

Colorado State Board of Education
Department of Education

1 Colorado Code of Regulations 301-1

Adopted: 10/7/99
Amended: 8/10/00, 06/20/01

Attorney General Opinion: 10/21/99; 8/23/00; 06/28/01

Authority: Article IX, Section 1, Colorado Constitution. 22-2-106 (1)(a) and (c), 22-2-107(1)(c); 22-7-401 through 410; 22-7-501 through 505; 22-11-101 through 204; 22-11-301 through 304, 22-32-109, and 22-7-601 through 610, Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.)

RULES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
ACCREDITATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

2202-R-0.00 Statement of Basis and Purpose.

These accreditation requirements are adopted under authority granted the State Board of Education in the Colorado Constitution, Article IX, Section 1; and Colorado Revised Statutes 22-2-106, 22-7-401 through 410, 22-7-501 through 505, 22-11-101 through 22-11-204, 22-11-301 through 304, 22-32-109, and 22-7-601 through 610.

The basic purposes of the Colorado Accreditation Program are:

To foster greater accountability from public schools and school districts for the betterment of public education;

To provide a process for the State Board of Education to fulfill its constitutional responsibility for supervising the public schools of the state;

To encourage excellence by assessing student performance in relation to state standards and assessments;

To help all schools and school districts improve academic achievement for all students in safe schools;

To ensure equal access to educational opportunities for every student in the state;

To support local efforts to reform and restructure public education;

To promote high standards, equal access, and educational opportunities for all students' academic growth;

To develop and maintain a school and community partnership for the ongoing improvement of public education; and

To enhance the public's understanding of school and district performance by reporting on accreditation indicators in concise, specific and comparable formats.

1.00 DEFINITIONS.

1.01 (1) "Accreditation" means certification by the State Board of Education that public school districts meet the requirements established by Article 11 of Title 22, C.R.S. and the rules promulgated pursuant to this Article. It includes the process for accrediting public schools and school districts pursuant to the provisions of Article 11.

1.01 (2) "Accreditation Contract" means the agreement between the State Board of Education and a local board that binds the school district to manage the accreditation of public schools within such school district, consistent with the standards and goals to be met according to the Accreditation Indicators and State Board rules and regulations.

1.01 (3) "Accreditation Indicators" means the achievement indicators that determine the accreditation category of a public school and school district pursuant to the provisions of Article 11.

These may include other indicators established in the Accreditation Contract by the local district and the Department.

- 1.01 (4) "Commissioner" means the State Commissioner of Education.
- 1.01 (5) "Corrective Action Cycle" means the corrective actions described in Section 22-11-204, C.R.S., to which a school district shall be subject in the event that it fails to comply with provisions of the Accreditation Contract.
- 1.01 (6) "Department" means the State Department of Education.
- 1.01 (7) "School district" means a school district organized and authorized pursuant to Article 32 of Title 22, C.R.S.
- 1.01 (8) "State Board" means the State Board of Education established pursuant to Section 1 of Article IX of the state constitution.
- 1.01 (9) "All students" means every student regardless of gender; socio-economic level; at-risk status; racial, ethnic, or cultural background; exceptional ability; disability; or limited English proficiency.
- 1.01 (10) "Contextual learning" establishes connections between school-based instruction and the world of work, careers, and learning that occurs beyond the school itself. Examples are service learning, internships, and school collaboration with business and community enterprises.
- 1.01 (11) "Correction plan" means the plan required from a district or school if it is placed on accredited academic watch, accredited academic probation, or nonaccredited status. The plan will include specific goals, actions, timelines, and resources required to return the school or district to accredited status.
- 1.01 (12) "Education improvement plan" means the annual education improvement plan prepared by each district, setting forth the measurable objectives and strategies to be used to improve student achievement for the coming academic year, in order to meet the district goals set forth in the accreditation contract, required by 22-7-205 (2), C.R.S., with the additions set forth in section 4.01 (1) (a) of these rules and regulations.

2.00 THE ACCREDITATION CONTRACT.

School districts are accredited through an Accreditation Contract as follows:

- 2.01 (1) A local board of education shall contract with the Colorado State Board of Education to administer the accreditation process for each school in its district. The department shall administer the accreditation process for each district. Each district shall enter into an accreditation contract which shall take effect July 1, 2001. The contract shall specify the process that the district will use to accredit its schools, CONSISTENT WITH 1.01 (2) OF THESE RULES.
- 2.01 (2) A local board of education may sub-contract with a Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) or other approved entity to administer the accreditation process for the district. Under such conditions, the local board of education remains accountable to the State Board for the continued success of its schools.
- 2.01 (3) The length of an Accreditation Contract term is six years. The Contract may be renegotiated at any time by the parties, based upon appropriate and reasonable changes in circumstances upon which the original terms and conditions of the contract were based.
- 2.01 (4) The contract must specify the following elements:
 - 2.01 (4) (a) The district's content standards for student learning, including achievement performance levels;
 - 2.01 (4) (b) The district's standards, goals and requirements to be met over the term of the contract;
 - 2.01 (4) (c) The assessments that will be used to measure each student's progress toward and achievement of the district's adopted content standards, including specification of an acceptable performance level;
 - 2.01 (4) (d) Evidence that the district's content standards meet or exceed state model content standards;
 - 2.01 (4) (e) Evidence that the district assessments are either comparable to or more rigorous than state assessments;

- 2.01 (4) (f) Goals and strategies to improve all students academic achievement and to identify and reduce consistent patterns of low academic achievement and discrepancies in academic achievement related to gender; socio-economic level; at-risk status; racial, ethnic, or cultural background; exceptional ability; disability; or limited English proficiency.
 - 2.01 (4) (g) Periodic reviews of each school on a cycle established by the local school district, consistent with 1.01 (2) of these rules;
 - 2.01 (4) (h) Adoption of procedures for recognition of high performing schools and intervention for schools with unsatisfactory performance;
 - 2.01 (4) (i) Adoption of procedures for placing schools on corrective action cycles;
 - 2.01 (4) (j) Goals and processes for informing and involving parents and families, the business community, local advisory committees and other interested citizens, and district and school advisory accountability committees;
 - 2.01 (4) (k) Assurance that the schools will participate in all state assessments; and
 - 2.01 (4) (l) Assurance that districts have adequate policies and that these policies are being implemented to carry out state statutes, rules and regulations.
- 2.02 An annual written assessment review of achievement pursuant to the accreditation contract will be provided by the department to each local district beginning in 2001-2002.

During this annual assessment review, each district shall report on the following:

- 2.02 (1) A plan for technology and information literacy that is integrated into the district's standards-based educational plan.

The technology plan shall include policies and procedures to prevent students from accessing inappropriate material on the Internet.

- 2.02 (2) A plan to recruit, provide staff development, and retain licensed teachers.
- 2.02 (3) Changes the school district wishes to make in its existing standards, goals or requirements.
- 2.02 (4) A plan for contextual learning [see definition 1.01 (10)].
- 2.02 (5) A plan to increase academic achievement, graduation, and attendance rates.

3.00 ACCREDITATION INDICATOR REPORTING.

Annually by December 1 the local board of education shall report in writing its progress on district and school accreditation indicators. Progress shall be reported in a way that does not identify individual students and shall contain all elements required by the Educational Accountability Act, C.R.S. 22-7-205 (2). These reports shall be disseminated to each school's local community and the district's taxpayers and shall be available to the State Board Of Education, the general assembly, the governor, and the public at large.

3.01 District accreditation summary.

The accreditation summary shall contain the following:

- 3.01 (1) Results of statewide assessments administered as part of the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP):
 - 3.01 (1) (a) CSAP scores aggregated,
 - 3.01 (1) (b) CSAP scores by grade and subject area, and
 - 3.01 (1) (c) CSAP scores disaggregated by all student groups defined in 1.01 (9).
- 3.01 (2) Results of third grade (CSAP) literacy assessments;
- 3.01 (3) The number of students taking one or more advanced placement examinations; the total number of students enrolled in advanced placement classes; and the percentage of those students obtaining a passing grade on an advanced placement examination as defined in the accreditation contract; and/or equivalent indicators of high academic performance as defined in the local district/State Board of Education Accreditation Contract.

3.01 (4) Results of district assessments administered for district standards that meet or exceed state model content standards. These standards and assessments must include but are not limited to the following areas:

Art	Mathematics
Civics	Music
Economics	Physical Education
Foreign Language	Reading
Geography	Science
History	Writing

3.01 (5) Trend data for CSAP and for the Third Grade (CSAP) Literacy Assessment.

3.02 Other State Accreditation Indicators

The prime determiner of accreditation status will be performance on CSAP assessments.

3.02 (1) The following indicators will be reported using procedures and definitions provided by the Department:

3.02 (1) (a) Numbers of expelled and suspended students;

3.02 (1) (b) Graduation Rates;

3.02 (1) (c) Dropout Rates; and

3.02 (1) (d) Percentage of students not taking CSAP.

3.02 (2) The following indicators will be reported using locally developed procedures and definitions:

3.02 (2) (a) Attendance Rates;

3.02 (2) (b) Graduation Requirements;

3.02 (2) (c) Evidence of a safe, civil learning environment; and

3.02 (2) (d) Number and identity of schools in each accreditation category.

3.03 Local Indicators. School districts may develop additional indicators which assess progress on local district goals and objectives. These indicators would be described in the Accreditation Contract and reported using locally developed procedures and definitions.

4.00 DISTRICT ACCREDITATION CATEGORIES AND APPEALS.

4.01 (1) To be accredited, districts must meet or exceed the following department accreditation indicators:

4.01 (1) (a) Implementation of an education improvement plan which includes best educational practices, including (1) setting high goals for student achievement, (2) advancing recognized instructional strategies, (3) promoting standards-based instruction, (4) using state and local assessments, (5) incorporating parent, student and community participation, and (6) other requirements as outlined in the accreditation contract.

4.01 (1) (b) Achievement of district established goals for improvement over time in reading, writing and mathematics measured by CSAP district weighted scores of student cohorts.

4.01 (1) (c) Achievement of district established goals for reducing learning gaps in reading, writing, and mathematics measured by disaggregated CSAP data for all students as defined in 1.01 (9), in accordance with house joint resolution 01-1014 concerning closing the learning gap.

4.01 (1) (d) The achievement of district established CSAP goals which demonstrate a minimum of one year's increase in student achievement for each year in school for all disaggregated groups of students as defined in 1.01 (9). Additional department approved measures may be presented to demonstrate one year's growth in student achievement.

4.01 (1) (e) Achievement of district established achievement goals in the following curriculum areas: science, history, geography, art, music, physical education, foreign language, economics, and civics.

- 4.01 (1) (f) Evidence of compliance with all requirements of the school accountability report, C.R.S. 22-7-601 through 610.
- 4.01 (1) (g) Evidence of compliance with the educational accreditation act, C.R.S. 22-11-101 through 204.
- 4.01 (1) (h) Evidence of compliance with the safe schools act, C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1) and (2).
- 4.01 (1) (i) Evidence of compliance with the Colorado Basic Literacy Act, C.R.S. 22-7-501 through 505.

- 4.01 (2) Accredited: Academic Watch. A school or district is placed on Academic Watch if it does not meet one of the accreditation indicators described in 4.01 (1) (a) through (i).
- 4.01 (2) (a) A district that is unable to submit the Accreditation Contract by July 1, 2001 will be placed on Academic Watch.
- 4.01 (2) (b) A district that does not meet the provisions of its Accreditation Contract shall provide an improvement plan to the Department within 90 days of receiving written notice of its lack of compliance. The Department shall approve or deny the plan within 30 days of receiving it.

- 4.01 (3) Accredited: Academic Probation. A school or district is placed on Academic Probation if, after one year of Academic Watch, it failed TO either:
 - 4.01 (3) (a) Meet state accreditation indicators defined in 4.01 (1), or
 - 4.01 (3) (b) Show adequate growth on the improvement plan approved by the Department (for districts) or the district (for schools).

- 4.01 (4) Nonaccredited. A school or district may be designated as Nonaccredited if, after one year on Academic Probation, the school or district failed to either:
 - 4.01 (4) (a) Meet state accreditation indicators defined in 4.01 (1), or

- 4.01 (4) (b) Show adequate growth on the improvement plan approved by the Department (for districts) or the district (for schools).
- 4.01 (5) In accordance with C.R.S. 22-11-301, the Department shall annually recommend to the State Board of Education those schools to be recognized as excellent schools.
- 4.02 (1) Hearing/Appeal Process
- 4.02 (1) (a) Appeal to the Commissioner. Districts placed in the Accredited: Academic Watch, Accredited: Probation and Nonaccredited categories may appeal for a hearing to the Commissioner or designee to determine whether the district implemented the plan approved by the Department.
- 4.02 (1) (b) Appeal to the State Board. Districts placed in the Accredited: Probation and Nonaccredited categories may appeal the Commissioner's decision to the State Board to determine whether the district implemented the plan approved by the Department.