2026 Preliminary Performance Frameworks Summary

Statewide Performance Framework Trends

This memo contains trends in 2026 Preliminary Performance Frameworks for both districts and schools, as well as details for the accountability clock. Overall, identifications have been stable in 2026. Below are some areas for the state to celebrate and monitor.

- A slightly higher percentage of districts had higher ratings.
  - 48% of districts received an Accredited preliminary rating in 2026 compared to 46% in 2025.
  - Only one district received an Accredited with Turnaround preliminary rating in 2026 compared to 4 districts in 2025.
- Fewer schools and districts are on performance watch and continuing on the clock compared to 2025.
  - 12 districts are on Performance Watch in 2026 compared to 14 in 2025.
  - Three districts fully exited the clock in 2026 preliminary ratings, compared to none in 2025 preliminary frameworks.
  - 148 schools are on Performance watch in 2026 compared to 176 in 2025.
  - 54 schools exited the clock in 2026 preliminary ratings, compared to 48 in 2025.
  - 12 districts are on performance watch in 2026, compared to 14 in 2025.
- Schools were consistent in plan types compared to 2025 preliminary frameworks.
  - 65% of schools got a Performance plan type, compared to 66% in 2025.
  - Only 7% of schools got a Priority Improvement or Turnaround plan type, compared to 9% in 2025 preliminary frameworks.
- This year, the state introduced the new Insufficient State Data: Low Participation rating as required by H.B.25-1278. 5 districts and 13 schools received the new Insufficient State Data: Low Participation rating.

As a reminder, the performance framework assignments are preliminary. Districts can review their preliminary reports and determine whether to participate in the request to reconsider process. The number of higher plan types will likely increase by the time plan types are finalized in December. Also of note, frameworks for Alternative Education Campuses (AECs) are being calculated now and will be released in September. As of August, there are 96 schools with approved AEC status. These schools are not yet included in the school summary tables below. CDE staff will provide an update on all the performance framework data at the September state board meeting for informational purposes.

District Summary

Distribution of District Ratings excluding AECs

Accreditation Ratings	# in 2026 (Out of 184) - Prelim	# in 2025 (Out of 184)	
		2025 Prelim	2025 Final (after R2R)
Accredited with Distinction	12 (7%)	17 (9%)	18 (10%)

Accredited	89 (48%)	84 (46%)	89 (48%)
Accredited with Improvement	48 (26%)	47 (26%)	46 (25%)
Accredited with Priority Improvement	11 (6%)	7 (4%)	4 (2%)
Accredited with Turnaround	1 (1%)	4 (2%)	3 (2%)
Accredited with Insufficient State Data	18 (10%)	23 (13%)	24 (13%)
[NEW] Accredited with Insufficient State Data: Low Participation	5 (3%)	NA	NA

District Detail on Accountability Clock

Criteria	# of Districts in 2026 - Prelim	# of Districts in 2025 - Prelim
Fully exited the clock (Celebrations!)	3	0
# of Districts on Performance Watch (PI, T, ISD – On Hold, Imp/Perf – On Watch)	12	14
On Watch (Celebrations!)	1	3
# of Districts Newly Identified (Year 1 at PI/T)	5	5
# of Districts Continuing on the Clock (PI/T/ISD) at Year 1 "On Hold" or Year 2 or higher	7	9

School Summary

School Summary (excludes 2026 AECs as their ratings will not be released until mid-Sept; AECs are also not included in the 2025 preliminary plans for comparability.)

Plan Types	# in 2026 (Out of 1728) - Prelim	# in 2025	
		2025 Prelim (out of 1737)	2025 Final (Out of 1813)
Performance	1129 (65%)	1150 (66%)	1248 (68%)
Improvement	352 (20%)	305 (18%)	346 (19%)
Priority Improvement	87 (5%)	113 (7%)	89 (5%)
Turnaround	30 (2%)	36 (2%)	26 (1%)
Insufficient State Data	90 (5%)	105 (6%)	104 (6%)
[NEW] Insufficient State Data: Low Participation	13 (>1%)	NA	NA
New Schools	11 (>1%)	8 (>1%)	0 (0%)
Closed Schools	17 (1%)	20 (1%)	20 (1%)

School Detail on Accountability Clock (excludes 2026 AECs as their ratings will not be released until mid-Sept; AECs are also not included in the 2025 preliminary calculations for comparability)

Criteria	# of Schools in 2026 - Prelim	# of Schools in 2025 - Prelim
Fully exited the clock (Celebrations!)	54	46
# of Schools on Performance Watch (PI, T, ISD – On Hold, Imp/Perf – On Watch)	148	176
On Watch (Celebrations!)	31	25
# of Schools Newly Identified (Year 1 at PI/T)	60	79
Year 1 on Hold	1	2
# of Schools on Clock (PI/T/ISD) at Year 2	24	22

Criteria	# of Schools in 2026 - Prelim	# of Schools in 2025 - Prelim
Year 3	16	26
Year 4	9	9
Year 5	3	3
Year 6+ (up to Y12) - All have SBE Orders	4	10

CDE Contact Information

Topic	Contact
General Accountability and Continuous Improvement Questions	Accountability and Continuous Improvement Unit; accountability@cde.state.co.us
Accountability Analytics and Performance Frameworks	Anne Laesecke Laesecke_a@cde.state.co.us; 983-220-6178
Colorado Growth Model	Marie Huchton huchton_m@cde.state.co.us; 303-229-6465
District and School Performance Frameworks and Related Dashboards	John Lyons lyons_j@cde.state.co.us; 720-925-2536
Accreditation and Request to Reconsider Process	Lisa Steffen Steffen_l@cde.state.co.us; 720-498-3020 April Thompson thompson_april@cde.state.co.us; 303-358-7363
Alternative Education Campus (AEC) Performance Frameworks	April Thompson thompson_april@cde.state.co.us; 303-358-7363
Syncplicity	Dan Jorgensen Jorgensen_d@cde.state.co.us; 720-245-4532

Topic	Contact
Unified Improvement Planning (UIP) and Parent Notification	Lisa Steffen Steffen_l@cde.state.co.us; 720-498-3020 April Thompson thompson_april@cde.state.co.us; 303-358-7363 or uiphelp@cde.state.co.us
Accountability Clock	Nicole Monet monet_n@cde.state.co.us; 720-737-2454
District and School Performance Support (Support specific to districts or schools in Priority Improvement or Turnaround)	Nicole Monet monet_n@cde.state.co.us; 720-737-2454
ESSA School Identifications (Comprehensive, Targeted and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement)	Nazanin Mohajeri-Nelson Mohajeri-nelson_n@cde.state.co.us; 720-626-3895 Tina Negley Negley_t@cde.state.co.us; 720-766-2793