

TO:	Board of Education
CC:	Corey Wise, Sandy Maresh
FROM:	Matt Reynolds, Learning Services Officer
DATE:	September 21, 2021
RE:	Unified Improvement Plan Update

Directors:

On Thursday, September 16, 2021, the DAC approved DCSD staffs' recommendation to submit a revised Douglas County School District Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) prior to the October 15, 2021 deadline. These recommendations will be placed on the Consent Agenda for consideration of approval by the Board of Education on September 28, 2021.

Revisions to the plan that was submitted in April include:

- Actions steps to review and update Strategic Plan initiatives for 2021 - 2022
- Superintendent Wise's priorities for 2021 - 2022
 - Professional Learning Communities
 - Literacy (Reading)
 - Comprehensive Social Emotional Learning
- Adding available data from 2020 - 2021

We are providing UIP frequently asked questions and other resources for your review prior to the September 24, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Frequently Asked Unified Improvement Planning (UIP) Questions:

2021 - 2022 questions

- **When is the UIP due for posting?**
 - According to the new timeline established by the State Board of Education, schools and districts must submit their UIP by October 15, 2021 unless they are eligible for biennial submission.
- **What impact does the Assessment and Accountability Pause for 21-22 have on Unified Improvement Plans (UIP)?**
 - As a result of the pause, districts and schools (including alternative education campuses) will not receive a 2021 performance framework, nor updated plan types. Schools and districts are still expected to plan based on the 2019 plan

types. CDE recommends that schools and districts consider the impact of COVID-19 on their local context when revising their UIP.

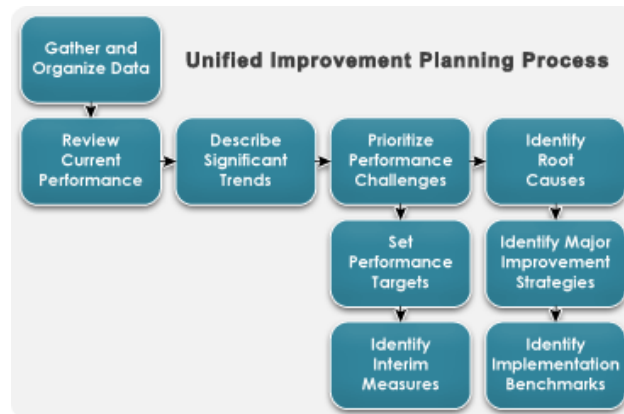
General questions

- **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).

References:

- DCSD Unified Improvement Plan
 - DCSD 2021-22 Draft UIP (attached to September 24, 2021 BOE Agenda)
 - [DCSD 2020-21 UIP](#)

- General CDE Unified Improvement Planning Resources
 - Colorado Department of Education - [Unified Improvement Planning](#)
 - [2021-22 UIP Handbook](#)
 - [2021-22 UIP Changes Document \(PDF\)](#)
 - [2021-22 Planning Considerations \(PDF\)](#)
 - [2021-22 UIP Submission Deadlines and Biennial Flexibility Spreadsheet](#)
 - [2021-22 UIP School QC Rubric \(PDF\)](#)

- District Performance Framework Resources
 - Colorado Department of Education - [District and School Performance Frameworks](#)