

ACCREDITATION

The purpose of district and school accreditation in Colorado Springs School District 11 (the District) is to help sustain schools in their drive for excellence and to ensure state and federal legal obligations are met.

Accreditation in Colorado is a two-part process. The state accredits districts and districts accredit their respective schools (including all charter, on-line, and contract schools).

State accreditation of the District:

The accreditation contract shall bind the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education (the Board) to manage the District and its schools to meet certain standards, goals and requirements over the term of the contract, in accordance with the Education Accountability Act of 2009 and applicable State Board of Education rules (1 CCR 301-1, 1 CCR 301-57). At a minimum, the accreditation contract shall address the following elements:

- The District's level of attainment on the four key performance indicators: student academic growth, student achievement on statewide assessments, postsecondary and workforce readiness, and progress made on closing the achievement and growth gaps;
- The District's adoption and implementation of its Performance, Improvement, Priority Improvement or Turnaround plan (whichever is required based on the District's assigned accreditation category);
- The District's implementation of its system for accrediting its schools; and
- The District's substantial, good-faith compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to the District, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - The provisions of Article 44 of Title 22 C.R.S. concerning budget and financial policies and procedures;
 - The provisions of Article 45 of Title 22 C.R.S. concerning accounting and financial reporting; and
 - The provisions of C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 concerning school safety.

District accreditation of Colorado Springs School District 11 schools:

The Board's accreditation of District schools shall emphasize attainment on the four key performance indicators: student longitudinal academic growth, student achievement on statewide assessments, postsecondary and workforce readiness, and progress made on closing the achievement and growth gaps. The Board will generally assign accreditation categories to schools on an annual basis consistent with the assigned Colorado Department of Education (CDE) School Performance Framework based on results for the previous school year. The Board may adopt additional accreditation indicators and measures for District schools that meet or exceed the state standards for district accreditation. In accordance with law, the school accreditation process shall include a review of each full-time online program's alignment to the State Board of Education's quality standards for online programs for which CDE has assigned a school code. The Board will also adopt rules for the accreditation of Alternate Education Campuses

(AECs) consistent with 1 CCR 301-57 and CDE guidelines for AEC School Performance Frameworks.

By October 15 of each year, the District shall provide the CDE with the accreditation category assigned to each District school. The Board also directs the administration to annually publish the accreditation status of all schools in the District.

In accordance with the process required by the Education Accountability Act of 2009 and applicable State Board of Education rules, the Superintendent, principals and other District administrators, in coordination with the District Accountability Committee (DAC), and school accountability committees (SACs) shall develop a school improvement plan for each District school based on the assigned accreditation category/state plan type. The District shall notify parents/guardians of students enrolled in each school that is required to adopt a school Priority Improvement or Turnaround plan of the required plan, the identified issues to be addressed by the plan and the timeline for the plan's development. A public hearing shall be held prior to the adoption of a school Priority Improvement or Turnaround plan.

Pursuant to the Board's constitutional and statutory authority to control instruction in its schools and determine the allocation of District resources, the Board shall review and approve all Priority Improvement or Turnaround plans as required by the Educational Accountability Act of 2009. The Board may elect to review and approve school Performance and Improvement plans on a case by case basis. Each school plan shall be submitted to the CDE in accordance with the timelines prescribed by applicable State Board of Education rules.

Annual review of accreditation process:

The District Board may annually review and make needed changes to the District accreditation contract and to the rules for the accreditation of schools within the District. Based on their legislated responsibility with respect to accountability, the DAC and SACs will provide recommendations to the Superintendent, or his/her designee, and the Board regarding improvements to the process of District and school accreditation, participate in the review and evaluation of District/schools' progress toward meeting accreditation requirements, and participate in the development /review of District/school unified improvement plans based on accreditation category assigned (see Policy AE).

Adopted: September 2003
Revised: January 22, 2014
Reviewed: May 30, 2018

LEGAL REFS: C.R.S. 22-7-407
C.R.S. 22-11-101 et seq
C.R.S. 22-11-307
C.R.S. 22-30.5-104(2)(b)
C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(t)
C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(mm)
C.R.S. 22-32-142(2)
C.R.S. 22-44-101, et seq.

C.R.S. 22-45-101, et seq.
1 CCR 301-1, Rules for Administration of Accreditation of
School Districts
1 CCR 301-57, The Administration of Accountability for
Alternative Campuses
CDE District Accountability Handbook, V4.0, Aug 2013 (or
current version)
CDE Priority Improvement and Turnaround Districts and
Schools, A Supplement to the CDE District Accountability
Handbook, Sep 2012 (or current version)

CROSS REFS:

AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment
AE-R-1, District Accountability Committee (By-laws)
AE-R-2, School Accountabilities
KB, Parent Engagement
Colorado Springs School District 11: Rules for
Accreditation Alternative Education Campuses (AEC) and
Guidance for Calculating Selected Accountability
Measures on the AEC Framework