



## Overview

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In 2016, the Colorado legislature expanded flexibility around biennial (every other year) submission of the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) through HB 16-1440. This flexibility is now available to all schools assigned a Performance plan type and districts that are Accredited or Accredited with Distinction. Previously, only small, rural schools and districts were eligible for biennial UIP submissions.

### Criteria for Flexibility

The following schools and districts are eligible to take advantage of the flexibility and submit the UIP every other year.

- All schools with a 'Performance' plan type
- All districts that are 'Accredited' or 'Accredited with Distinction.'

### UIP Posting Timeline

Finalized Plan Type	Submission	Submission Dates
Performance, Accredited or Distinction	Biennial (every other year)	April 15 (public posting) every other year
Improvement	Annual	April 15 (public posting) every year
Priority Improvement or Turnaround	Annual	January 15 (CDE review) April 15 (public posting) every year

### School and District Accountability Committees (SAC and DAC)

Accountability Committee expectations still stand for schools and districts that are exercising flexibility (e.g., SAC quarterly monitoring of plan implementation, DAC recommendations on district spending priorities). However, committees do not need to provide recommendations on the UIP until the plan is being updated for public posting.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Can we still submit plans annually or use the online UIP system in the “off” years?

Yes, schools and districts can submit plans for posting at any time. There is no requirement to use the biennial flexibility. You can also continue to update your UIPs in the online system without submitting them for public posting. In addition, districts can require that all schools must submit a plan annually regardless of plan type.

### How should my school or district ensure that accountability requirements are still being met annually?

Eligible schools and districts with additional accountability expectations (e.g., ESSA, Gifted Education, READ Act), may submit biennially, but they must ensure that program requirements are being met, such as progress monitoring. This flexibility does not change program implementation expectations.

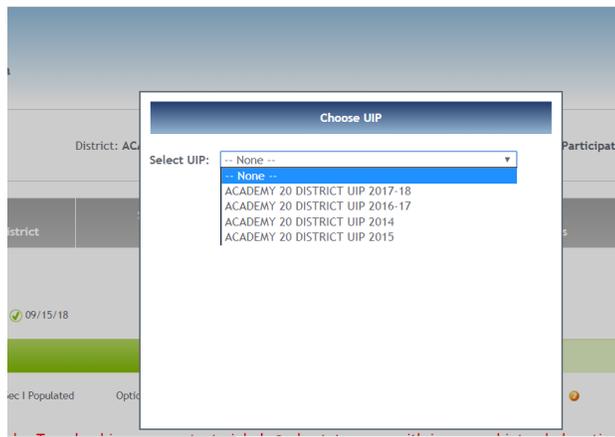


## Does this biennial submission change our ability to use a combined plan or to use flexibility at the district level?

Small, rural districts may still submit a combined plan. However, the entity with the lowest rating will determine the timeline. For example, a district with a Performance rating with all schools assigned a Performance plan may submit a combined plan every other year. If one of the schools drops to an Improvement plan type, then the combined plan must be submitted annually. The district may opt to create a separate plan for the school with an Improvement/Priority Improvement/Turnaround plan type (submitted annually) and retain the biennial flexibility for the district and remaining schools. CDE is always available to help districts think through the best course of action.

## Can we “copy from last year” if we used the flexibility option?

Yes, it is possible to use this feature. The school or district can hit the “Copy from Last Year” button once. A drop down menu (pictured to the right) will let the user select the plan they would like to copy. If the school or district is unsure of which plan to copy, the school can use the drop down in the top right corner to review the previous UIPs to decide which year should be selected. Districts can review all previous UIP and their content by navigating to the “UIP” tab, then selecting previous year UIP from the dropdown.



## How can I check to see if my school or district is eligible for flexibility?

Section I of the UIP includes information on whether each school or district is currently eligible for Biennial Flexibility. In addition, once ratings have been finalized for schools and districts, CDE will [post a spreadsheet](#) that includes flexibility for all schools and districts, including eligibility for:

- Combined Plan
- Biennial Flexibility of a Combined Plan (district is Accredited and all schools are on Performance)
- READ Act flexibility
- Family Partnership Flexibility
- A combined SAC/DAC

Biennial UIP Submission Flexibility (District)	Districts that received an Accredited or Accredited with Distinction plan type on the District Performance Framework.	Not eligible for biennial submission; exercised biennial flexibility in 2017-18.	The district exercised biennial flexibility in 2017-18 and must submit a plan for public posting during the 2018-19 school year. The plan should cover two years (2018-19 and 2019-20)
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For additional questions, contact the Improvement Planning team ([uiphelp@cde.state.co.us](mailto:uiphelp@cde.state.co.us)) or Lisa Medler, Executive Director of Improvement Planning ([medler\\_l@cde.state.co.us](mailto:medler_l@cde.state.co.us)) or 303-866-6993).