



July 12, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to the hundreds of educators, parents, and students who took the time to attend and provide feedback at the ESSA listening tour events, listening tour webinar, and through our ESSA blog and email inbox. We are in the process of finalizing the compilations of comments, concerns, and ideas we heard during the tour. We are sending reports of the input we received to all who attended the sessions and are also posting the reports on the CDE website. As the first stage of our ESSA listening winds down, we are shifting our focus to developing a draft of our ESSA state plan and the committee, vetting, and continued stakeholder engagement work that will support it.

As part of the ESSA Listening Tour presentation, Colorado Department of Education (CDE) staff included a proposal for ESSA Hub/Spoke Committee structure for state plan development. The idea is to create a formal, central Hub Committee that will have an oversight role in the development of a draft of our state plan to be submitted to the State Board in early 2017, and ESSA topical spoke committees that will be responsible for developing and appropriately vetting sections of the state plan with the nimbleness and flexibility to get the work done in a timely manner. In accordance with the vision and direction of the State Board of Education, CDE is pleased to share Hub/Spoke committees process and membership details as well as additional future opportunities for continued stakeholder involvement.

ESSA Hub Committee

The purpose of ESSA Hub Committee is to provide oversight of the ESSA state plan development and act in an advisory capacity to the State Board of Education. The goal of the committee is to review and revise proposed state plan drafts that reflect a final consensus of the committee, the constituencies the members represent, and is in alignment with the vision of the State Board.

The Hub committee will include:

- Representatives of those who create and approve legislation, rules, and policy related to ESSA:
 - State Board members (2 members)
 - State Legislators (2 members)
 - Governor's Office (1 Member)
- Representative of those who have to establish state and local policies/plans and implement ESSA (1 member each):
 - Colorado Association of School Boards
 - Colorado Association of School Executives
 - Colorado Education Association
 - Colorado BOCES Association
 - Colorado Department of Higher Education
 - Colorado ESEA Committee of Practitioners
- Representatives of those who have a vested interest in our success (1 member each to be appointed by the State Board):



- Parents
- Taxpayers
- Business Community
- Child Advocacy
- Rural Educator
- Charter School member

ESSA Spoke Committees

The goal of each spoke committee will be to address state plan requirements in the draft of their ESSA plan section; thoroughly vet drafts with constituency groups as needed and appropriate; consider and respond to feedback from ESSA listening tour; and provide updates to, and review plans with, the ESSA hub committee throughout the submission process. The Colorado Department of Education will designate as many members as required to adequately staff and participate in the committee structure.

The spoke committees will be organized around the proposed USDE rules for state plan requirements:

1. Standards Committee
2. Assessment Committee
3. Accountability Committee
4. Effective Instruction and Leadership Committee
5. School Improvement Committee
6. Title Program Plans/Assurances Committee
7. Stakeholder Consultation/Program Coordination Committee

Each spoke committee will be led by a team of CDE staff members and utilize existing committees and groups as needed with the option to add new members as appropriate and necessary.

Critical Vetting Partnerships for Plan Development

CDE’s goal is to develop an ESSA plan that is understood and can be publicly supported by all. In addition to the organizations listed in the hub committee, we will vet plans, as they are developed with a variety of groups that have a broad array of perspectives. Although additional participants will be added, the following list will give you a sense with whom the CDE has already begun, or soon will begin, vetting ESSA opportunities, requirements, and plans:

Accountability Work Group English Learner Stakeholders ESEA Committee of Practitioners Rural Council/Rural Alliance Colorado American Indian Community/CCIA Think360Arts Front Range Title I Directors Local Federal Program Coordinators State Library Research and Development Gifted/Talented Advisory Council Colorado Community College System Teacher Networks (Teach Plus, America Achieves, etc)	State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education Migrant Council Urban League Early Childhood/ECLC Independence Institute/Education Policy Center Special Education Advisory Committee Colorado Education Initiative Colorado League of Charter Schools General Assembly – ESSA Implementation Committee Colorado Youth Advisory Council ESSA Listening Tour participants
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If you are interested in being added to our list of critical vetting partners to review and provide feedback on state plan drafts and decision points, please submit your contact information via the following link www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESSA_vettinglist.

We will continue to communicate important news and updates regarding the ESSA plan development through the CDE update, The Scoop, email, ESSA blog (www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ESSABlog), ESSA website (www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/essa), and press releases. If you have any questions about the state plan development process and timeline, or would like to submit ESSA feedback, please contact us at ESSAquestions@cde.state.co.us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Hickman', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Barbara Hickman
Associate Commissioner
Division of Quality Instruction and Leadership
Colorado Department of Education
Hickman_B@cde.state.co.us

