Secure Endorsement of the Proposed Timeline and Feedback/Input from the State Board of Education

Partners in the Rural Innovation Alliance have purposefully developed a project proposal that will strengthen the accountability system for students within the partner districts beginning with the State’s transitional hold on accountability and with sufficient time to complete an evaluation of the Project.

Development and Implementation of Student-Centered Accountability Project

During the first year of the Project, participating districts will work closely with local stakeholders to identify and adopt specific internal and external accountability indicators (based on Opportunity Gap\(^1\) distinguished criteria plus student growth), which will serve as district guidelines. The first year of the Project will also include building and fine-tuning collaboration between the partnering districts and CDE.

Implementation

During the second year of the Project, participating districts will implement an accountability system aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards, technical compliance expectations of the U.S. Department of Education, and the Opportunity Gap Distinguished Criteria.

Peer District Review

By the end of year two, the multi-district team of Project evaluators will complete site visits and provide feedback to local stakeholders.

Project Update

By the end of year two, the multi-district team of Project evaluators will complete site visits and provide updates to the Colorado Department of Education, and the State Board of Education. Updates will include areas of focus and differentiated success.

Implementation

During year three of the Project, participating districts will respond to the results of the Peer Review by further aligning their accountability system to the Colorado Academic Standards, the technical compliance expectations of the U.S. Department of Education, and the Opportunity Gap Distinguished Criteria. Districts will develop action plans to address areas of focus identified in the Peer Review.

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\(^{1}\) OpportunityGap.org
Project Report
By the end of the third year, a multi-district team of Project evaluators will complete site visits and generate a report to local stakeholders, the Colorado Department of Education and the State Board of Education. The report will reference areas of improvement including areas of focus and differentiated success.

Implementation
By the end of phase two of the Project, participating districts will respond to the results of the Peer Review and Project Report by further aligning systems of assessment and accountability. A replicable student centered accountability system will be made available to other rural districts. This system will “focus the attention of educators, parents, students, and other members of the community on maximizing every student’s progress toward post-secondary and workforce readiness and post-graduation success.”

Phase Two

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2 C.R.S. 22-11-1002 (1)(a)(2009) Legislative declaration