



Education Data Advisory Committee (EDAC)
2022-23 Annual Report to the State Board of Education and the
Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

EDAC Summary

The Education Data Advisory Committee (EDAC) is a statewide representative group of school district volunteers that reviews all Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and other state agency PK-12 data collections to ensure the collection method is valid and non-duplicative of existing data collections. EDAC provides recommendations to lessen the overall data collection burden, if possible, in partnership with CDE.

In the 2022-23 review period, EDAC formally met for nine scheduled committee meetings and conducted three emergency reviews to ensure the scope of data collections were reviewed and EDAC stamps were issued in a timely manner. Over the course of the year, EDAC reviewed a total of 185 data collections, which was a 12.7 % decrease from 2021-22 but a 3.4% increase compared to the 2020-21 year.

Accomplishments

- Completed the review and approval of the graduation guidelines collection through the EDAC re-envisioning process, which resulted in valuable feedback and approval of the on-going collection. The shared re-envision process was created by EDAC to work collaboratively with CDE subject matter experts to address data collection concerns when a collection identified as significantly challenging or flagged as potentially unduly contributing to district data burden.
- Participated in the At-Risk Measure Working Group which was formed to fulfill House Bill 22-1202 and charged with the creation a new at-risk measure in the school finance formula to identify students who are at risk of below-average academic outcomes due to socioeconomic disadvantage or poverty; however, while foundation work was conducted the discussions on the data collection aspect were minimal during the working group sessions.
- Updated the EDAC website and outgoing messaging to ensure clear communication of the scope of work and outcomes of the committee to best engage with department staff and the field.
- Continued to focus on visibility amongst PK-12 professional organizations and advocacy groups such as the Colorado Association of Leaders in Educational Technology (CALET), Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), and the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) to share the committee's expertise and value.

Form Review Process

EDAC reviews fall into one of two categories: 1) Full Review or 2) Update Review. Full Reviews are required for any collection that was not previously reviewed by EDAC or has substantial changes from its previous review. An Update Review is required for collections that were reviewed in a prior year and do not have significant changes. Collections are limited to three consecutive update reviews before they must return to EDAC for a full review. Stamps are posted to each collection declaring whether a collection is mandatory, required to obtain benefit, or voluntary. The definitions of these labels are:

- **Mandatory.** The form must be completed by all appropriate agencies. Funding may or may not be attached to this collection, but it is statutorily required. Any funding that an agency would otherwise receive may be withheld if this form is not completed.
- **Required to Obtain Benefit.** Funding or services are attached to the completion of this form. An agency may choose to not complete the form, but related funding/services will then not be available.
- **Voluntary.** The collection is not a direct requirement of state or federal legislation but may yield useful data with sufficient and representative sample size.

Reflections from 2022-2023 Year

Given the dynamic nature of the post-pandemic environment, an ongoing discussion to refocus the role of EDAC was the core mission of committee members. The creation of new collections in recent years broadened the focus of committee meetings and discussing political and legislative concerns often slowed progress; however, this is outside of the scope and mission of EDAC. Working closely with CDE program staff, EDAC membership focused their review on the assessment of the scope of collections and determining whether the benefits derived from a data collection outweigh the administrative burden necessary to collect the required data. The EDAC members have been essential in sharing their feedback and experiences from the field and ensuring the most efficient ways of collecting data are implemented. The unique perspective from EDAC members has been crucial in this work with CDE given their broad representation across various district sizes and structures and geographical population sizes and regions across Colorado. EDAC members have been able to share constraints and opportunities from their staff and peers to make positive improvements on new and existing collections. Over the past year, two primary areas of focus were emphasized across the work of the EDAC committee:

- **Data Burden:**
 - Further enable committee members to solicit feedback from coworkers and peers to assist CDE with determining alternative approaches or solutions when data burden is a concern.
 - Focus on solutions, such as identifying less cumbersome methods to collect the data effectively or optimal timing (when possible) to best support the work.
 - Use a comprehensive lens when evaluating collections to identify ways to reduce burden with specific considerations and awareness of constraints on small or rural districts.
- **Enhance Communications:**
 - Focus on fostering the relationship between CDE and EDAC by clearly outlining the scope of collections, technology, and programmatic considerations.
 - Increase the depth and breadth of information shared on various communication channels such as the CDE website, newsletters for district communication, and committees involving or related to the work of EDAC members.

Future Focus Areas

- Continue to grow the partnerships between EDAC, CDE, and other state agencies to ensure compliance and promote the committee's core focus to ensure the most appropriate scope and burden of data collections. Specific areas of focus include:
 - Identify concerns and support opportunities specific to the needs of small and rural districts.
 - Advise CDE on the staffing concerns or burden on districts and where technical assistance or additional support may be beneficial.
 - Update the EDAC forms to clearly communicate necessary information, focus/consolidate vital information, and highlight significant updates.
 - Review new and on-going collections with a specific focus on ensuring data collections are not unnecessarily burdensome and duplication is removed.
- Identify the scope of collections and develop the relationship between EDAC and the Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) to ensure district data collection burden is considered.
- Review the committee norms and scope that is documented for EDAC membership and utilize these tools to onboard new EDAC members to ensure a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities.
- With five openings for the 2023-24 school year, EDAC and the CDE chair will put a concerted effort to continue to broaden the committee's representation across Colorado and ensure appropriate representation across subject matters and district characteristics (e.g., enrollment size, geographic location).