# Summary Change Document

*Accountability and Improvement Planning in the 2026-27 School Year*

## Overview

This document provides a summary of changes from previous practice relative to state accountability including performance framework reports, improvement planning, and submission expectations. This document will be updated on an ongoing basis to address changes as information becomes available.

The anticipated timeline for the release of accountability data, performance framework reports, and deadlines for submission of improvement plans are as follows:

- April 15: Rollover to the 2026-27 Unified Improvement Plan template
- Early July: WIDA ACCESS growth release
- Early August: Performance Framework data release to districts including CMAS & P/SAT growth data
- Late August: Preliminary Performance Frameworks released to districts
- Early September: Public release of Preliminary Performance Frameworks; Notification to districts for state and ESSA identifications; Data updated in UIPs including assurances
- Mid September: AEC Frameworks released
- September 25: Accreditation Form submission deadline
- October 15: Submission deadline: 1) Unified Improvement Plans unless flexibilities apply; 2) Request to Reconsider materials due in the Accreditation Portal
- January 15: Optional UIP submission for eligible sites (e.g., new identification and Request to Reconsider)

# Accountability Changes

## State Accountability & Performance Frameworks

*This table reflects general changes to the Colorado educational accountability system including the 2026 district and school performance framework reports.*

| Topic | Section | Change and Rationale |
|---|---|---|
| **Insufficient State Data: Low Participation** | Rating | Legislation (HB25-1278) calls for sites with low participation to be identified. Sites with less than 25% total participation will receive this identification. |
| **Matriculation** | Industry Recognized Credential | This data was previously collected through CDIP. In 2026, this data is collected through the new PWR Industry Recognized Credential data collection. |
| **Academic Growth** | ELP On-Track Growth | Because of updates to the WIDA ACCESS assessment, ELP On Track Growth will be paused for 2026 SPFs and DPFs. For 2026, ELP Growth will be worth 4 points. |

## Improvement Planning Requirements

*This table reflects general changes that impact the planning process and online template.*

| Topic | Section | Change and Rationale |
|---|---|---|
| **Insufficient State Data: Low Participation** | Planning Requirements | The same legislation (HB25-1278) that called for an identification of Insufficient State Data: Low Participation called for a plan to respond to the identification. These requirements will be met through the Unified Improvement Plan and are captured in the Quality Criteria. |
| **Math Planning Requirements** | UIP Quality Criteria & Online Template | Changed the titling and reference from legislation referring to "Math Acceleration" to reduce confusion. All Math planning requirements are now labeled "Improving Mathematics Outcomes K-12." |
| **Pathway Plan** | Planning Requirements | Sites that are Year 5+ on the Accountability Clock are now required to develop and submit a Pathway Plan in preparation for an Accountability Hearing (per HB25-1278, 22-11-213, C.R.S.). The Pathway Plan serves as the site's primary strategic improvement document until the site comes off Performance Watch. The department has been authorized by the state board to reduce the UIP obligations for sites submitting a Pathway Plan. |

### Unified Improvement Plan Template

*This table reflects changes specific to the online UIP template format and content.*

| Topic | Section | Change and Rationale |
|---|---|---|
| **Implementation Plan** | "Action Plan & Progress Monitoring" tab | The "Action Plan & Progress Monitoring" tab was updated to more clearly delineate two options for meeting these planning requirements (attach existing files or describe using the template). UIP authors need to describe the types of attached files using a dropdown box (e.g., no files, action plan files, and implementation progress monitoring files.) |
| **Implementation Plan** | "Action Plan & Progress Monitoring" tab | Name of tab updated to align with UIP resources and guidance. Action planning was moved up above progress monitoring of implementation. The previous focus on "implementation milestones" was replaced with the task of developing an "implementation progress monitoring plan." |
| **Target Setting** | "Priorities and Targets" tab | The "Identify Targets" section of the "Priorities and Targets" tab now asks authors to create a plan that measures student performance progress at least twice during the year with interim measures, targets and corresponding dates of measurement. Two response fields are provided. |
| **General Clarity in Language** | UIP Template | Updated language throughout to provide tighter alignment to updated Quality Criteria best practices and requirements. |
| **Combined Plan Integration** | Homepage and Assurances & Requirements tabs | Improved functionality of combined plan selection and improved public reporting. District UIP authors will select which schools are included in combined plans and view selected schools' assurances and requirements. |

## New Resources and Data Tools

### Resources

*This table reflects new data and tools that support the use of UIP and accountability data.*

| Topic | Section | Change and Rationale |
|---|---|---|
| UIP Elements Dashboard | Report/Visualization | A new visualization is available within the UIP template that includes Student Performance Priorities, Root Causes and Major Improvement Challenges selected by schools and districts across the state. The dashboard can be used to look for trends within districts, draw inspiration for plan drafters with similar needs, and identify new areas for professional learning. More information about the UIP categories included on the dashboard can be found in category guidance. |
| Quality Criteria | Plan expectations and review | The school- and district-level UIP requirements have been combined into one Quality Criteria document. It is available in both PDF and DOCX versions. A rubric will be developed to support plan review based on these criteria. |

For additional questions, please contact us via e-mail at: accountability@cde.state.co.us or uiphelp@cde.state.co.us.