

## A Brief Overview

# The School Accountability Committee

What does Colorado's accountability system seek to do?

What are the committee's duties?

Who serves on the committee?



## Accountability

An effective accountability system focuses the attention of educators, parents, students, and other members of the community on

- *maximizing every student's progress toward postsecondary and workforce readiness and postgraduation success*
- *holding schools accountable on statewide performance indicators*
- *recognizing areas of success, while also identifying and compelling effective change for areas in need of improvement*
- *reporting information concerning school performance that is perceived by educators, parents, and students as fair, balanced, cumulative, credible and useful.*

## Major Duties of a School Committee

**School budget priorities:** The school accountability committee recommends to the principal priorities for spending school moneys, including state, federal, local, or private grants and any other discretionary moneys. The principal shall consider these recommendations and take them into account in formulating budget requests or creating the budget.

**Reporting on budget priorities:** A copy of the recommended spending priorities shall be sent to the district accountability committee and to the board of education.

**Plans:** The school accountability committee advises on preparation of a school plan and submits recommendations regarding its content.

**Progress monitoring:** The school accountability committee shall meet at least quarterly to discuss whether school

leadership, personnel, and infrastructure are advancing or impeding implementation of the school's performance or improvement plan or other progress pertinent to the school's accreditation contract with the local school board.

**Increasing parent engagement:** The school accountability committee has a duty to increase the level of parent engagement in the school, especially the engagement of parents of students who are members of non-Caucasian races, eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch, have limited English proficiency, are migrant children, are identified with disabilities, or are identified as gifted. The committee's activities to increase parent engagement must include, but need not be limited to:

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## Membership

**Required for all schools:** School accountability committees are required for every public school in Colorado, including charter schools chartered by a district and Institute charter schools.

**Minimum membership requirements:** School accountability committees consist of at least seven members as follows: the principal or principal's designee; at least one teacher who provides instruction at the school; at least three parents or legal guardians of students enrolled at the school; at least one adult member of an organization of parents, teachers, and students recognized by the school; and at least one person from the community.

**Larger membership:** If the committee is larger than the minimum above, the number of parents on the committee must exceed the number of representatives from the group with the next highest representation.

**Single position:** A person may not be selected to fill more than one of the member positions required in above in a single term.

**Representation:** The committee should reflect the student populations that are significantly represented within the school.

**Chair:** The members of each school accountability committee shall annually select from among the parent representatives a member to serve as chair or co-chair of the committee.

**A Brief Reminder:** All accountability committee meetings are open to the public.



- (I) Publicizing opportunities to serve and soliciting parents to serve on the school accountability committee;
- (II) Assisting the school district in implementing at the school the parent engagement policy adopted by the local school board; and
- (III) Assisting school personnel to increase parents' engagement with teachers, including but not limited to parents' engagement in creating students' READ plans, in creating individual career and academic plans, and in creating plans to address habitual truancy.

**Principal development and evaluation:** The school accountability committee provides input and recommendations on an advisory basis to district accountability committees and district administration concerning principal development plans for their principal and principal evaluations.

### **Consultation regarding the district safe school plan:**

The district accountability committee and the school accountability committees provide advice concerning the adoption, implementation, review, and revision of the district's safe school plan.

**Required components of a safe school plan:** The plan shall include, at a minimum, the following: (a) conduct and discipline code; (b) safe school reporting requirements; and (c) Internet safety plan.

### **Information about district content standards:**

After adopting district content standards, the district must provide information about content standards and standards-based education to the district accountability committee and school accountability committees.

**Representation to Cherry Creek's DAC:** Each school accountability committee must elect a parent to serve as a representative to DAC; high schools elect two parents. Parents cannot be an employee or relative of an employee.