

<b>TO:</b>	Board of Education
<b>CC:</b>	Corey Wise, Sandy Maresh
<b>FROM:</b>	Matt Reynolds, Chief Assessment and Data Officer
<b>DATE:</b>	April 1, 2021
<b>RE:</b>	Unified Improvement Plan Update

Directors:

On Tuesday, March 9, 2021, the District Accountability Committee approved their recommendations for the Douglas County School District Unified Improvement Plan (UIP). These recommendations will be placed on Consent Agenda for consideration of approval by the Board of Education on April 6, 2021.

We are providing Unified Improvement Planning frequently asked questions and other resources for your review prior to the April 6, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

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Frequently Asked Unified Improvement Planning (UIP) Questions:

**2020 - 2021 questions**

- **When is the UIP due for posting?**
  - In response to the COVID-19 Policy Implications Stakeholder Group's recommendations, the State Board of Education approved rules on [March 10, 2021](#) to make the April 2021 public posting window optional; the new rules enable districts and schools to carry over the most recently posted plan to cover 2020-21. However, districts must still submit required K - 3 reading assessment and instructional programming information required by the READ Act this year.
- **What impact does the Assessment and Accountability Pause for 20-21 have on Unified Improvement Plans (UIP)?**
  - As a result of the pause, districts and schools (including alternative education campuses) will not receive a 2020 performance framework, nor updated plan types. In addition, without state level data, improvement planning may need to emphasize other areas in the interim (e.g., local data, non-assessment data, root cause analysis, action planning, progress monitoring). CDE also provided a series of special flexibilities and guidance for this year, including allowing districts to consider the current context and limit the number of major improvement strategies implemented in the plan.

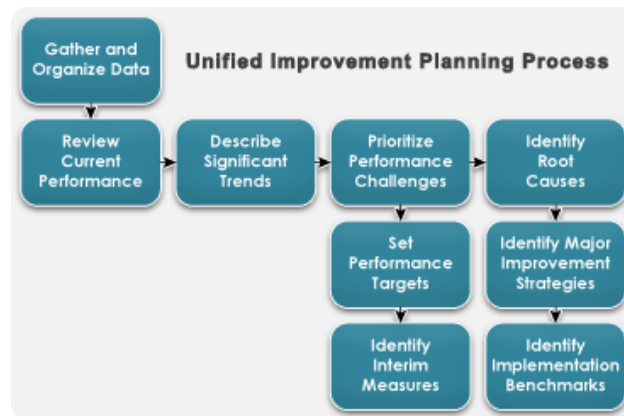
## General questions

- **What Board of Education action is required for UIP?**
  - In accordance with time frames specified in state board rules, each local school board that is accredited or accredited with distinction shall annually adopt a performance plan for the school district. (C.R.S. 22-11-303 (1)(a))
- **What is the role of the District Accountability Committee (DAC) in the district UIP process?**
  - The DAC is responsible for advising the local school board concerning preparation of, and annually submitting to the local school board recommendations regarding the contents of, a district performance, improvement, priority improvement, or turnaround plan, whichever is required based on the school district's accreditation category. (C.R.S 22-11-302(b))
- **What is the role of the School Accountability Committee (SAC) in the school UIP process?**
  - The SAC is responsible for advising the principal of the public school concerning the preparation of a school performance or improvement plan, if either is required pursuant to section 22-11-210, and to submit recommendations to the principal concerning the contents of the performance or improvement plan; (C.R.S 22-11-402(b))
- **What is the purpose and goal of a Unified Improvement Plan (UIP)?**
  - The Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (S.B. 08-212) established the primary purpose of improvement planning as aligning efforts to ensure all students exit the K-12 education system ready for postsecondary education, and/or to be successful in the workforce, earning a living wage immediately upon graduation. Furthermore, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which is the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) – including Titles IA, IIA, IIIA, and IVA – requires improvement planning to focus on ensuring that all students obtain a high-quality education, increase student achievement, close educational achievement gaps, improve and enhance the education of English Learners, and improve school conditions for student learning.
  - The goal of the improvement plan is to improve a district's attainment on key Performance Indicators identified in Education Accountability Act of 2009 (i.e. Academic Achievement, Academic Growth and Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness). The plan does not address all aspects of district performance.
- **What type of plan is DCSD required to adopt and implement?**
  - DCSD was assigned an accreditation category of Accredited which means that the district met state expectations for attainment on the Performance Indicators and is required to adopt and implement a Performance plan.
- **Does CDE or the State Review Panel review Performance or Improvement Plans?**
  - No, neither CDE nor the State Review Panel reviews Performance and Improvement plans. Exceptions: CDE may review district and school UIPs for program specific requirements (e.g., Gifted Education, Title Programs, ELD). Details are specified in the pre-populated report of the UIP. The State Review

Panel reviews all schools and districts plans that are near the end of the Accountability Clock.

- **Are Performance or Improvement plans subject to additional requirements associated with Colorado’s Accountability Clock?**
  - No, districts and schools on Performance or Improvement Plans are not subject to action directed by the State Board in relation to plan types.
- **What is the process for creating a plan?**
  - According to the Colorado Department of Education, “*Colorado’s approach to improvement planning -- by engaging in a continuous improvement cycle to manage performance districts and schools will improve their effectiveness and the outcomes for students.*”

The diagram depicted here illustrates the steps and theory of action behind Colorado’s approach to improvement planning.



- **What data is used to assign an accreditation category (i.e. Accredited or Accredited with Distinction)?**
  - The Colorado Department of Education assigns accreditation categories based on the data from the district performance framework. (Note: As a result of the accountability pause for 2020 - 2021, CDE did not issue new performance frameworks for districts and schools. District and school plan types will continue to implement their 2019 ratings for the 2020-2021 school year.)
- **What are the required components of the UIP?**
  - Plans must include the components outlined in 1 CCR 301-1 (e.g., trends, root causes, targets, improvement strategies) and improvement strategies should be appropriate in scope, intensity, and type depending on the specific district’s accreditation category.
- **What is the purpose of the funding column in the action steps?**
  - The purpose for the funding column is for the district or school to identify funding sources or other resources necessary to implement the action steps (if necessary).

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References:

- DCSD Unified Improvement Plan
  - DCSD 2020-21 Draft UIP (attached to April 6, 2020 BOE Agenda)

- [DCSD 2019-20 UIP](#)
- General Unified Improvement Planning Resources
  - Colorado Department of Education - [Unified Improvement Planning](#)
  - Colorado Department of Education - [2020-2021 UIP Handbook \(PDF\)](#)
  - [Accountability and Improvement 2020-21 Changes \(PDF\)](#)
  - [2020-21 Availability of State Data Resources - Draft \(PDF\)](#)
  - [UIP Submission Deadlines and Biennial Flexibility Spreadsheet](#)
  - [UIP School Quality Criteria- \(PDF\)](#)
  - [Quick Reference Planning Guide 2020-21 \(PDF\)](#)
- District Performance Framework Resources
  - Colorado Department of Education - [District and School Performance Frameworks](#)