



Education Data Advisory Committee (EDAC)
2024-25 Annual Report to the State Board of Education and the
Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Executive Summary

The Educational Data Advisory Committee (EDAC) continued its mission in 2024–25 to review and advise on data collection forms and processes that impact Colorado’s K-12 education community. This year’s work focused on refining data collection practices to reduce burden, fostering cross-agency collaboration, and ensuring high-value use of collected data. EDAC remains focused on supporting districts through thoughtful review, improved transparency, and efforts to streamline data collections and reporting.

EDAC continues to engage with agencies to foster proactive partnerships, improvements to collection designs, and increasing recognition from districts of the value EDAC brings in shaping efficient and meaningful data practices. Looking ahead, EDAC aims to strengthen its impact through policy awareness, modernized approaches, and emerging technologies like AI, all while centering the needs of school districts and the broader educational ecosystem.

EDAC Scope and Function

The Colorado EDAC is a legislatively mandated committee charged with reviewing and approving data collection requests to minimize unnecessary burden on local education providers (LEPs), including school districts, BOCES, charter schools, and administrative units (AUs). EDAC also serves as a collaborative partner in ensuring collections are aligned with policy, statute, and agency goals while supporting the ability of LEPs to meet reporting expectations.

2023–24 Areas of Focus

- **Agency Collaboration and Communication:** EDAC continued to engage with state agencies and CDE program offices to align efforts and reduce redundant data collection. An area of continued focus is the growing partnerships and awareness of EDAC with state agencies, aimed at improving how data moves between agencies and districts. EDAC encourages ongoing conversations to develop working agreements that improve data sharing and reduce duplication.
- **Defining and Reducing Data Burden:** The committee spent time clarifying what constitutes "data burden" for districts, surfacing key pain points such as multiple reporting cycles for similar data, inconsistent language across collections, and the growing volume of surveys and grant-related submissions. EDAC advocates for a standardized framework to define and measure burden across agencies and collection types.
- **Streamlining and Modernizing Data Systems:** A significant topic of discussion this year was the potential value of more expansive changes to the data environment such as a statewide Student Information System (SIS) or a system with improved interoperability between district systems and state reporting platforms and exploring how technologies could help automate processes, reduce duplication, and better communicate the use and value of submitted data. EDAC representatives

will participate with CDE staff in identifying a vendor to facilitate a value assessment of such solutions in the 2025-26 year.

Committee Accomplishments

EDAC’s work this year reflected meaningful progress across several key areas. In terms of collection improvements and review processes, EDAC applied a continuous improvement lens while CDE staff proactively addressed past feedback before submitting collections. This collaboration resulted in more efficient, purpose-aligned data submissions, with several revised to reduce risk, minimize exposure of personally identifiable information (PII), and improve clarity. Alongside these efforts, EDAC advanced a strong initiative to standardize language, terminology, and concepts across collections. For example, the consistent use of acronyms and broader descriptors for LEPs, beyond simply “district/school,” has supported clearer communication and made navigating data requests easier.

Another important milestone was the continued reduction in Social Security Number (SSN) use. No new requests for SSNs were introduced this year, marking progress toward EDAC’s long-standing goal of minimizing risk and safeguarding staff and student information. This focus remains a priority, with an emphasis on ensuring viable alternatives are consistently utilized. Finally, district engagement with EDAC has deepened. Districts increasingly recognized the committee not only as a review body, but also as an advocate for efficiency, collaboration, and effective data use. Many acknowledged EDAC’s influence on shaping collections before they reach the field, underscoring the committee’s growing value and impact.

Looking Ahead: 2024–25 Focus Areas

1. **Policy Alignment and Transparency:** EDAC aims to map each data collection to its originating statute or SBE rule and explore which legislative mandates are served by each request. This would help reduce confusion and could support a broader landscape review of collections to identify overlap and streamline efforts.
2. **Efficiency and Cost Savings:** EDAC will continue efforts to assess collection statistics and identify opportunities to improve efficiency. This includes reducing duplicative efforts across grants, surveys, and federal reporting.
3. **Improved Data Communication and Use:** The committee recommends attaching to each collection a short explanation of: how the data is used, which statute or rule it supports, and how it informs decision-making at CDE and in the field? A clearer “pain-to-gain” narrative will support district understanding and buy-in.
4. **Technology and Innovation:** EDAC encourages CDE to invest in future-forward solutions, including exploring boarder infrastructure solutions for cost and benefit, smart link architecture and form nesting, and technological design principles that reduce burden while maintaining accountability and connection to the data from staff at CDE and the field.
5. **Continued District Advocacy:** EDAC remains a strong voice for districts in statewide data discussions and supports efforts to: align agency data needs with district capacity, design collections with end users in mind, and foster meaningful use of data in local decision-making.

Conclusion

As the education landscape becomes increasingly complex, EDAC’s role as a bridge between state requirements and district realities is more important than ever. The committee appreciates the evolving collaboration with CDE staff and external agencies and looks forward to another year of progress. With focused efforts on transparency, technological innovation, and reduced burden, EDAC is positioned to help Colorado lead in educational data policy and practice.