation achievement options. These options must be objectively measured by a score.

## Overview of the PWR Indicator

The PWR indicator is included within the high school and district performance framework for accreditation and plan type determination. The PWR indicator contributes 30% of the points in determining the overall high school or district score. Currently, the PWR indicator consists of five sub-indicators (detailed in the green sidebar).



## Measures Relating to Demonstration of College and Career Readiness

Local school boards establish high school graduation requirements that meet or exceed state [Graduation Guidelines](#) beginning with the 2021-22 school year. These graduation requirements are reflected in the Local Education Agency’s (LEAs) graduation rates. Where the Graduation Guidelines provide the minimum threshold for graduation, the state has also established higher expectations for students to receive a [PWR diploma endorsement](#) which were adopted by the State Board of Education in [April 2019](#) (item 11.01).



Building upon the PWR diploma endorsement cut scores, the department elected to use the same cut scores for implementation of HB17-272. The data is being collected through the 2021-22 Graduation Guidelines interchange file and will include students based upon 9th to 12th grade enrollment. The submission of raw scores for students will enable the department to determine if the higher bar was obtained for inclusion in the 2023 performance frameworks for informational purposes and then in 2024 and beyond for points. The required data includes the student level mathematics and reading, writing and communicating (including English/Language Arts) results for the assessment performance options.

The table below lays out the menu of options with the adopted cut scores for Graduation Guidelines (blue columns) and the “higher bar” cut scores (green columns) that will be used for implementation of SB17-272.

**Comparison of Cut Scores for the PWR Menu of Options**

Measures	Reading, Writing & Communicating		Mathematics	
	Graduation Guideline Cut Scores	Higher Bar and PWR Diploma Endorsement Cut Scores	Graduation Guideline Cut Scores	Higher Bar and PWR Diploma Endorsement Cut Scores
<b>ACCUPLACER Classic</b>	62 Reading Comprehension or 70 Sentence Skills	80 Reading Comprehension or 95 Sentence Skills	61 Elementary Algebra	85 Elementary Algebra
<b>ACCUPLACER Next Generation</b>	241 Reading or 236 Sentence Writing	246 Writing	255 Arithmetic (AR) or 230 Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics (QAS)	265 on Arithmetic (AR) or 240 Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics (QAS) or Advanced Algebra and Function (AAF)
<b>ACT</b>	18 ACT English	18 ACT English	19 ACT Math	22 ACT Math
<b>ACT WorkKeys</b>	Bronze	Silver	Bronze	Silver

Measures (cont.)	Reading, Writing & Communicating		Mathematics	
	Graduation Guideline Cut Scores	Higher Bar and PWR Diploma Endorsement Cut Scores	Graduation Guideline Cut Scores	Higher Bar and PWR Diploma Endorsement Cut Scores
Advanced Placement (AP)	2	3	2	3
ASVAB	31	50	31	50
Concurrent Enrollment	Passing Grade per district and higher education policy	Passing grade of C or higher in credit bearing college level course	Passing Grade per district and higher education policy	Passing grade of C or higher in credit bearing college level course
International Baccalaureate (IB)	4	4	4	4
SAT	470	480	500	530

### Process and Timeline

After collecting individual scores for demonstration options, CDE will apply the cut-scores and calculate whether individuals have met the higher achievement bar as required by statute. CDE reviews statewide historical data submissions to ensure students receive credit for meeting the higher achievement bar at any point and in any Colorado LEA during their high school careers. CDE will calculate and report the disaggregated results, which was intended to help reduce the burden on districts.

The timeline for implementing this new requirement is staged over multiple years. CDE plans to use data from the Spring 2022 Graduation Guidelines collection to implement the PWR higher bar metric for 2023 performance frameworks (for informational purposes) and the 2024 performance frameworks (for points). CDE will work with the state's Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) prior to incorporating this new metric into the performance frameworks. This measure was originally intended to be introduced in Fall 2022, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the inclusion of a 1-year local measure Graduation Guidelines demonstration option in spring 2021, implementation of the higher bar metric will now start in fall 2023.

### Timeline for Adding the New PWR Measure in Performance Frameworks



### Where can I learn more?

For information concerning the State Accountability System and Postsecondary Workforce Readiness, visit the CDE website at:  
<https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/performanceframeworks> or  
<https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary>

For questions about this fact sheet and/or to request technical assistance or training, contact us via e-mail at: [accountability@cde.state.co.us](mailto:accountability@cde.state.co.us)