



Supporting Innovation in Accountability in Colorado

Reidy Interactive Lecture Series, September 2023

CEI Team

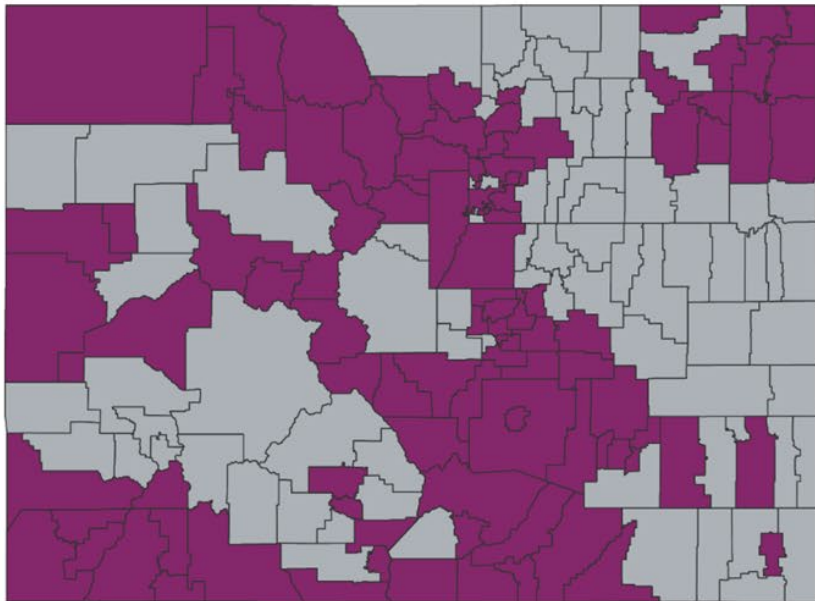


Elliott Asp
Senior Advisor

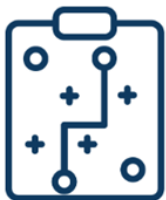


Karen Quanbeck
Vice President,
Statewide Partnerships

CEI



We turn the promise of public education into a tangible and vibrant reality to build stronger educational outcomes and a brighter, thriving future for Colorado.



Implementation Expert

We're more than just collaborators; we champion deep and meaningful partnerships with district leaders, school leaders, and educators to challenge conventional thinking on outcomes, collaboratively shape visions, empower new skillsets, and transform systems.



Strategic Partner

Valued for our systematic approach, we draw from our on-the-ground experience to empower and streamline the relationship between policy design and its practical implementation, redefining dialogues to be student-centered and forward-looking, driving new approaches to educational innovation and equity.



Statewide Convener

We unite educators, leaders, and key stakeholders through authentic collaboration and solutions-focused engagement in order to advance our education system and ignite the future of Colorado.

Today's Topics

The Colorado Context

Challenge of our current accountability system

History of “accountability improvement” efforts

Goal of our work

Where should we focus our attention

Next steps: Finding the “Goldilocks spot”

Colorado Context

Rural and small - 50% of districts have 500 students or less

Local control on “steroids”

History of innovation and national leadership

Innovation typically occurs at the local level

State role is to create opportunities for change and broker support

How Does Colorado Measure School Quality?

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Average scores on state assessments

- CMAS assessments in English language arts, math and science
- PSAT

For all students and disaggregated student groups

ACADEMIC GROWTH

Progress students make in their achievement on assessments from one year to the next. Growth is calculated on the following assessments:

- CMAS assessments in English language arts and math
- PSAT and SAT
- ACCESS assessment for all students who are still learning the English language

For all students and disaggregated student groups

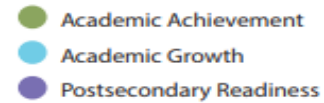
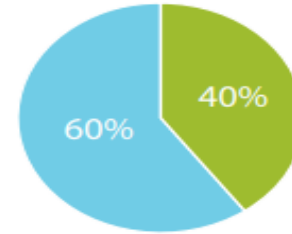
POSTSECONDARY READINESS

High school and district ratings depend on the following factors which represent how well schools are preparing students for college and the workforce.

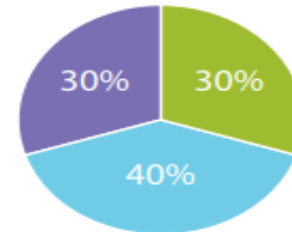
- Graduation rates
- Dropout rates
- Average scores on the SAT
- Matriculation into a college or career certificate program

For all students and disaggregated student groups

How Scores are Weighted for Elementary and Middle Schools

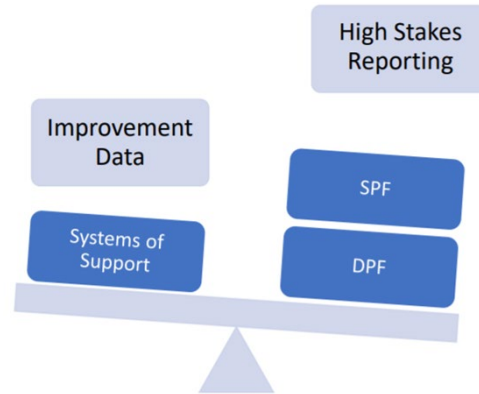


How Scores are Weighted for High Schools and Districts

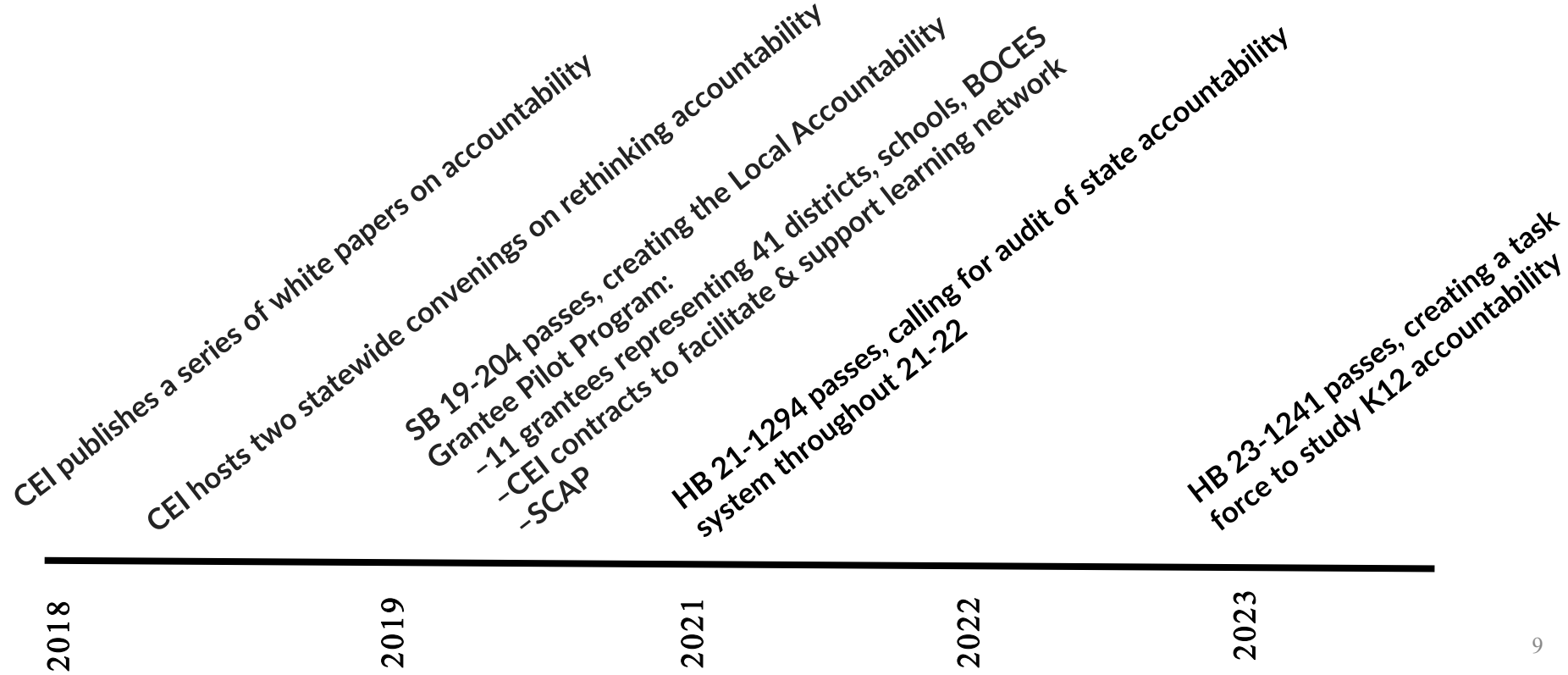


The Challenge

Create a system that provides data to deploy resources and motivation to continuously improve without the “unintended” consequences associated with high stakes testing/ranking.



The History: Attempts to improve



Good news and bad news

Student-Centered Accountability Project (SCAP)

- Educator buy-in
- Community support
- Transparency

Adams 14 - state control and reorganization

- Infighting about who is in charge
- Little improvement
- Loss of students

Goal for CEI's Accountability Work

Colorado communities embrace a broader understanding of school quality and student success that leads to greater local ownership of school and district improvement processes and improved performance.

How do you want to spend your time ?

Purposes, Technical Quality and Impact on Behavior



What have we learned from the Innovators?

- Districts/schools will devote tremendous amounts of time, energy and resources to accountability and data collection if they believe it will provide relevant and actionable information that will inform authentic improvement efforts
- Meaningful involvement in the process by educators and community members is critical
- Data can be useful for improvement even if it does not meet strict technical requirements for quality

Common Themes of Local Innovation

- **Diversification of Measures**
- **Grounded in Local Priorities and Context**
- **Timely and Actionable for School Improvement**
- **Responsive to Parents**
- **Strong Focus on Equity**

Some things to consider

- Campbell had it right
- Weave families, students, and communities into accountability design and implementation
- Include local measures, locally determined with some standardization (state regional resource banks for climate, attitudes, peer review models etc.)
- Sacrifice comparability for learning in “like” groups
- Remember that process matters

Finding “Goldilocks”

Focus on high school

- Rethink secondary measurement to ensure career & college readiness
- Pay attention to the focus on high school pathways & career-connected learning
- Incorporate measures of culture/ climate
- Include indicators of equity

Resources

S-CAP Website

- <https://sites.google.com/view/scapcolorado/home>

Graduation Guidelines Menu

- <http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/grad-me>

Reimagining Education Accountability

- [Reimagining Education Accountability | The Colorado Education Initiative \(coloradoedinitiative.org\)](http://coloradoedinitiative.org)