Accountability Across the States

Julie Woods, Education Commission of the States
Who we are.

The essential, indispensable member of any team addressing education policy.
What we do.

We believe in the power of learning from experience and we know informed policymakers create better education policy.
How we do it.

We research, report, convene and counsel.
Outline

• What do we mean by accountability?

• What do school accountability systems look like across the country?

• What are key accountability levers?

• Questions to consider
• How well are our schools serving our students?

• Federal law
• Purposes
  • Who is held accountable?
  • For achieving what goal?

• Activities
  • Measuring
  • Reporting
  • Improving

• End users
  • Parents
  • Schools and districts
  • State leaders
Accountability Systems Across the States

- Metrics & Weights
- Ratings
- Report cards
- Financial transparency
Common Accountability Metrics

- Student achievement
- Student growth
- High school graduation rate
- English language proficiency
- School quality/student success

Least Common
- School Climate
- Well-Rounded Measures

Most Common
- Chronic Absenteeism
- College & Career Readiness
Common Rating Systems

Source: ECS 50-State Accountability Database
### Report Cards & Financial Transparency

- School performance
- Student performance
- Teacher data
- Disciplinary data
- Per-pupil spending

#### Education Quality Standards Domains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Performance</th>
<th>Equity Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Proficiency</strong></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Approaching" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Not Meeting" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How well do our schools provide students with opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge to be career and college ready? Indicators include Math, English Language Arts, Science, and Physical Education Assessments, English Language Proficiency, Graduation Rates, Career and College Ready Assessments and Outcomes.</td>
<td>Not Improving</td>
<td>Not Improving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personalization</strong></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Not Meeting" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Exceeding" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How well do our schools provide students with authentic engagement and opportunities to shape their own learning? Indicators include Flexible Pathway Participation and Offerings and Personalized Learning Plans.</td>
<td>Declining</td>
<td>Improving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Safe, Healthy Schools</strong></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Meeting" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Approaching" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How well do our schools provide environments where students feel healthy, safe, and supported in achieving their goals? Indicators include Disciplinary Exclusion and Student and Staff School Climate Survey.</td>
<td>Approaching</td>
<td>Improving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Quality Staffing</strong></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Approaching" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How well do our schools employ educators who are well trained and qualified to meet the needs of all student? Indicators include Rates of Licensed Teachers, Staff Stability, and Satisfaction with Professional Development and Evaluation Systems.</td>
<td>Declining</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investment Priorities</strong></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Approaching" /></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How well do our schools provide quality experiences at a price that the community believes is appropriate? Indicators include Staffing Ratios, Per Student Expenditures, and School Return on Investment.</td>
<td>Not Improving</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accountability Levers

Promoting improvement

Rewarding progress and performance

Engaging stakeholders
Promote Improvement

- Needs assessment
- Improvement plan
- Increased intervention and oversight
- Alternative governance
Reward Progress and Performance

• Funding
  • Arkansas School Recognition Program
  • Arizona College Credit by Exam Incentive Program
  • Texas proposed outcomes reward

• Flexibility
  • Tennessee high performing districts
  • North Dakota waivers
Engage Local Stakeholders

- Accountability plans
  - California
  - Maryland (MD Ed Code § 5-401)
- Local councils
  - Colorado
  - Massachusetts
- Reporting
Maryland

- Independent oversight board
  - May withhold up to 25% of new funds
- Expert review teams

CHAPTER 4:
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND COST ESTIMATES BY POLICY AREA

1. Early Childhood Education
2. High-quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders
3. College and Career Readiness Pathways
4. More Resources to Ensure All Students are Successful
5. Governance and Accountability

CHAPTER 5:
TOTAL COST, FUNDING PRIORITIES, AND NEXT STEPS FOR THE COMMISSION

State and Local Cost to Implement Policy Recommendations
Funding Priorities for the 2019 Legislative Session
Remaining Work and Next Steps for the Commission
Education Aid Formulas: Regional Consumer Price Indices
Funding Formula Decisions to Make in 2019
• Local Control Funding Formula
  • 10 Priority Areas
    • State or local accountability metric for each priority area

• Local Control and Accountability Plans
• What are our state’s goals for schools?
• Who is held accountable for achieving those goals?

• What root problems are we solving with accountability levers?
• What requirements are already in place?
• What is the burden or cost of additional measuring and reporting?

• What consequences are we truly willing to implement?
• How well are we using the data we already have?
Questions?

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