

2026-2027

# Leadership Development Opportunities

Leadership development for school boards, district leaders, and school leaders to drive effective and aligned systems improvement toward school quality and student outcomes.



## Superintendent Leadership

*Click each link below to learn more*

- [New Superintendent toolkit](#)
- [Rural Superintendent in person support](#)
- [Rural Superintendent Learning Cohort](#)
- [Board and Superintendent Learning Cohort](#)

Contact: Christina North, [North\\_C@cde.state.co.us](mailto:North_C@cde.state.co.us) or 303-981-6513



## District & School Leadership

*Click each link below to learn more*

**Vetted External Partners** – offer top rated leadership development programs and implementation support must apply through EASI by Dec annually – [Learn more here](#)

Contact: Lindsay Cox, PhD, [Cox\\_L@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Cox_L@cde.state.co.us) or 720-990-7851

**Transformation Network** – 3 year cohort offering on-site coaching, professional learning and bright spot visits **must apply through EASI by Dec annually** – [Learn more here](#)

Contact: Jenny Hinkle, [Hinkle\\_Jennifer@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Hinkle_Jennifer@cde.state.co.us) or 720-576-2247

**CDE's Professional Learning Calendar** – A full calendar of professional learning trainings and learning cohorts for district and school leaders focused on our Vision for Quality Schools. [Learn More and Register here.](#)



## School Board Training & Resources

*Click each link below to learn more*

District Board Training: Facilitated training combines effective governance practices with school quality and improvement practices.

Board of Education Fact Sheets, Resources and Strategies

Contact: Dan Jorgenson, [Jorgenson\\_D@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Jorgenson_D@cde.state.co.us) or 720-245-4532

Charter Board Training: These on-demand modules developed in partnership with the Colorado League of Charter schools feature recordings from experts in charter governance and accompanying resources.

Contact: Paola Paga, [Paga\\_P@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Paga_P@cde.state.co.us) or 303-923-0847



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

2026-2027

# Diagnostic Reviews

Diagnostic reviews for districts and schools including holistic and specialized reviews and self-assessments to help districts and schools prioritize and plan based on local needs and context.



## Holistic Reviews

The Holistic Diagnostic Review is ideal for schools that are in Years 1–3 of State and/or Federal identification that would benefit from an external eye taking a comprehensive look at the school system to identify areas for improvement. LEAs are awarded funds on behalf of their schools to work with a CDE-approved and trained partner to conduct a school-based diagnostic review. **Must apply through EASI by Dec annually** [Learn more here](#)

Contact: Lauren Hesse  
Hesse\_L@cde.state.co.us  
720-737-3205



## AEC & Online Reviews

Participating AECs and online schools work with CDE staff to conduct a school-based diagnostic review, discuss recommendations and major areas to build on, engage stakeholders in planning efforts, and visit other participating schools. The Diagnostic reviews result in a formal report, recommended improvement actions, and other partner sites for visits. The facilitated improvement planning process is designed to assist the school in designing implementation plans and refining the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) to incorporate priorities from the review. **Must apply through EASI by Dec annually** [Learn more here](#).

Contacts: Renee Martinez  
Martinez\_R@cde.state.co.us  
720-765-6388

Johann Liljengren  
Liljengren\_J@cde.state.co.us  
303-986-0201



## Language Learning Partnerships

CDE offers targeted services for districts and schools to improve upon English language development instruction and access to grade level content through a CDE-led diagnostic review process focused on identifying strengths and areas for improvement in systems, supports, and opportunities for MLL students. **Must apply through EASI by Dec annually** [Learn more here](#).

Contact: Nelson Molina  
Molina\_N@cde.state.co.us  
720-207-7089



## Self-Assessment Diagnostic

CDE offers a self-diagnostic option for leaders seeking to understand how well their school or schools within their district are implementing research-based best practices in Leadership, Best First Instruction, Talent Management, and Climate and Culture. Leaders can use results to identify improvement priorities and supports

Contact: Sam Schneider  
Schneider\_S@cde.state.co.us  
720-207-7089



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

2026-2027

# Planning Supports

Support for developing strong, aligned plans at all levels – districts strategic planning, improvement planning and short-cycle planning. Align your goals and implementation “from the boardroom to the classroom”



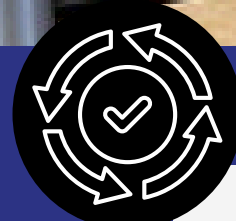
## District Strategic Planning

This opportunity provides funding to districts who are seeking to strengthen district systems that are necessary to support sustainable school improvement in one or more identified schools.

Grantees will partner with an approved external provider to conduct a systems review, stakeholder engagement activities, and prioritization and improvement planning and will receive PD on implementing through a progress monitoring system.

Apply through EASI  
annually in December  
[Learn more here.](#)

Contact: Sam Schneider  
Schneider\_S@cde.state.co.us 720-656-9356



## Improvement Planning

Support for conducting effective root cause analysis, selecting research-based strategies, and developing strong improvement plans with robust metrics –[Learn more here.](#)

Guidance for using short-cycle action planning tools and sample tools – [Learn more here](#)

Professional learning and coaching to support UIP and improvement planning – [Learn more here.](#)

Contact: Lisa Steffen  
Steffen\_L@cde.state.co.us  
720-498-3020

Contact: Shannon Allen  
Allen\_S@cde.state.co.us  
720-498-4675



## Pathway Planning (for Districts/Schools in Year 4+)

The state's Accountability Clock requires the State Board of Education to direct a course of action to the local board of education if the school or district has received Priority Improvement or Turnaround ratings for five consecutive years.

This support coaches district and school leaders through selecting a pathway, developing a pathway plan, aligning funding and supports to implement that plan, engaging with the state board, and providing ongoing support and funding for implementation.

[Learn more here.](#)

Contact: Julie Puzon  
Puzon\_J@cde.state.co.us  
720-829-8502



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

2026-2027

# Peer Learning & Bright Spots

Engage in structured learning with peers including topical learning cohorts, Transformation Network for Instructional Leaders and bright spot visits to observe and learn from effective models



## Transformation Network

Click the underlined links below to learn more

Transformation Network: School and district leaders in the transformation network will benefit from:

- Diagnostic review & planning support
- A cohort of peer school
- Bright spot visits
- Performance management tools
- On-site leadership coaching
- Personalized professional learning opportunities
- Supplemental grant funding

**Apply through EASI annually in December**

Contact: Jenny Hinkle,  
Hinkle\_Jennifer@cde.state.co.us  
720-576-2247

## Family, School & Community Partnerships

Click the underlined links below to learn more

Coffee Chats – Join a session to hear case studies, learn from peers, and share best practices.

Contact: Darcy Hutchins,  
Hutchins\_D@cde.state.co.us  
303-562-8175

## Connect for Success

Click the underlined links below to learn more

Connect for Success. Schools in Connect for Success will have the opportunity to connect and learn from high achieving schools across the state and receive funding to support implementation of best practices. **Apply through EASI annually in Dec**

Contact: Laura Meushaw, Meushaw\_L@cde.state.co.us or 720-728-9023

## Learning Cohorts

Click the underlined links below to learn more

Participants will engage in a dedicated space to think strategically, collaborate with peers, visit bright spots, and test new approaches in a supportive environment designed to spark change and drive improvement. **Note registration closes Aug 28**

Chronic Absenteeism Learning Cohort

Elementary English Language Arts Learning Cohort Note: Regional Cohorts for ELA are available in NE and SC.

Multilingual Learner Leadership Cohort

Rural Superintendent Leadership Cohort

Superintendent and School Board Leadership Cohort

Contact: Adrienne Cruz, Cruz\_A@cde.state.co.us or 303-895-7778



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

2026-2027

# Grants & Strategic Resource Alignment

Support for funding your strategic and improvement plan priorities, including support for aligning your consolidated application funds, selecting EASI grant opportunities, and/or identifying other aligned grant and resource opportunities.



## EASI Grant

CDE streamlines school improvement funding opportunities into a single application and using a “needs-based approach” to award services and funding. Ultimately, the intent is to develop a robust process of matching schools’ needs with rigorous, evidence-based strategies and adequate resources.

EASI Grants are available to help fund:

- Diagnostic reviews
- District strategic planning
- Leadership development
- Transformation Network and Connect for Success
- District designed and led strategies
- Pathways planning

**EASI Grant application cycle is due annually in December** [Learn more here.](#)

### Contacts

Lindsay Cox, PhD [Cox\\_L@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Cox_L@cde.state.co.us) or 720- 990-7851  
Laura Meushaw, [Meushaw\\_L@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Meushaw_L@cde.state.co.us) or 720-728-9023



## Consolidated Application

Our Federal Programs team offers a variety of guidance, tools, trainings, and regional and individualized support to help you strategically utilize your Title funds to support effective implementation of your improvement priorities.

✓ [Launch Pad](#) – guidance, a year-at-a-glance timeline of key dates, and on-demand learning to understand and effectively utilize your Title funds [Learn more here](#)

✓ [Regional Network Meetings](#) – learn from colleagues and get technical assistance from CDE experts with your consolidated application [Learn more here](#)

✓ [Office hours](#) [Learn more here](#)

### Contact

Consolidated Application 1:1 support – [find your regional support specialist here](#)



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

2026-2027

# Guidance & Resources

Access deeper technical guidance on CDE requirements, accountability systems, planning systems, grants, innovative school models, and frequently requested supports.

NEED HELP?

## Accountability Systems

Click the underlined links below to learn more

### State Accountability System

- State Performance Frameworks: [guidance and resources](#)
- [Accreditation Resources](#)
- [Request to Reconsider](#)
- [Insufficient Data – Low Participation](#)
- [AEC accountability guidance](#)
- [Accountability Clock and End of Clock](#)
- [State Accountability Communications](#) (including 1278)

**Contact:** Lisa Steffen, [Steffen\\_L@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Steffen_L@cde.state.co.us) or 720-498-3020

### Federal Accountability System

[Overview of Federal Accountability System and Schools Identified by Type](#)

**Contact:** Tammy Giessinger, [Giessinger\\_T@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Giessinger_T@cde.state.co.us) or 720-827-5291  
Laura Meushaw, [Meushaw\\_L@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Meushaw_L@cde.state.co.us) or 720-728-9023

## Data Guidance & Dashboards

Click the underlined links below to learn more

CDE offers a wide variety of data guidance and dashboards to assist your district and school in setting goals and progress monitoring as well as accessing statewide trends.

[State Accountability Frameworks, Data, and a Variety of Dashboards.](#)

Educator Talent – [Dashboards on district and state retention, shortages, as well as other reports on Educator Talent.](#)

Attendance dashboard: [District and state trends and goal-setting support.](#)

## Other Frequently Requested Guidance

Click the underlined links below to learn more

[Strategy Guides to implement evidence-based strategies](#)

[Charter School Resources](#)

[Online and Blended Learning](#)

[Community Schools](#)

[Family, School, Community Partnerships](#)



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education