



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

# 2020 Innovation Schools Annual Report

Submitted to:

**Governor Jared Polis**

**House of Representatives Education Committee**

**Senate Education Committee**

By:

**Bill Kottenstette, Colorado Department of Education**

**Paola Paga, Colorado Department of Education**

May 2020

---

School Quality and Support Division/Schools of Choice Unit  
201 East Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80203  
303-866-6276  
[SOC@cde.state.co.us](mailto:SOC@cde.state.co.us)



## Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Part I: Overview of Innovation Schools Act of 2008	4
Legislative Intent	
Organization and Structure	
Innovations Suggested	
Creating an Innovation Plan	
Process for Submitting an Innovation Plan	
Renewal Process	
Part II: Current Demographics of Innovation Schools	6
Districts of Innovation	
Innovation Schools	
Innovation Changes in 2019	
Innovation School Zones	
Part III: Description of the Innovations Implemented	13
Time	
Personnel	
Budget	
Part IV: Summary of Academic Performance of Innovation Schools and Zones	14
School Performance Framework	
Academic Achievement and Growth	
Part V: Recommendations for Legislative Changes	25
Appendices	26
Appendix A: Required Components of an Innovation Plan	
Appendix B: List of Innovation Schools	



## Executive Summary

---

The Innovation Schools Act of 2008, § 22-32.5-102, et seq. C.R.S, was designed to provide a pathway for schools and districts to develop and implement innovative practices in a wide variety of areas and contexts to improve student outcomes. The Act provides a formal process that allows schools or groups of schools to request to their local school boards for waivers from district-level policies and for school boards to request the Colorado State Board of Education for waivers from certain state-level laws and regulations. The Act enables schools to better provide educational services tailored to meet the needs of their student populations.

Innovation schools are required to articulate a vision around the autonomies they are seeking, as well as to gain support from a variety of stakeholders, including teachers, administrators, and School Accountability Committee members, before receiving the innovation school designation. The innovation application process (see Appendix A) requires schools to think through the common goal and vision that will be made possible by receiving greater autonomy, as well as the policies and documents that will need to change when these innovations are implemented.

In compliance with the requirements of § 22-32.5-111, C.R.S., the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has prepared this annual report divided into the following parts:

- Part I: Overview of Innovation Schools Act of 2008
- Part II: Current Demographics of Innovation Schools
- Part III: Description of Innovations Implemented
- Part IV: Summary of the Academic Performance of Innovation Schools and Innovation School Zones
- Part V: Recommendations for Legislative Changes

This report includes information and data from multiple sources including, but not limited to, CDE's Innovation Schools webpage, available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/innovationschools> and CDE's Schoolview® webpage, available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/schoolview/coloradogrowthmodel>.



---

## Part I: Overview of Innovation Schools Act of 2008

---

### Legislative Intent

The General Assembly enacted the Innovation Schools Act to achieve the following purposes:

- To grant Colorado’s school districts and public schools greater ability to meet the educational needs of a diverse and constantly changing student population;
- To encourage intentionally diverse approaches to learning and education within individual school districts;
- To improve educational performance through greater individual autonomy and managerial flexibility;
- To encourage school districts to create and manage a portfolio of schools that meet a variety of education needs;
- To encourage innovation in education by providing local school communities and principals with greater control over operations with the aim of improving student achievement;
- To encourage school districts and public schools to find new ways to allocate resources for the benefit of the students they serve; and
- To hold public schools that receive greater autonomy under the Innovations School Act accountable for student academic achievement.<sup>1</sup>

### Organization and Structure

The State Board of Education (state board) may designate a school district as a “district of innovation” pursuant to § 22-32.5-107, C.R.S. This designation, which is granted only after a district has approved an innovation plan and submitted the plan to the state board, permits a district to oversee an innovation school or an innovation school zone with waivers from certain state statutes and other regulations. An “innovation school” is a school in which an innovation plan is implemented pursuant to § 22-32.5-104, C.R.S. An “innovation school zone” is a group of schools within a school district that implements an innovation zone plan pursuant to § 22-32.5-104, C.R.S. The schools within an innovation school zone share common interests, such as geographical location, education focus, grade level articulation, or other possible collaborative interests.

### Innovations Suggested

In considering or creating an innovation school or an innovation school zone, the Innovation Schools Act strongly encourages local school boards to consider innovations in the following areas:

- Curriculum and academic standards and assessments<sup>2</sup>;
- Expanded accountability measures;
- Provision of services, including services targeted to specific student groups;

---

<sup>1</sup> As stated in § 22-32.5-102(2), C.R.S.

<sup>2</sup> Note, while innovation schools or zones may not waive state assessments or the requirements to implement academic standards that meet or exceed state standards, they may receive flexibility to vary from local standards or local assessments.

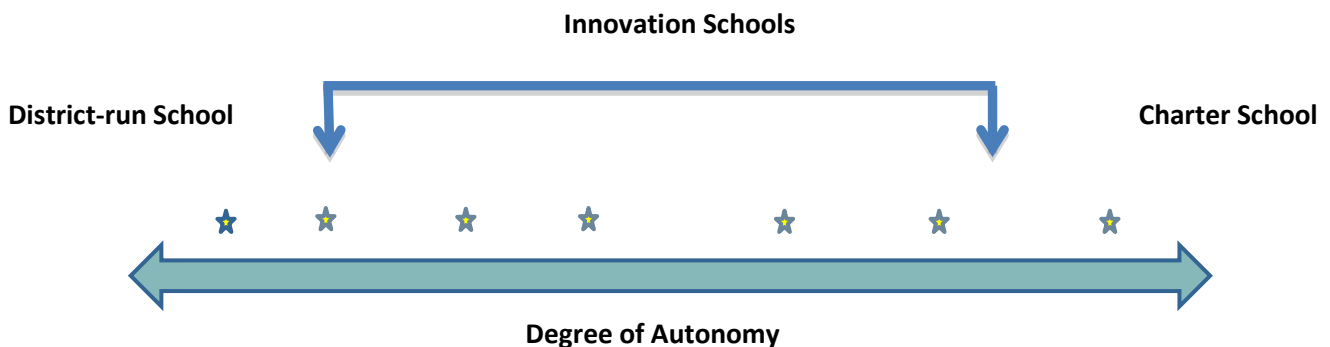
- Teacher recruitment, training, preparation, and professional development;
- Teacher employment;
- Performance expectations and evaluation procedures for principals and teachers;
- Compensation for principals, teachers, and staff;
- School governance, including operating as a community school<sup>3</sup>; and
- Postsecondary workforce readiness preparation and counseling.

### Creating an Innovation Plan

In the Innovation Schools Act, local school boards are encouraged to work collaboratively with the school or schools on the planning and application process for submitting an innovation plan. Developing a plan requires a school or group of schools to identify both the “innovations” or new approaches that are intended to increase the school’s ability to achieve its mission and the specific waivers from district policy, collective bargaining agreement provisions, and/or state laws and regulations that are required to give the school or schools the ability to implement the innovation.

Exhibit A, below, illustrates the varying degree of autonomy that an innovation school or innovation school zone may seek and how, depending on the amount of autonomy sought, an innovation school or an innovation school zone will operate more like either a traditional, district-run school or a charter school. For example, an innovation school may seek to waive out of district-level policies and state laws and regulations regarding only personnel practices. Conversely, another school may seek to operate free from district-level policies and state law and regulations relating to the school calendar, budget management, curriculum, and instructional practices, in addition to personnel practices. The former school would operate more like a traditional, district-run school, whereas the latter school would operate more like a charter school.

**Exhibit A: Range of Autonomy for Innovation Schools**



A proposed innovation school or innovation school zone must demonstrate that it has received majority support from teachers, administrators and School Accountability Committee members, and must also provide a statement of the level of support from classified school staff, parents, students and the surrounding community of the school(s). Because stakeholders at all levels are able to contribute to a plan, design elements often seek to address many stakeholders’ ideas and concerns.

<sup>3</sup> The addition of community school was included through S.B. 19-102.



## Process for Submitting an Innovation Plan

After a school or a group of schools creates a plan, it is then submitted to a local school board for approval. Once submitted, the local school board must either approve or deny the plan within 60 days. If the local school board denies the plan, the local school board must provide the public school or the group of public schools with a written explanation as to the basis for its decision. The public school or the group of public schools may resubmit an amended plan to the local school board at any time after denial. Unlike charter school applicants, innovation school applicants do not have a right to appeal the denial of a plan to the state board. If the local school board approves the plan, the local board may submit the plan to the state board on behalf of the school(s) for approval and then, upon approval by the state board, the school(s) is/are designated as an innovation school or an innovation school zone.

For a list of statutory requirements for innovation school plans and a list of additional statutory requirements specific to zone plans, please see Appendix A of this report. More information, including copies of state board-approved innovation school applications, is available on CDE’s Innovation Schools webpage at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/innovationschools>.

## Renewal Process

Three years after a local school board approves an innovation school or zone plan, the local school board is required to review the level of performance of the innovation school and each public school included in an innovation zone and determine whether the innovation school or innovation zone is achieving academic performance results as identified in the innovation plan. The local school board, in collaboration with a school or a zone, may revise the innovation plan as necessary to improve or continue to improve academic performance at the school or zone. If the local school board finds that the students within an innovation school are not improving academically, the local school board may revoke the school’s innovation status. If the local school board finds that the students enrolled in a public school within an innovation zone are not improving academically, the local school board may remove the underperforming school from the innovation zone or revoke the innovation zone’s status.

## Part II: Current Demographics of Innovation Schools

### Districts of Innovation

Currently, there are 16 districts of innovation in Colorado. Denver Public Schools (DPS) is the first district of innovation (designated in 2009); whereas, Jefferson County Public Schools is the newest district of innovation (designated in 2018). Colorado’s largest district of innovation is DPS which has 52 innovation schools. Based on 2019-20 October Count data, DPS currently serves 22,919 students (25 percent of its total PK-12 student population), through innovation schools. Table 1 shows student enrollment information related to each district of innovation.

**TABLE 1: Student Enrollment of Districts of Innovation for the 2019-20 School Year**

District Name	# of Innovation Schools	District Student Count	Innovation Student Count	% of Total Students in Innovation
Adams 12 Five Star Schools	1	38,707	413	1%



District Name	# of Innovation Schools	District Student Count	Innovation Student Count	% of Total Students in Innovation
Adams Arapahoe 28J	5	40,088	4,470	11%
Burlington RE-6J	3	778	778	100%
Delta County 50(J)	1	5,032	145	3%
Denver County 1	52	92,112	22,919	25%
District 49	11	23,890	9,217	39%
Greeley 6	5	22,467	2,108	9%
Holyoke RE-1J	3	587	587	100%
Jefferson County R-1	1	84,048	457	1%
Kit Carson R-1	2	109	109	100%
Mancos RE-6	4	507	507	100%
Montrose County RE-1J	1	6,215	643	10%
Pueblo City 60	7	16,050	3,147	20%
Thompson R2-J	2	16,163	569	4%
Westminster Public Schools	4	9,090	1,340	15%
Widefield 3	4	9,669	2,212	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>365,512</b>	<b>49,621</b>	<b>14%<sup>4</sup></b>

Data Source: 2019-20 Student October Count, CDE’s Accountability Analytics Unit

Table 2 shows the years in which the state board approved each district of innovation and the growth of student enrollment within schools of innovation in each district from the 2009-10 school year through the 2019-20 school year.

**TABLE 2: Student Enrollment within Innovation Schools in Districts of Innovation by School Year**

District Name <sup>5</sup>	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Denver 1	1,395	3,630	7,204	10,702	13,180	17,066	18,438	20,963	21,991	22,586	22,919
C.S. 11 <sup>6</sup>		1,007	996	977	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kit Carson			120	110	114	108	128	126	109	108	109
District 49				6,934	7,560	7,991	8,042	9,475	9,445	9,657	9,217

<sup>4</sup> This number reflects the percentage of students in these 16 districts which are served in innovation schools.

<sup>5</sup> District names have been modified in this table.

<sup>6</sup> Colorado Springs District 11 was a district of innovation from August 2010 to June 2013.



District Name <sup>7</sup>	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Pueblo City					1,260	1,261	1,262	2,691	3,211	3,154	3,147
Westminster					184	264	283	396	653	932	1,340
Delta Co						149	150	148	144	150	145
Greeley 6							141	208	2,190	2,171	2,108
Holyoke							594	581	583	577	587
Montrose 1J							585	554	614	609	643
Aurora 28J								4,922	4,567	4,380	4,470
Burlington								775	781	788	778
Widefield 3								406	452	494	2,212
Adams 12									446	430	413
Mancos RE-6									500	497	507
Thompson									558	565	569
JeffCo R-1										443	457
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,395</b>	<b>4,637</b>	<b>8,320</b>	<b>18,723</b>	<b>22,298</b>	<b>26,839</b>	<b>29,623</b>	<b>41,245</b>	<b>46,244</b>	<b>47,541</b>	<b>49,621</b>

Data Source: 2010-2020 Student October Count, CDE’s Accountability Analytics Unit

Kit Carson Schools, Colorado’s smallest district of innovation, has two schools: an innovation PK-5 school and an innovation 6-12 school. Kit Carson currently serves its entire PK-12 student population of 109 students, through these innovation schools. Three other districts currently serve their entire student population through innovation schools – Burlington School District RE-6J serves 778 PK-12 students, Holyoke School District serves 587 PK-12 students, and Mancos School District serves 507 PK-12 students. Table 3 shows the student demographic information for these four innovation districts. Student groups that contain less than 16 students in them are not displayed because of data privacy and are reflected as “n<16”.

TABLE 3: 2019-20 Demographic Information for Entire Districts being Districts of Innovation

District Name	Student Count (#)	FRL Eligible (%)	Minority Students (%)	English Learners (%)	Students with Disabilities (%)
Burlington RE-6J	778	63.0	48.3	19.0	15.2
Holyoke Re-1J	587	57.6	48.7	21.0	0.0
Kit Carson R-1	109	35.8	24.8	n<16	n<16
Mancos Re-6	507	53.3	29.0	7.3	12.8

Data Source: 2019-20 Student October Count, CDE’s Accountability Analytics Unit

Figure 1 shows the demographic information for all other districts of innovation and the district average for each student group. Due to a small student population, distributions for English language learners for Jefferson

<sup>7</sup> District names have been modified in this table.



County and Delta School District innovation schools could not be displayed.

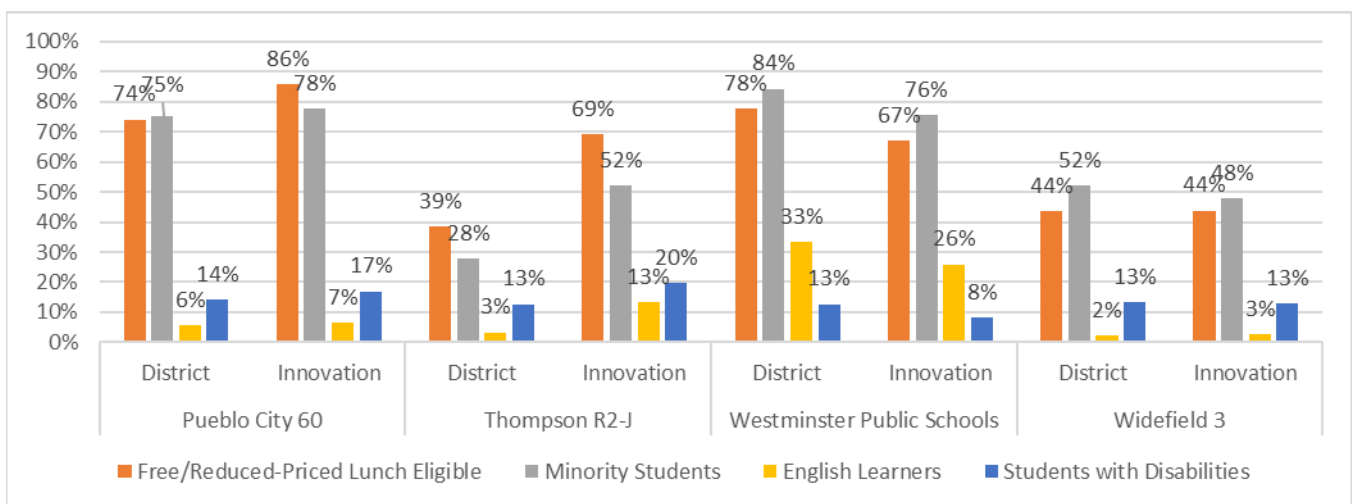
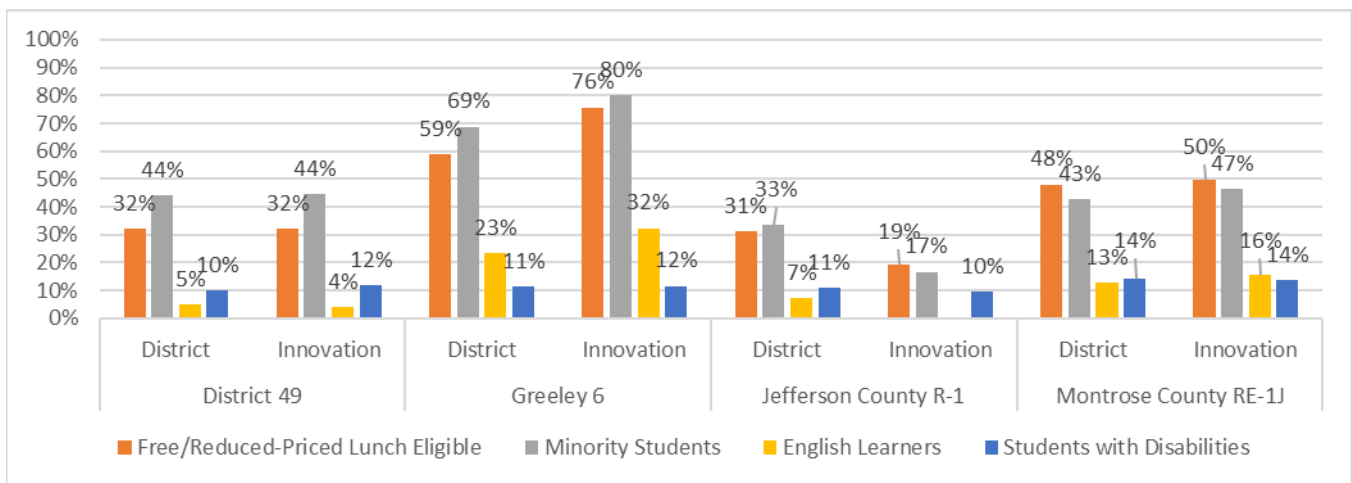
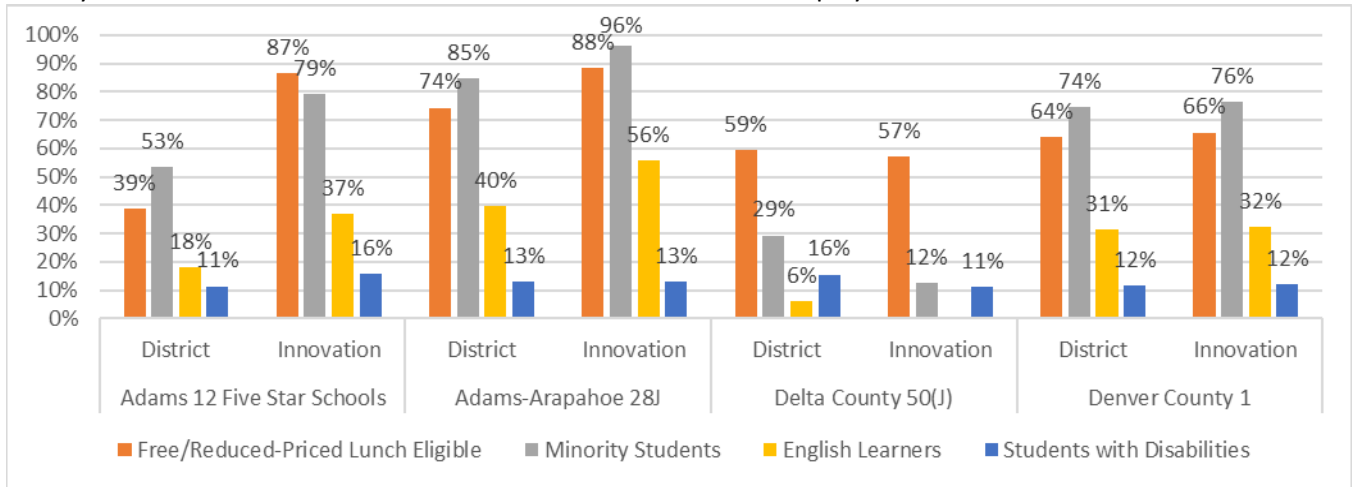


Figure 1: Student Demographic Information for Districts of Innovation (Data Source: 2019-20 Student October Count, CDE's Accountability Analytics Unit)

## Innovation Schools

As of January 1, 2020, Colorado has 106 innovation schools within 16 districts of innovation. Of Colorado’s 912,962 public school students from pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, innovation schools serve 49,621 of those students (roughly 5.4 percent of the overall PK-12 student population).

As a percentage of overall enrollment, innovation schools in Colorado are currently serving more students from the following disaggregated groups: students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (FRL); minority students; English language learners (ELL); and students with disabilities. Colorado’s public schools serve an FRL eligible population of 40.7 percent, while Colorado’s innovation schools serve an FRL eligible population of 61.5 percent. Similarly, the state average for minority students is 47.1 percent while innovation schools serve a minority student population of 68.4 percent. Figure 2 shows the comparison between innovation schools and the state average for each of these disaggregated student groups.

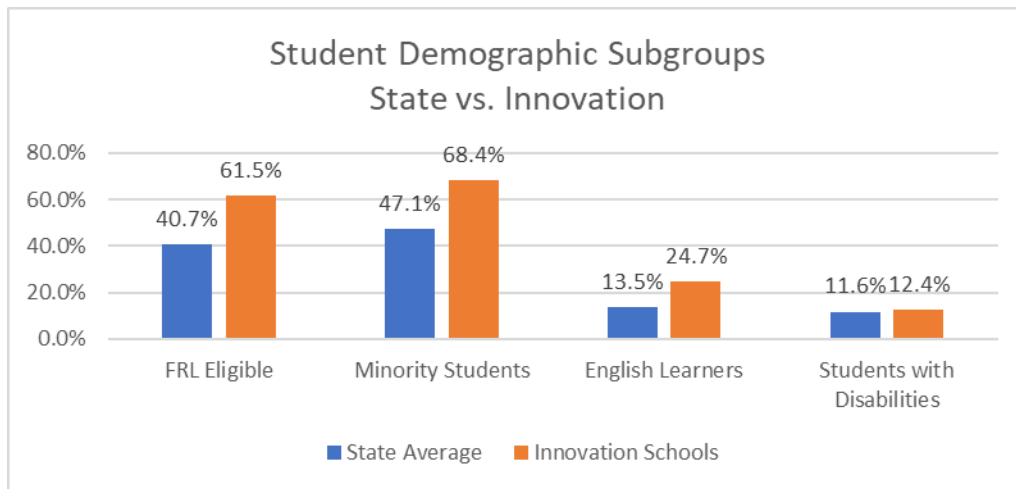


Figure 2: 2019-20 Student Demographic Information by Disaggregated Group for the State Average and Innovation Schools (Data Source: 2019-20 Student October Count, CDE’s Accountability Analytics Unit)

Table 4 shows the years in which the state board approved each district of innovation and the growth of innovation schools within each district from the 2009-10 school year through the 2019-20 school year. Appendix B contains a list of Colorado’s innovation schools, the date on which they were designated as such, and the date of removal from innovation status as may be applicable in limited situations. Table 5 shows the innovation schools which either closed or had their innovation designation revoked since 2010.

TABLE 4: Number of Innovation Schools within Districts of Innovation by School Year

District Name	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016 -17	2017 -18	2018 -19	2019 -20
Denver County 1	3	7	19	25	31	36	40	47	49*	51*	52
Colorado Springs 11 <sup>8</sup>		1	1	1*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kit Carson R-1			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
District 49				9	10	10	10	11	11	11	11
Pueblo City 60					3	3	3	6	8	8*	7

<sup>8</sup> Colorado Springs District 11 was a district of innovation from August 2010 to June 2013.



District Name	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	-10	-11	-12	-13	-14	-15	-16	-17	-18	-19	-20
Westminster					1	1	1	1	2	3	4
Delta County 50(J)						1	1	1	1	1	1
Greeley 6							1	1	5	5	5
Holyoke RE-1J							3	3	3	3	3
Montrose Co. RE-1J							1	1	1	1	1
Adams Arapahoe 28J								5	5	5	5
Burlington RE-6J								3	3	3	3
Widefield 3								1	1	1	4
Adams 12 Five Star									1	1	1
Mancos RE-6									4	4	4
Thompson R2-J									2	2	2
Jefferson County R-1										1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>106</b>

\*Indicates that a school either closed or its innovation status was revoked at the end of the school year.  
 Data Source: 2010-2020 School Directory information, CDE’s Accountability Analytics Unit

TABLE 5: List of Schools Closed or with an Innovation Status Revoked

School Name	District Name	Effective Date	Reason
Wasson High School	Colorado Springs 11	6/30/2013	Closed – declining enrollment
Place Bridge Academy	Denver County 1	6/30/2018	Revoked – school decision
Noel Community Arts School	Denver County 1	6/30/2019	Revoked – school decision
Heroes K-8 Academy	Pueblo City 60	6/30/2019	Closed – facility concern

Data Source: 2015 Innovation Report, DPS board resolutions, and Pueblo City Schools board minutes

### Innovation Changes in 2019

The following innovation plans were approved in 2019 by the state board:

- **January 2019:** State board approved innovation plans submitted by Widefield School District 3 on behalf of:
  - Grand Mountain School
  - Martin Luther King Elementary School
  - Widefield Elementary School of the Arts
- **January 2019:** State board approved an innovation zone application submitted by Denver Public Schools on behalf of the Beacon Network Schools. The zone includes the following, previously approved, innovation schools:
  - Grant Beacon Middle School
  - Kepner Beacon Middle School



- **May 2019:** State board approved innovation plans for Metropolitan Arts Academy on behalf of Westminster Public Schools and Merrill Middle School on behalf of Denver Public Schools.
- **August 2019:** State board approved an innovation plan for Denver Green School Northfield (part of the Luminary Learning Network) on behalf of Denver Public Schools

In addition to these approvals, two schools, Noel Community Arts School and Heroes K-8 Academy ceased operations as innovation schools. Denver Public Schools voted on June 13, 2019, to convert Noel Community Arts School to a district managed school. Pueblo City Schools voted on April 9, 2019, to close Heroes K-8 Academy mainly due to facilities concerns.

There was also one notable legislative change in 2019. The General Assembly passed S.B. 19-102 which defines the term “community school” in statute and includes the reference to the operation of a community schools as a possible suggestion for innovation. In addition to the definition, the statute also outlines certain requirements for a school seeking to operate as a community school under innovation status (e.g. an annual asset and needs assessment that engages at least 75 percent of families, students, and educators in the community).

### Innovation School Zones

Within the current districts of innovation, Colorado has 10 innovation school zones that are made up of 41 innovation schools and that operate within eight districts of innovation. Of Colorado’s 912,962 public school students from pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 20,383 of those students are served by Colorado’s innovation zones (roughly 2.2 percent of the overall P-12 student population). This is a slight increase from last year’s report, due in large part to the creation of the Beacon Network Schools zone in Denver Public Schools as well as the addition of Denver Green School-Northfield to the Luminary Learning Network. In addition, Pueblo City Schools experienced a slight decrease in its zone because of the closure of Heroes K-8 Academy. Table 6 below contains more information on Colorado’s innovation school zones.

TABLE 6: Summary of Innovation School Zones in the 2019-20 School Year

District of Innovation	Innovation School Zone Name	# of Schools in Zone	PK-12 Population
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	Innovation Zone at APS	5	4,470
Burlington RE-6J	Burlington Innovation Zone	3	778
Denver County 1	Beacon Network Schools	2	857
Denver County 1	Luminary Learning Network	6	2,119
Denver County 1	Northeast Denver Innovation Zone	4	3,476
District 49	Power Zone	5	4,333
Holyoke RE-1J	Holyoke Innovation Zone	3	587
Kit Carson R-1	Kit Carson Innovation Zone	2	109
Mancos RE-6	Mancos Innovation Zone	4	507
Pueblo City 60	Pueblo I-Zone	7	3,147
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10 Innovation Zones</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>20,383</b>



Data Source: 2019-20 Student October Count, CDE's Accountability Analytics Unit

## Part III: Description of the Innovations Implemented

---

Schools seek innovation status to have a greater ability to implement new and innovative methods of educating their students in order to meet the specific educational needs of their student population. To achieve this, innovation schools seek waivers from various district policies, state statutes, and other rules/requirements related to educational programming and school operations. For example, a school may find that its school district's existing policies and procedures inhibit the school's ability to customize learning to meet the needs of its students. As a result, the school may seek innovation status and waivers from state statute related to educational programming in order to implement an instructional model and/or curriculum that differs from that of the school's authorizing school district. Table 7 highlights the top 10 waivers from state statute requested by innovation schools. As explained in more detail below, these commonly requested waivers tend to fall into one of three categories – time, personnel, and budget.

### Time

The most common set of waivers requested are those related to time. An innovation school often requests the authority to make decisions about when the school will operate, as long as the school continues to meet statutory minimum requirements related to pupil-teacher contact hours and school calendar days. With these waivers, an innovation school is permitted to establish its school calendar that differs from the calendar established by its authorizing district. In many cases, schools with waivers related to school calendar and contact hours have extended their school day and school year to effectively implement the innovations outlined in their innovation plan. Those innovation schools that seek waivers from school calendar and contact hour requirements also tend to seek waivers from statutory requirements related to personnel, professional development, professional learning communities, school data teams, and other forms of teacher collaboration so that they can provide greater opportunity for local design decisions related to each element.

### Personnel

The next most common set of waivers are those related to personnel. Among all innovation schools, the ability for an innovation school to employ staff with flexibility on credentials, create its personnel evaluation system, set its salary schedule, draft its employee agreements, and prohibit teacher transfer are the highest requested personnel waivers. School leaders have sought to create their own hiring and termination policies in order to hire educators that are the best fit for their school's mission and vision and terminate staff when they are not meeting the specific performance expectations of the innovation school. Thus, many innovation schools have their staff employed on an at-will basis or replace non-probationary status with time-bound contracts.

### Budget

Many innovation schools request waivers from district budgetary policies. Through such waivers, the district delegates more authority to oversee school budgets to the school or zone level. In turn, the innovation school is permitted to make more budget decisions at the local level and align its spending with the school's specific initiatives. Flexibilities with the school budget may allow innovation schools to do such things as use actual rather than district averages for teacher salaries and reallocate funds to pay for new supports, positions, or resources. In addition, innovations requested by schools often require supplementary spending. For example, if schools received the flexibility to change their calendar to create a longer school day/year, they may need additional funding to be able to compensate teachers for this extra time or give teachers incentives and stipends



for managing additional responsibilities. As another example, if a school converted to a blended learning model, budgetary flexibilities could allow the school to better meet technology needs.

**TABLE 7: Top 10 Most Requested Waivers by Innovation Schools in the 2019-20 School Year**

Rank	Statutory Provision (C.R.S.)	Description of Waiver	# of Schools	% of Schools
1	22-32-109(1)(n)(II)(B)	Related to adoption of district calendar	91	86%
2	22-32-109(1)(n)(II)(A)	Related to determination of teacher-pupil contact hours	90	85%
3	22-32-109(1)(n)(I)	Related to determination of school calendar	89	84%
4	22-63-201	Related to teacher licensure	80	75%
5	22-32-109(1)(t)	Related to determination of educational program and prescription of textbooks	76	72%
6	22-32-109(1)(f)	Related to selection of staff and pay	75	71%
7	22-63-402	Related to paying licensed teachers	74	70%
8	22-9-106	Related to performance evaluation of licensed personnel	74	70%
9	22-63-206	Related to the transfer of teachers	73	69%
10	22-63-203	Related to probationary teacher status and to renewal and nonrenewal of employment contracts	70	66%

Data Source: List of Approved State Waivers – Innovation Schools, CDE Schools of Choice Unit

## Part IV: Summary of the Academic Performance of Innovation Schools and Zones

### School Performance Framework

Innovation schools, like all public schools in Colorado, are held accountable for performance through Colorado’s School Performance Framework (SPF). The key performance indicators of the SPF are academic achievement and academic growth for all students and disaggregated student groups as well as a third indicator, postsecondary and workforce readiness, for high schools only.<sup>9</sup> The SPF assigns to each school one of four plan types: Performance Plan, Improvement Plan, Priority Improvement Plan, and Turnaround Plan. Schools are then required to adopt and implement their assigned plan type. Some schools are assigned a rating of “Insufficient Data” either because the school has too small of a tested population or assessment participation was below a certain threshold.

An Alternative Education Campus (AEC) is defined in statute as a school that has a specialized mission to serve a high-risk student population and has a nontraditional instructional delivery. Ninety percent of the student

<sup>9</sup> For more information on the history of Colorado’s SPF, including the calculations of each indicators, please visit CDE’s website at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/historyofperformanceframeworks>.



population must meet one or more of the conditions as outlined in statute to qualify for designation as an AEC<sup>10</sup>. In 2019-20, Denver Public Schools has six innovation schools designated as an AEC and currently is the only district of innovation with AECs. The Education Accountability Act authorizes CDE to conduct a distinct performance review, with additional indicators and adjusted expectations, for those schools that meet the definition of an AEC. To distinguish between school types in a final SPF rating, all AECs will have “AEC” noted in the rating name.

Table 8 lays out the SPF ratings assigned to all Colorado’s innovation schools. SPF ratings for 2015 are not available due to the transitioning of state assessments in 2015. Since many of the innovation schools previously operated as traditional district-run schools, bold borders have been inserted to illustrate the years in which SPF ratings were earned while operating with innovation status. When a traditional district-run school converts to an innovation school, the school’s SPF rating carries over to the newly designated innovation school. In addition, sometimes a district will open a new school as an innovation school. When opening as a new school, there are no applicable SPF ratings for that school prior to the school completing its first full year of operations. When a school first opens, the district is required to assign a plan type; most have assigned these new innovation schools an accountability rating of Performance by default (noted in the table with a ~ symbol). In addition, “N/A” is used in Table 8 to indicate those years in which an innovation school was not yet in operation.

TABLE 8: SPF Ratings from 2010 to 2019 for Schools Designated Innovation

Performance (P)	Improvement (I)	Priority Improvement (PI)	Turnaround (T)	Insufficient Data (ID)
*= Low Participation **= Decreased Due to Participation ~= District Assigned SPF Rating AEC= Alternative Educational Campus <b>Bolded Box</b> = SPF result was earned under innovation status <u>Underlined Rating</u> = Rating was revised				

Innovation School by District	Date of Approval	SPF 2010	SPF 2011	SPF 2012	SPF 2013	SPF 2014	SPF 2016	SPF 2017	SPF 2018	SPF 2019
<b>ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS</b>										
Thornton Elementary School	4/13/2017	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	P	P	I	I
<b>ADAMS-ARAPAHOE 28J</b>										
Aurora Central High School	5/11/2016	<u>PI</u>	<u>PI</u>	<u>PI</u>	<u>PI</u>	<u>PI</u>	T	<u>PI*</u>	PI	PI
Aurora West College Preparatory Academy	5/11/2016	P	P	P	P	P	P	<u>P</u>	P	P
Boston K-8 School	5/11/2016	<u>I</u>	PI	PI	PI	PI	P	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>
Crawford Elementary School	5/11/2016	I	PI	PI	PI	I	I	PI	I	I

<sup>10</sup> For more information on the accountability of AECs, please visit CDE’s website at: [http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/stateaccountabilityaecs\\_draft](http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/stateaccountabilityaecs_draft)



Innovation School by District	Date of Approval	SPF 2010	SPF 2011	SPF 2012	SPF 2013	SPF 2014	SPF 2016	SPF 2017	SPF 2018	SPF 2019
<b>ADAMS-ARAPAHOE 28J</b>										
Paris Elementary School	5/11/2016	PI	I	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	I	I
<b>BURLINGTON RE-6J</b>										
Burlington Elementary School	9/15/2016	P	P	P	P	P	P*	P*	PI*	P*
Burlington High School	9/15/2016	I	I	I	I	P	P*	I*	I*	I
Burlington Middle School	9/15/2016	I	PI	PI	P	I	I*	PI*	ID*	I*
<b>COLORADO SPRINGS 11</b>										
Wasson High School	8/11/2010	I	PI	PI	Clsd					
<b>DELTA COUNTY 50(J)</b>										
North Fork Montessori @ Crawford	5/14/2014	P	P	P	P	P	P*	P	P*	P
<b>DENVER COUNTY 1</b>										
Ashley Elementary School	3/11/2014	I	PI	I	PI	I	PI	PI	I	I
Beach Court Elementary School	8/16/2018	P	P	P	P	PI	I	I	I	I
Bear Valley International School	11/9/2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	I	I	I
Centennial A School for Expeditionary Learning	8/14/2013	PI	I	I	I	I	I	PI	I	I
Center for Talent Development at Greenlee	8/16/2018	P	T	I	I	I	PI	I	I	P
Cole Arts and Science Academy	8/13/2009	I	I	I	I	I	I	T	PI	T
Collegiate Preparatory Academy	6/8/2011	N/A	~P	P	I	PI	P	I*	T*	PI
Compassion Road Academy	3/12/2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	I	AEC: I	AEC: P	AEC: PI	AEC: P
Creativity Challenge Community	4/11/2012	N/A	N/A	~P	P	P	P	P	P	P
DCIS at Ford	5/11/2011	N/A	~P	P	PI	PI	I	P	P	I
DCIS at Montbello	5/11/2011	N/A	~P	I	I	I	I	T	PI	PI*
Denver Center for 21st-Century Learning at Wyman	6/8/2011	N/A	~P	AEC: T	AEC: T	AEC: T	AEC: I	AEC: P	AEC: I	AEC: I





Innovation School by District	Date of Approval	SPF 2010	SPF 2011	SPF 2012	SPF 2013	SPF 2014	SPF 2016	SPF 2017	SPF 2018	SPF 2019
<b>DENVER COUNTY 1</b>										
Denver Center for International Studies at Fairmont	3/12/2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	I	PI*	P	I	T
Denver Discovery School	3/11/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P	I	PI*	T*
Denver Green School Northfield	8/14/2019	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P
Denver Green School Southeast	5/12/2010	P	PI	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Denver Montessori Junior/Senior High School	3/12/2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	T	P	I	PI	T
Denver School of Innovation and Sustainable Design	11/11/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	I	PI
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Early College	9/15/2010	I	I	I	P	I	I	P	I*	PI**
Excel Academy	8/14/2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	AEC: T	AEC: I	AEC: I	AEC: I	AEC: P
Godsman Elementary School	8/3/2011	I	PI	P	P	P	I	I	I	I
Goldrick Elementary School	10/12/2016	P	I	PI	I	PI	P	P	P	I
Grant Beacon Middle School	5/9/2012	I	I	I	P	P	P	P	P	P
Green Valley Elementary School	8/3/2011	PI	I	P	P	P	I	P	P	P
Inspire Elementary	8/16/2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	T	P
International Academy of Denver at Harrington	10/12/2016	I	I	I	I	T	T	P	I	I
Isabella Bird Community School	6/11/2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P	I	P	P	I
Joe Shoemaker School	11/11/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	T*	T*	PI*	I
John H. Amesse Elementary	8/16/2018	PI	PI	I	T	T	PI	I	I	I
Kepner Beacon Middle School	11/9/2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P	P	I
Legacy Options High School	11/11/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	T*	AEC: I	AEC: PI	AEC: P
Manual High School	3/19/2009	I	I	I	T	T	PI**	PI*	PI	T



Innovation School by District	Date of Approval	SPF 2010	SPF 2011	SPF 2012	SPF 2013	SPF 2014	SPF 2016	SPF 2017	SPF 2018	SPF 2019
<b>DENVER COUNTY 1</b>										
McAuliffe International School	3/7/2012	N/A	N/A	~P	P	P	P	P	P	P
McAuliffe Manual Middle School	11/9/2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P	P	<u>PI</u>
McGlone Academy	8/3/2011	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	P	P	P	P	I*	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>
Merrill Middle School	5/8/2019	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	P	P	P	P	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>
Montclair School of Academics & Enrichment	3/1/2009	P	P	P	P	P	<u>I</u>	P	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>
Morey Middle School	8/16/2017	P	P	P	<u>I</u>	<u>PI</u>	P	P	P	<u>I</u>
Noel Community Arts School	5/1/2011	N/A	~P	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	PI**	<u>PI</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>PI</u>
Northeast Early College	6/8/2011	N/A	~P	P	P	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	PI	<u>I</u>
Northfield High School	10/7/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<u>I</u>	P	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>
Oakland Elementary	8/13/2014	N/A	P	<u>P</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>I</u>	P	P
Place Bridge Academy <sup>11</sup>	6/10/2015	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	P	P	P	P	P	PI	
Schmitt Elementary School	10/12/2016	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	PI	P	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>
Summit Academy	8/3/2011	P	AEC: <u>T</u>	AEC: <u>T</u>	AEC: <u>T</u>	AEC: <u>T</u>	AEC: <u>I</u>	AEC: <u>P</u>	AEC: <u>I</u>	AEC: <u>P</u>
Swigert International School	8/3/2011	N/A	~P	<u>P</u>	P	P	P	P	P	P
Trevista at Horace Mann	9/12/2012	<u>PI</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>PI</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>PI</u>	P	P	P	<u>I</u>
Valdez Elementary School	6/3/2010	<u>I</u>	P	P	P	<u>I</u>	P	P	P*	P
Valverde Elementary School	10/12/2016	<u>I</u>	PI	<u>I</u>	PI	<u>T</u>	<u>T</u>	PI	<u>I</u>	<u>P</u> *
Vista Academy	8/3/2011	N/A	~P	AEC: <u>I</u>	AEC: <u>I</u>	AEC: <u>I</u>	AEC: <u>I</u>	AEC: <u>I</u>	AEC: <u>I</u>	AEC: <u>P</u>
West Early College	3/7/2012	N/A	N/A	~P	<u>T</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>
West Leadership Academy	3/7/2012	N/A	N/A	~P	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>T</u>
Whittier ECE-8 School	9/15/2010	<u>I</u>	P	P	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>	P	P	P	<u>I</u>
Willow Elementary School	2/18/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P	P	P	P
<b>DISTRICT 49</b>										
Evans International Elementary School	8/8/2012	P	P	P	P	<u>I</u>	P	P	<u>I</u>	<u>I</u>

<sup>11</sup> Place Bridge’s innovation status was revoked on 6/30/2018 and therefore its 2019 SPF is not included.



Innovation School by District	Date of Approval	SPF 2010	SPF 2011	SPF 2012	SPF 2013	SPF 2014	SPF 2016	SPF 2017	SPF 2018	SPF 2019
<b>DISTRICT 49</b>										
Falcon High School	9/14/2016	P	P	P	P	P	P*	P	P	P
Falcon Middle School	6/13/2012	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Horizon Middle School	9/12/2012	P	P	P	P	P	I	P	P	P*
Odyssey Elementary School	6/13/2012	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	I	P
Remington Elementary School	8/8/2012	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Ridgeview Elementary School	6/13/2012	P	P	P	P	P	P	I	P	P
Skyview Middle School	6/13/2012	P	P	P	I	P	P	P	P*	P
Springs Ranch Elementary School	5/15/2013	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Stetson Elementary School	6/13/2012	P	P	P	P	P	P	I	I	P
Vista Ridge High School	6/13/2012	P	P	P	P	P	I**	P*	P	P
<b>GREELEY 6</b>										
Early College Academy	6/10/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P
Franklin Middle School	4/24/2017	PI	PI	PI	T	PI	PI	P	I	I
Fred Tjardes School of Innovation	3/8/2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	T*	PI
Martinez Elementary School	6/14/2017	I	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	P	P
Prairie Heights Middle School	4/24/2017	T	T	T	PI	PI	PI	PI	P	P
<b>HOLYOKE RE-1J</b>										
Holyoke Alternative School	6/10/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P	ID	ID	ID
Holyoke Elementary School	6/10/2015	P	P	P	P	P	I	P	P	P
Holyoke Senior High School	6/10/2015	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>JEFFERSON COUNTY R-1</b>										
Free Horizon Montessori	6/14/2018	P	P	I	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>KIT CARSON R-1</b>										
Kit Carson Elementary School	3/9/2011	P	P	P	P	P	ID*	ID*	ID*	ID*



Innovation School by District	Date of Approval	SPF 2010	SPF 2011	SPF 2012	SPF 2013	SPF 2014	SPF 2016	SPF 2017	SPF 2018	SPF 2019
<b>KIT CARSON R-1</b>										
Kit Carson Junior-Senior High School	3/9/2011	P	P	P	P	P	ID*	P*	P*	P*
<b>MANCOS RE-6</b>										
Mancos Early Learning Center <sup>12</sup>	12/15/2016									
Mancos Elementary School	12/15/2016	P	P	P	I	P	ID*	ID*	ID*	ID*
Mancos High School	12/15/2016	P	P	P	P	P	ID*	I**	P	P
Mancos Middle School	12/15/2016	P	P	P	P	I	ID*	ID*	ID*	ID*
<b>MONTROSE COUNTY RE-1J</b>										
Centennial Middle School	3/11/2015	P	P	P	P	P	P*	P	P	P
<b>PUEBLO CITY 60</b>										
Bessemer Elementary School	9/13/2017	T	T	PI	T	PI	PI	PI	I	PI
Franklin School of Innovation	9/15/2016	PI	PI	PI	T	T	P	I	P	PI
Heroes Academy PreK-5	9/13/2017	I	I	I	I	PI	T*	PI	T	Clsd
Irving Elementary School	9/15/2016	T	T	T	PI	T	P	P	P	T
Minnequa Elementary School	9/15/2016	I	I	PI	T	T	T	T	PI	I
Pueblo Academy of Arts	5/13/2013	T	T	T	I	T	I	T	I*	I
Risley International Academy of Innovation	5/16/2013	T	T	T	PI	T	T	T	T*	PI*
Roncalli Stem Academy	5/16/2013	PI	T	T	T	T	I*	T	T*	I
<b>THOMPSON R2-J</b>										
Monroe Elementary School	6/14/2017	I	I	PI	P	I	I	P	T	I
Winona Elementary School	6/14/2017	P	P	P	I	I	PI*	P*	PI	I
<b>WESTMINSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>										
Colorado STEM Academy	4/10/2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	I	P	P	P	P
John E. Flynn A Marzano Academy	5/10/2018	I	PI	P	P	P	PI	I	I	I
Metropolitan Arts Academy	5/8/2019	I	I	PI	I	I	PI	PI	P	P

<sup>12</sup> Mancos Early Learning Center does not serve a tested grade and therefore is not assigned SPF ratings.



Innovation School by District	Date of Approval	SPF 2010	SPF 2011	SPF 2012	SPF 2013	SPF 2014	SPF 2016	SPF 2017	SPF 2018	SPF 2019
<b>WESTMINSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>										
Westminster Academy for International Studies	6/14/2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~I	P	P	P
<b>WIDEFIELD 3</b>										
Grand Mountain School	1/9/2019	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P
Martin Luther King Jr Elementary School	1/9/2019	I	T	I	P	I	P	P	P	P
Talbott STEAM Innovation School	2/10/2016	P	I	PI	I	I	P	P	P	P
Widefield Elementary School of the Arts	1/9/2019	I	I	I	P	I	P	P	P	P

Data Source: Schoolview®, CDE Accountability Analytics Unit

### Academic Achievement and Growth

As previously mentioned, academic achievement and academic growth are two of the three performance indicators that make up the SPF. Mean scale scores (MSS) are used to represent academic achievement and focus on performance at a given point in time, whereas median growth percentiles (MGP) are used to represent academic growth and measure progress from year to year.

Currently, achievement and growth in the SPF are measured by the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) for elementary and middle schools, whereas high school achievement and growth are measured by the Colorado PSAT/SAT exam. In the achievement and participation calculations used in the SPF, results from the CoAlt Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment are also included and therefore included in this report as well. For more information on the use and calculation of MSSs and MGPs, please visit <https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/meansfactsheet> and <https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/growth-fact-sheet>.

CMAS is the state’s common measurement of student progress at the end of the school year in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, and Social Studies for third through eighth grade students. For this report, CMAS scores for ELA and math are included as they are the two subjects that provide both achievement and growth data over time. From 2015 to 2017, ninth grade students were administered CMAS as the common assessment but then transitioned to Colorado PSAT in 2018. You will see that shift in the presentation of the data.

CMAS ELA and Math have five performance levels: Exceeded Expectations, Met Expectations, Approached Expectations, Partially Met Expectations, and Did Not Yet Meet Expectations. Students who “Met Expectations” or “Exceeded Expectation” are considered to be on track for college and career readiness in the content areas tested. Students who take the CMAS assessment earn an overall scale score and percentile ranking. During the standard setting process, score ranges are set that define each performance level as displayed in Table 9.



TABLE 9: CMAS Performance Level Cut Scores for ELA and Math

Grade Level	Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Partially Met Expectations	Approached Expectations	Met Expectations	Exceeded Expectations
<b>ELA</b>					
Grade 3	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-809	810-850
Grade 4	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-789	790-850
Grade 5	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-798	799-850
Grade 6	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-789	790-850
Grade 7	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-784	785-850
Grade 8	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-793	794-850
<b>Math</b>					
Grade 3	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-789	790-850
Grade 4	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-795	796-850
Grade 5	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-789	790-850
Grade 6	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-787	790-850
Grade 7	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-785	788-850
Grade 8	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-800	801-850

Data Source: CMAS Performance Levels and Policy Claims Memo, CDE Assessment Unit

Table 10 contains data from the CMAS ELA and DLM exam for both innovation and non-innovation schools since Colorado began administering CMAS in the 2014-15 school year. Data sets from earlier state assessments are not included as comparisons between assessments are not possible given different cut scores and content standards from which the assessments were made.

TABLE 10: CMAS ELA and DLM Data from 2015 to 2019 by School Type and Grade Level

Year	Grade Level	Innovation Schools				Non-Innovation Schools			
		N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation	N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation
2015	Grade 03	1,806	728.3	N/A	97.10%	61,428	736.7	N/A	95.00%
	Grade 04	1,869	734.3	N/A	97.20%	61,029	741.8	N/A	94.80%
	Grade 05	1,771	732.9	N/A	96.90%	60,826	740.9	N/A	94.60%
	Grade 06	2,605	731.9	N/A	96.40%	58,877	740.1	N/A	92.30%
	Grade 07	2,593	732.5	N/A	94.70%	55,307	740.3	N/A	88.60%
	Grade 08	2,634	728.7	N/A	94.50%	52,441	740.2	N/A	84.80%
	Grade 09	1,292	719.3	N/A	77.60%	45,056	737.8	N/A	70.60%
2016	Grade 03	2,080	731.5	N/A	97.40%	63,366	735.9	N/A	95.80%
	Grade 04	2,006	736.7	52	97.00%	62,093	742.8	50	95.00%
	Grade 05	1,901	737.6	56	96.70%	60,879	745	50	94.20%
	Grade 06	2,904	738.5	58	96.10%	57,083	741.8	50	92.00%
	Grade 07	2,935	736.6	58	95.50%	55,493	743.5	50	88.80%
	Grade 08	2,863	738.5	59	94.30%	53,051	742.6	50	84.70%
	Grade 09	1,827	725.1	53	90.30%	47,050	737.1	50	73.50%
2017	Grade 03	2,855	730.1	N/A	97.10%	62,751	738.3	N/A	96.40%
	Grade 04	2,701	734.5	51	96.90%	62,366	743.1	50	95.70%
	Grade 05	2,583	736.9	52	96.70%	60,879	745	50	94.20%
	Grade 06	3,842	738	56	97.20%	57,083	741.8	50	92.00%



Year	Grade Level	Innovation Schools				Non-Innovation Schools			
2017	Grade 07	3,409	737	52	95.80%	55,493	743.5	50	88.80%
	Grade 08	3,280	738.5	55	95.80%	53,051	742.6	50	84.70%
	Grade 09	2,547	724.7	53.5	90.20%	47,504	736.6	50	75.50%
2018	Grade 03	3,121	729	N/A	96.40%	61,774	739.1	N/A	97.20%
	Grade 04	3,167	734.7	45	95.40%	62,805	745.5	50	96.70%
	Grade 05	2,986	736.2	49	96.10%	62,558	746.1	50	95.90%
	Grade 06	4,332	737.3	52	96.10%	59,446	743.1	50	94.00%
	Grade 07	4,290	740	53	95.40%	56,730	744.8	50	91.70%
	Grade 08	3,910	739.2	55	94.90%	54,946	743.5	50	88.40%
2019	Grade 03	3,082	732.3	N/A	96.40%	59,727	740	N/A	96.90%
	Grade 04	3,180	734.1	46	96.70%	61,372	745.5	50	96.70%
	Grade 05	3,218	738.8	53	96.10%	62,594	747.2	50	96.10%
	Grade 06	4,235	738.3	54	96.20%	60,396	743.4	50	94.50%
	Grade 07	4,266	741.8	57	95.50%	58,487	745.4	50	92.20%
	Grade 08	4,094	743.2	56	93.40%	54,827	745.1	49	88.40%

Data Source: 2015-2019 CMAS Math and ELA School Overall Results, CDE Accountability Analytics Unit

Table 11 contain data from the CMAS Math and DLM exam for both innovation and non-innovation schools since Colorado began administering CMAS in the 2014-15 school year.

TABLE 11: CMAS Math and DLM Data from 2015 to 2019 by School Type and Grade Level

Year	Grade Level	Innovation Schools				Non-Innovation Schools			
		N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation	N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation
2015	Grade 03	1,933	731.8	N/A	97.30%	62,391	736.9	N/A	95.20%
	Grade 04	1,886	730.7	N/A	97.40%	61,011	733.9	N/A	94.70%
	Grade 05	1,778	726.4	N/A	97.40%	60,782	733.4	N/A	94.60%
	Grade 06	2,535	727.6	N/A	93.90%	58,850	734.2	N/A	92.30%
	Grade 07	2,585	726.6	N/A	94.40%	55,150	734.5	N/A	88.40%
	Grade 08	2,621	722.7	N/A	94.00%	52,346	731.6	N/A	84.70%
	Grade 09	1,317	718.6	N/A	79.20%	44,593	730.1	N/A	69.90%
2016	Grade 03	2,094	732.1	N/A	98.30%	63,471	737.5	N/A	96.00%
	Grade 04	2,020	729.7	51	97.70%	62,146	734.3	50	95.20%
	Grade 05	1,928	732	51	98.10%	60,716	735.4	50	94.30%
	Grade 06	2,916	727.8	44	96.40%	58,005	733.4	50	91.70%
	Grade 07	2,931	726.4	49	95.30%	55,768	733.4	50	87.80%
	Grade 08	2,853	722.3	50	94.00%	51,593	730.5	50	83.10%
	Grade 09	1,841	720.3	51	91.10%	46,776	730.8	49	73.10%
2017	Grade 03	2,893	729.5	N/A	98.00%	63,035	739.5	N/A	96.60%
	Grade 04	2,774	726.7	47	98.00%	62,780	735.6	50	95.70%
	Grade 05	2,636	727.2	50	97.40%	61,367	735.6	50	94.30%
	Grade 06	3,917	724.3	42	97.80%	57,558	733.4	50	92.20%
	Grade 07	3,458	726.2	50	96.10%	55,910	733.8	50	88.80%
	Grade 08	3,316	723	54	95.90%	53,398	731.1	50	84.70%
	Grade 09	2,612	719.4	50	90.40%	47,841	732	50	75.40%



Year	Grade Level	Innovation Schools				Non-Innovation Schools			
		N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation	N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation
2018	Grade 03	3,153	730	N/A	96.70%	62,082	739.3	N/A	97.30%
	Grade 04	3,246	724.6	47	96.60%	63,269	734.9	50	96.80%
	Grade 05	3,036	727.6	51	96.50%	63,025	737.1	50	96.10%
	Grade 06	4,385	724.7	45	96.20%	59,914	733.3	50	94.20%
	Grade 07	4,339	727.5	53	95.20%	57,173	734.2	50	91.90%
	Grade 08	3,960	724.5	49	95.20%	55,263	734.3	50	88.40%
2019	Grade 03	3,087	730.1	N/A	96.10%	59,999	740	N/A	97.10%
	Grade 04	3,212	725.6	44	96.70%	61,792	735.3	50	96.80%
	Grade 05	3,265	728.9	52	96.40%	63,150	737.7	50	96.40%
	Grade 06	4,294	725.9	49	96.50%	60,880	732.6	50	94.70%
	Grade 07	4,342	729.5	55	95.80%	58,955	734.9	50	92.40%
	Grade 08	4,158	728.9	54	93.50%	55,185	735.9	50	88.50%

Data Source: 2015-2019 CMAS Math and ELA School Overall Results, CDE Accountability Analytics Unit

Colorado PSAT/SAT results are included in the achievement metrics for high schools, and growth metrics showing progress from PSAT 9 to PSAT 10 to SAT 11 are included under the growth indicator. MGP is available for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students beginning in 2017 and available for ninth through 11<sup>th</sup> grade students beginning in 2018. In the 2018-19 school year, ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students were administered the Colorado PSAT exam for both evidence-based reading and writing (EBRW) and mathematics. The Colorado SAT exam for EBRW and math was administered to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Tables 12 and 13 contains data from Colorado PSAT/SAT in EBRW and math for both innovation and non-innovation schools from 2017 to 2019.

TABLE 12: PSAT/SAT EBRW and DLM Data from 2017 to 2019 by School Type and Grade Level

Year	Grade Level	Innovation Schools				Non-Innovation Schools			
		N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation	N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation
2017	Grade 10	2,556	430.6	N/A	90.70%	56,218	480	N/A	91.90%
	Grade 11	2,097	457	46	91.80%	54,481	515.8	49	93.00%
2018	Grade 09	2,759	409.5	N/A	92.60%	60,731	455.7	N/A	93.80%
	Grade 10	2,527	436.6	38	92.70%	57,257	480.6	52	92.60%
	Grade 11	2,409	465.7	46	93.70%	55,137	514.7	50	92.80%
2019	Grade 09	2,968	415.9	N/A	95.30%	60,148	459.1	N/A	93.20%
	Grade 10	2,635	428.8	47	94.80%	58,181	477.8	50	92.20%
	Grade 11	2,446	455.4	42	95.20%	55,640	506.8	50	92.50%

Data Source: 2017-2019 PSAT and SAT School Overall Results, CDE Accountability Analytics Unit

TABLE 13: PSAT/SAT Math and DLM Data from 2017 to 2019 by School Type and Grade Level

Year	Grade Level	Innovation Schools				Non-Innovation Schools			
		N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation	N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation
2017	Grade 10	2,556	426.5	N/A	90.70%	56,220	469.8	N/A	91.90%
	Grade 11	2,097	446.5	40	91.80%	54,476	502.4	50	92.90%
2018	Grade 09	2,778	406.2	44	92.60%	60,842	448.3	50	93.80%
	Grade 10	2,554	417.8	42.5	92.70%	57,445	466	51	92.60%
	Grade 11	2,412	451.1	44	93.70%	55,138	502.4	51	92.80%
2019	Grade 09	2,983	407.3	47	95.30%	60,269	449.5	51	93.20%





Year	Grade Level	Innovation Schools				Non-Innovation Schools			
		N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation	N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation
2019	Grade 10	2,636	418.3	48	94.80%	58,179	463	53	92.20%
	Grade 11	2,445	440.6	45	95.10%	55,640	497.6	51	92.40%

Data Source: 2017-2019 PSAT and SAT School Overall Results, CDE Accountability Analytics Unit

## Part V: Recommendations for Legislative Changes

Colorado has seen steady growth in the number of innovation schools and innovation zones across the state, even with a few schools ending their innovation status. The Innovation Schools Act has been in implementation for over 10 years and calls for deeper research to understand whether innovation status affects the growth of student academic achievement. If the General Assembly would like to explore this question more fully, they could commission a study on the impact of innovation status on schools, school communities, and student learning statewide over time. Given that innovation is used for different purposes, it would be important that a study consider the initial objectives for why innovation status was sought by a school or community.

CDE does not have any specific recommendations for legislative changes at this time; however, there have been questions that have come up over time where the legislature could consider clarifying their intent, if the intent does not align with the current practice. Most of these questions were carried over from the 2019 Innovation Report and include:

- Can a school dissolve an innovation plan, or can it only be dissolved by the local school board? Currently, only a local school board can dissolve an innovation plan for a school.
- Are there any protections meant for a school that has an active innovation plan approved and wants to continue operating within the existing innovation plan? Currently, a school district board can revoke an innovation plan for a school even if a school is performing well under the plan.
- Can a school board modify an existing innovation plan without the approval of relevant stakeholders of the school? Currently, courts have acknowledged a school board has the ability to make minor revisions to innovation plans without requiring formal stakeholder approval.
- Are there any special procedures that should be required if a charter school wishes to convert to a district school under innovation status? Currently, a charter school’s request for innovation status would be processed in the same manner as a district-managed school’s request.
- Does adding or removing a school from an innovation zone require a comprehensive vote of the entire zone each time? Currently, there is no language in statute on how modifications within existing innovation zones should be handled.
- For innovation zones which have non-profit governing boards, what are the roles for these boards and how should they interact with the local board of education? Currently, innovation law does not mention governing boards for innovation zones. Denver Public Schools is the only district of innovation with non-profit governing boards for its innovation zones.
- Is there a specific deadline for when a local school district should accept innovation plans for the upcoming school year? Currently, innovation plans can be received at any time.



## Appendices

---

### Appendix A: Required Components of an Innovation Plan

An innovation plan must be submitted along with the following documents:

- A signed resolution from the local school board, signaling approval of the plan and intent to submit the plan to the State Board of Education for its approval;
- A separate document listing the state laws and State Board of Education rules that the school is seeking to waive, as well as “replacement plans” for each of those waivers (i.e., a description of how the school will comply with the intent of the waived statutes or rules and will be accountable to the state for such compliance); and
- A separate document showing the school’s prior year budget (if an already existing school) and a proposed budget, including funding required for all innovations to be implemented. This budget should include all costs associated with innovations, including staffing costs, and information about any local, state, federal or private funds the school anticipates receiving.

An innovation plan must also include the following components:

- A statement of the school’s mission and why designation as an innovation school would enhance the school’s ability to achieve its mission;
- A description of the innovations the school would implement;
- A description of the improvements in academic achievement that the school expects to achieve as a result of the innovations. (For example, a school may expect to see a narrowing in achievement gaps, or a decreased dropout rate, or increased scores on state or local assessments.);
- A list of the programs, policies, and/or operational documents at the school that would be affected by the innovations, and how these would be affected. For example, if a school proposes to extend the school year, that would affect the school’s calendar. Other examples of programs/policies/documents that may be affected include the following:
  - the research-based educational program the school would implement;
  - the length of the school day and year at the school;
  - student promotion and graduation policies;
  - assessment plans; or
  - staffing and/or compensation plans;
- A narrative of the school’s prior year budget (if the applicant is an already-existing school) and a proposed budget, including funding required for all innovations to be implemented.
- An estimate of the cost savings and increased efficiencies that the school expects to see as a result of the innovations if any;
- Evidence that a majority of the administrators employed at the school consent to designation as an innovation school;



- Evidence that a majority of the teachers employed at the school consent to designation as an innovation school. (Note: for a school that is seeking to waive one or more of the provisions of a collective bargaining agreement, the school plan must include evidence of approval of at least 60% of the members of the collective bargaining unit who are employed at the innovation school. The approval must be gathered by means of a secret ballot vote.);
- Evidence that a majority of the school accountability committee for the school consent to designation as an innovation school;
- A statement describing the level of support for designation as an innovation school demonstrated by other persons employed at the school, students and parents of students enrolled in the school, and the community surrounding the school;
- A description of any statutes or any regulatory or district policy requirements that would need to be waived for the public school to implement its identified innovations; and
- A description of any provision of the collective bargaining agreement at the school that would need to be waived for the school to implement its identified innovations.

#### **Additional Requirements for Innovation Zones Only**

For schools that are jointly seeking designation as an Innovation School Zone, the innovation plan must include all of the information described above, for each school in the Zone. In addition, the innovation plan for an Innovation School Zone must include:

- A description of how the schools will work together to achieve results that would be less likely if each school worked alone;
- An estimate of any economies of scale that may result from schools implementing innovations jointly; and
- A showing of how each school in the Innovation School Zone solicited input from students, parents, and community members concerning the selection of the schools in the zone and the strategies and procedures that would be used to implement and integrate innovations in schools within the zone.



## Appendix B: List of Innovation Schools

District Name	School Code	School Name	Grade Span	SBE Approved Date	Innovation End Date	SPF 2019
Adams 12 Five Star Schools	8842	Thornton Elementary School	K-5	4/13/2017		Improvement
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	1458	Aurora Central High School	9-12	5/11/2016		Priority Improvement
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	9396	Aurora West College Prep Academy	6-12	5/11/2016		Performance
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	0914	Boston K-8	K-8	5/11/2016		Performance
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	1948	Crawford Elementary School	K-5	5/11/2016		Improvement
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	6728	Paris Elementary	K-5	5/11/2016		Improvement
Burlington RE-6J	1144	Burlington Elementary School	K-5	9/15/2016		Performance*
Burlington RE-6J	1150	Burlington Middle School	6-8	9/15/2016		Improvement
Burlington RE-6J	1152	Burlington High School	9-12	9/15/2016		Improvement*
Colorado Springs District 11	9298	Wasson High School	9-12	8/11/2010	6/30/2013	N/A
Delta County 50(J)	1952	North Fork Montessori @ Crawford	PK-6	5/14/2014		Performance
Denver County 1	0418	Ashley Elementary School	PK-5	3/11/2014		Improvement
Denver County 1	0650	Beach Court Elementary School	PK-5	8/16/2018		Improvement
Denver County 1	1077	Bear Valley International School	6-8	11/9/2016		Improvement
Denver County 1	1400	Centennial, A School for Expeditionary Learning	PK-5	8/14/2013		Improvement
Denver County 1	3655	Center for Talent Development at Greenlee	PK-5	8/16/2018		Performance
Denver County 1	1785	Cole Arts and Sciences Academy	PK-5	8/12/2009		Turnaround
Denver County 1	1295	Collegiate Prep Academy	9-12	6/8/2011		Priority Improvement
Denver County 1	1489	Compassion Road Academy	9-12	3/12/2013		AEC: Performance
Denver County 1	3698	Creativity Challenge Community (C3)	K-5	4/11/2012		Performance
Denver County 1	2205	DCIS at Ford	PK-5	5/11/2011		Improvement
Denver County 1	2209	DCIS at Montbello	6-12	5/11/2011		Priority Improvement*
Denver County 1	2188	Denver Center for 21st Century at Wyman	6-12	6/8/2011		AEC: Improvement
Denver County 1	2129	Denver Center for International Studies at Fairmont	3-5	3/12/2013		Turnaround
Denver County 1	2227	Denver Discovery School	8-12	3/11/2015		Turnaround*
Denver County 1	2176	Denver Green School Northfield	6-8	8/14/2019		~Performance



Denver County 1	2125	Denver Green School Southeast	PK-8	5/12/2010		Performance
Denver County 1	2167	Denver Montessori Junior/Senior High School	6-8	3/12/2013		Turnaround
Denver County 1	2241	Denver School of Innovation and Sustainable Design (DSISD)	9-12	11/11/2015		Priority Improvement
Denver County 1	5605	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Early College	6-12	9/15/2010		Priority Improvement**
Denver County 1	2641	Excel Academy	9-12	8/14/2013		AEC: Performance
Denver County 1	3478	Godsman Elementary	PK-5	8/3/2011		Improvement
Denver County 1	3512	Goldrick Elementary School	PK-5	10/12/2016		Improvement
Denver County 1	3600	Grant Beacon Middle School	6-8	5/9/2012		Performance
Denver County 1	3641	Green Valley Elementary	PK-5	8/3/2011		Performance
Denver County 1	4253	Inspire Elementary School	K-2	8/16/2017		Performance
Denver County 1	3778	International Academy of Denver at Harrington	PK-6	10/12/2016		Improvement
Denver County 1	4213	Isabella Bird Community School	PK-5	6/11/2014		Improvement
Denver County 1	4383	Joe Shoemaker Elementary School	PK-5	11/11/2015		Improvement
Denver County 1	0220	John H. Amesse Elementary	PK-5	8/16/2018		Improvement
Denver County 1	4513	Kepner Beacon Middle School	6-8	11/9/2016		Improvement
Denver County 1	5044	Legacy Options High School	9-12	11/11/2015		AEC: Performance
Denver County 1	5448	Manual High School	9-12	3/19/2009		Turnaround
Denver County 1	5897	McAuliffe International School	6-8	3/7/2012		Performance
Denver County 1	5973	McAuliffe Manual Middle School	6-8	11/9/2016		Priority Improvement
Denver County 1	5685	McGlone Elementary	PK-5	8/3/2011		Improvement
Denver County 1	5826	Merrill Middle School	6-8	5/8/2019		Improvement
Denver County 1	6002	Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment	PK-5	3/19/2009		Improvement
Denver County 1	6098	Morey Middle School	K-6	8/16/2017		Improvement
Denver County 1	6239	Noel Community Arts School	6-12	5/11/2011	6/30/2019	Priority Improvement
Denver County 1	2757	Northeast Early College	9-12	6/8/2011		Improvement
Denver County 1	6368	Northfield High School	9-12	10/7/2015		Improvement
Denver County 1	8131	Oakland Elementary School	PK-5	8/13/2014		Performance
Denver County 1	7045	Place Bridge Academy	ECE-8	6/10/2015	6/30/2018	-
Denver County 1	7698	Schmitt Elementary School	PK-5	10/12/2016		Turnaround



Denver County 1	8145	Summit Academy	6-12	8/3/2011	AEC: Performance
Denver County 1	8453	Swigert International School	PK-5	8/3/2011	Performance
Denver County 1	8909	Trevista at Horace Mann	PK-8	9/12/2012	Improvement
Denver County 1	0408	Valdez Elementary School	PK-5	6/3/2010	Performance
Denver County 1	9050	Valverde Elementary School	PK-5	10/12/2016	Performance*
Denver County 1	8995	Vista Academy	6-12	8/3/2011	AEC: Performance
Denver County 1	9693	West Early College	6-12	3/7/2012	Improvement
Denver County 1	9702	West Leadership Academy	6-12	3/7/2012	Turnaround
Denver County 1	9548	Whittier K-8 School	K-8	9/15/2010	Improvement
Denver County 1	3991	Willow Elementary School	PK-5	2/18/2015	Performance
District 49	1618	Evans International Elementary School	PK-5	8/8/2012	Improvement
District 49	2908	Falcon High School	9-12	9/14/2016	Performance
District 49	2906	Falcon Middle School	6-8	6/13/2012	Performance
District 49	4102	Horizon Middle School	6-8	9/12/2012	Performance*
District 49	6483	Odyssey Elementary School	PK-5	6/13/2012	Performance
District 49	7317	Remington Elementary School	PK-5	8/8/2012	Performance
District 49	7339	Ridgeview Elementary School	PK-5	6/13/2012	Performance
District 49	7960	Skyview Middle School	6-8	6/13/2012	Performance
District 49	8010	Springs Ranch Elementary School	PK-5	5/15/2013	Performance
District 49	8266	Stetson Elementary School	PK-5	6/13/2012	Performance
District 49	8791	Vista Ridge High School	9-12	6/13/2012	Performance
Greeley 6	2657	Early College Academy	9-12	6/10/2015	Performance
Greeley 6	3162	Franklin Middle School	6-8	4/24/2017	Improvement
Greeley 6	3173	Fred Tjardes School of Innovation	K-8	3/8/2017	Priority Improvement
Greeley 6	6774	Martinez Elementary School	K-5	6/14/2017	Performance
Greeley 6	4438	Prairie Heights Middle School	6-8	4/24/2017	Performance
Holyoke RE-1J	2686	Holyoke Alternative School	7-12	4/24/2017	Insufficient Data
Holyoke RE-1J	4076	Holyoke Elementary School	K-6	6/10/2015	Performance
Holyoke RE-1J	4080	Holyoke Senior High School	7-12	6/14/2017	Performance
Jefferson County R-1	3201	Free Horizon Montessori	PK-8	6/14/2018	Performance
Kit Carson R-1	4738	Kit Carson Elementary School	K-5	3/9/2011	Insufficient Data



Kit Carson R-1	4742	Kit Carson Junior-Senior High School	6-12	3/9/2011		Performance
Mancos RE-6	6179	Mancos Early Learning Center	PK	12/15/2016		N/A
Mancos RE-6	5446	Mancos Elementary School	K-5	12/15/2016		Insufficient Data*
Mancos RE-6	5452	Mancos High School	9-12	12/15/2016		Performance
Mancos RE-6	5450	Mancos Middle School	6-8	12/15/2016		Insufficient Data*
Montrose County RE-1J	1392	Centennial Middle School	6-8	3/11/2015		Performance
Pueblo City 60	0822	Bessemer Academy	PK-3	9/13/2017		Priority Improvement
Pueblo City 60	0756	Franklin School of Innovation	PK-5	9/15/2016		Priority Improvement
Pueblo City 60	8030	Heroes K-8 Academy	K-8	9/13/2017	6/30/2019	School Closed
Pueblo City 60	4302	Irving Elementary	PK-5	9/15/2016		Turnaround
Pueblo City 60	5916	Minnequa Elementary School	PK-5	9/15/2016		Improvement
Pueblo City 60	5048	Pueblo Academy of Arts	6-8	5/16/2013		Improvement
Pueblo City 60	4376	Risley International Academy of Innovation	6-8	5/16/2013		Priority Improvement*
Pueblo City 60	7481	Roncalli STEM Academy	6-8	5/16/2013		Improvement
Thompson R-2J	5992	Monroe Elementary School	K-5	6/14/2017		Improvement
Thompson R-2J	9674	Winona Elementary School	K-5	6/14/2017		Improvement
Westminster Public Schools	4334	Colorado STEM Academy	3-8	4/10/2013		Performance
Westminster Public Schools	7810	John E. Flynn, A Marzano Academy	PK-8	5/10/2019		Improvement
Westminster Public Schools	4334	Metropolitan Arts Academy	PK-8	5/8/2019		Performance
Westminster Public Schools	9236	Westminster Academy for International Studies	PK-8	6/14/2017		Performance
Widefield School District 6	3692	Grand Mountain School	PK-8	1/9/2019		~Performance
Widefield School District 6	5602	Martin Luther King Elementary School	K-5	1/9/2019		Performance
Widefield School District 6	4346	Talbott STEAM Innovation School	K-5	2/10/2016		Performance
Widefield School District 6	9562	Widefield Elementary Schools of the Arts	K-5	1/9/2019		Performance

\*Indicates Low Participation

~Indicates District Assigned SPF Rating

Data Source: Schoolview®, CDE Accountability Analytics Unit

\*\*Indicates Decreased Due to Participation

AEC means Alternative Educational Campus