



Summary Change Document

Accountability and Improvement Planning in the 2025-26 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. Several bills are under consideration by the state legislature that have implications for accountability and improvement planning processes. These include the education accountability bill ([HB 25-1278](#)), data reporting requirements ([HB 25-1210](#)), and alternative education campuses ([HB 25-1167](#)). If any or all of them pass, the department is not anticipating any immediate changes but will still update resources such as this one. For questions related to this document, please contact via email at: uiphelp@cde.state.co.us or accountability@cde.state.co.us.

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 new year Unified Improvement Plan template
- **Early August:** Performance Framework Data release including growth data
- **August:** Preliminary Performance Frameworks released
- **Early September:** Notification to districts for state and ESSA identifications, updated data in UIPs including assurances
- **September 26:** Accreditation Form submission
- **October 15:** Submission deadline: 1) Unified Improvement Plans submission 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 2025 district and school performance framework reports. At the present time (April 2025), no substantive performance framework changes have been identified for the 2025 accountability release, the changes described below pertain to renorming for PSAT/SAT in multi-year frameworks, CMAS Science, and Attendance/Truancy for Alternative Education Campuses (AECs). Note: Additional changes may be added after the 2025 Colorado legislative process ends in May.

Topic	Section	Change and Rationale
PSAT/SAT	3-Year Performance Frameworks	In 2024, CDE re-normed the accountability cut scores (i.e., 15th, 50th, 85th percentile ranks) for PSAT and SAT results in both the achievement and postsecondary & workforce readiness indicators due to the College Board's transition to an adaptive digital assessment. Last summer, CDE released a memo describing this renorming process. For 2025, CDE will renorm PSAT/SAT cut scores within the multi-year frameworks to incorporate the additional year of digital assessment results.
CMAS Science	3- Year Performance Frameworks	CDE reintroduced CMAS Science in 2024 for points. For 2025, Science will include both 2024 and 2025 data, with the anticipation of having the full 3-year data set incorporated by 2026.
Attendance and Truancy	AEC Performance Frameworks	CDE reintroduced attendance and truancy measures in 2024 for points. For 2025, attendance and truancy will include both 2024 and 2025 data, with the anticipation of having the full 3-year data set incorporated in AEC SPFs by 2026.

Improvement Planning Requirements

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

Topic	Section	Change and Rationale
Gifted Education	UIP Template	The details and expectations for the gifted education plan have been moved within the gifted education data management system. Requirements remain that the plan is published with the district level UIP. CDE will support meeting that requirement in the public publishing of the plan. Districts that have identified the needs of gifted learners as a whole district priority are encouraged to use the UIP to document and communicate their approach to improvement for this group of students.
Title I Schoolwide Optional	UIP Template <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements Assurances 	Districts may choose to document their requirements for Title I schoolwide plans as a part of the UIP may do so. If so, districts should indicate in the assurances if the UIP serves as the required Title I Schoolwide Plan. Within the requirements section of the template, a field will populate indicating that the school serves student through a Schoolwide program.

Unified Improvement Plan Template

This table reflects changes specific to the online UIP system.

Topic	Section	Change and Rationale
Streamlined Template	All users	The state has moved to one template after a number of years of piloting and maintaining two templates.
Formatting Clean Up	UIP Template	Key changes were made to enhance users' understanding of the flow of the planning process, including ensuring all plan elements are visible (e.g. target setting), improvements to formatting, and resource access within the template.
Copy Function	Landing Page	Previous versions of the template included a "Copy from Last Year.". This function is being returned to the template and retitled "Continue Previous Plan" to better align with continuous improvement and for those users submitting every other year.
READ and Math Target Fields	Properties	For schools and districts that have requirements associated with READ requirements (K-3) or Math (Improvement, Priority Improvement and Turnaround plan types). This should help users to meet these state requirements as they have often been missed in the past. An option will be available if these expectations are addressed within the existing targets.

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 Categories Dashboard (New!)	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.