

OFFERED SERVICES

Accountability Pathways



COLORADO
Department of Education

EASI Route: Offered Services

Introduction

The Accountability Pathways is intended to support Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and schools with planning for and implementing the statutory options, or pathways, for persistently low-performing schools and LEAs. For those nearing the end of the Accountability Clock, the grant can support exploring the pathways, taking thoughtful action, and increasing readiness for discussions with the State Board of Education. For those who receive a directed action from the state board, the grant can support implementation of the approved pathway plan.

For More Information, Contact:

Andy Swanson

Director of Accountability Pathways

School & District Transformation

(303) 817-9067

Swanson_A@cde.state.co.us

Eligible Applicants

LEAs that meet the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- A **school** that is in Year 4 or 5 of Priority Improvement or Turnaround or a school that has had an action directed by the State Board of Education.
- A **LEA** that is in Year 4 or 5 of Priority Improvement or Turnaround has had an action directed by the State Board of Education.

Eligible schools and LEAs are strongly encouraged to apply for the Accountability Pathways route in Year 4 in anticipation of state board hearings during Year 5. If a school or LEA transitions to Year 4 On Watch or Year 4 On Hold, funds may be used to support early action activities. Schools or LEAs who advance to Year 5 plus shall use funds for activities associated with State Board-directed action.

Available Funds

Awards may be:

- Up to \$100,000 per school per year for up to two years to support pathways plan design and implementation.
- Up to \$400,000 per year for LEAs applying on behalf of multiple schools (at least three schools) and/or the LEA itself for Accountability Pathways.

Duration:

- Accountability Pathways grants are 2 years in duration. LEAs will receive the initial year of funds in Year 1 for the first 18 months. LEAs or schools that are in Year 4 and move to On Watch following the initial application and then fully exit the clock (e.g. do not advance to an SBE hearing in Year 5) will not receive a second year of funding.

Allowable Use of Funds

Funding from this opportunity may be used for:

- Consulting and technical assistance for pathway plan
- Visiting other sites with successful or promising implementation of a pathway option
- Diagnostic reviews for the purpose of identifying systemic issues and determining pathway fit
- Events, facilitated meetings, or community gatherings regarding pathways
- Translation services
- Stipends for teachers and support staff to attend pathways activities



- Travel to CDE-led convenings or meetings regarding grant activities
- Technical assistance on strategic resource allocation for pathways
- Costs incurred during the recruitment of and negotiations with an innovation partner, management partner, and/or a charter school operator. Such costs may include stipends for staff time or legal fees incurred during the establishment of contracts with partners
- Fees for third-party providers contracted to implement the state board directed action
- Activities associated with early action or early implementation of pathways plan

Funds from this opportunity must be used to **supplement and not supplant** any federal, state, and local funds currently being used to provide activities. A district/school may carry funds forward within the grant duration years. However, this amount should be reasonable and based on the school's grant and/or improvement plan and approval must be obtained. Note: At the end of participation in the grant period, any unspent state funds should be returned to CDE.

Evaluation and Reporting

Each LEA that receives an Accountability Pathways grant is required to report, at a minimum, the following information to CDE:

- Integration of the pathways work within the school or LEA's Unified Improvement Plan (UIP).
- An Annual Financial Report (AFR).

In addition, if the school or district reaches the end of the Accountability Clock, the LEA will be expected to present its pathway plan—developed with CDE support—to the State Board of Education prior to any end-of-clock statutory deadlines. LEAs using grant funds for implementation activities will be required to comply with all progress monitoring requirements requested by CDE staff and the state board.

Program Assurances

LEA/Administrative Unit Commitments:

- Identify a point person with decision-making authority who will lead the process for the school(s) being served by the grant. This person must be an LEA employee who sits on the Superintendent's leadership team and has the authority to work with the local school board.
- The LEA will invest a portion of its own budget to support implementation of its state board directed action (if applicable).

School Leadership Commitments:

- School leader will participate on the LEA team in all grant activities;
- School leadership team and staff representatives attend events, meetings, and community gatherings;
- School leader collaborates with LEA and CDE on developing a timeline for pathways.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

EASI: Accountability Pathways: www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/exploration-accountabilitypathways

CDE: Accountability Clock Webpage: www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/accountability_clock

Overview of the Accountability Clock

Fact Sheets for Years 3, 4, and 5 on the Accountability Clock and for Early Action

Accountability pathway resources, including examples of pathway plans for schools/districts reaching Year 5

CDE Advisory List of Providers for management partnerships and charter management organizations, networks, and schools