COLORADO
Department of Education

VISION
All students graduate ready for college and careers, and prepared to be productive citizens of Colorado.

MISSION
Ensuring equity and opportunity for every student, every step of the way.

Meeting Logistics & Desired Outcomes

Meeting: ESSA Committee of Practitioners
Date & Time: Thursday, April 22nd at 10:00am
Location: Virtual: Zoom

Meeting Leads: Laura Gorman (Chair), Joshua Shoemaker (Co-Chair), Tammy Giessinger and Jeremy Meredith (CDE Co-Leads)

Objective: To allow the Colorado Department of Education the opportunity to provide updates to and elicit recommendations from the Colorado Committee of Practitioners regarding relevant and timely issues related to CDE's responsibilities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA).

Agreed Upon Norms:
- Be present and engage fully.
- Let everyone have a voice and be heard! Don't talk over each other.
- When not talking, turn off mic on your computer/phone to minimize background noise.
- Begin and end meetings on time. Stick to times allotted for topics, to the extent possible, or develop next steps for moving the work forward if running out of time.
- Use time productively.
- Assume positive intent and ask for clarification when something lands wrong.
- Come prepared.
- The chair of the meeting should enforce the norms.

Attendees: Clint Allison, Michelle Barkemeyer, Amy Beruan, Erich Dorn, Paul Freeman, Laura Gorman, John McKay, Heathre Palige, Moses Regidor, Arlene Salyards, Joshua Shoemaker, Christy Sinner, Mitzi Swiatkowski, Clare Vickland.

Feel free to share your agenda topic submissions through the submission request form. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Agenda Items and Next Steps

Headline Time Presenters	Agenda Description	Type of Agenda Item Format Prep	Summary/Notes
Housekeeping **10:00–10:25am** *Laura Gorman & Josh Shoemaker Tammy Giessinger & Jeremy Meredith*	CoP reviews February meeting minutes and votes. Discuss CoP Membership: • Revisiting bylaws and member commitments. Survey will be shared following meeting to capture selections. • May Meeting we will discuss member selections, vote, and consider recruitment factors for vacancies.	**Type:** Decision Items **Prep:** Review February 25 meeting minutes and membership time commitments	• The February 25th Meeting Minutes are approved. Feedback from CoP Members: • Holly Goodwin is retiring this year. As the only private school representative on the CoP committee, Holly is hopeful that her replacement might apply to the position.
Assessment & Accountability and USDE Waivers, EASI Supports & Eligibility **10:25-11:05am** *Nazie Mohajeri-Nelson, Laura Meushaw*	Nazie will lead a discussion on ESSA State Plan updates, as well as assessments and ESSA identification. Laura will solicit feedback from CoP on considerations for identified schools' eligibility for supports (via EASI).	**Type:** Discussion and Feedback **Prep:** N/A	Presentation Highlights: Waiver Updates: • Assessment Waiver approved March 26th. Waiver permits for alternating grades of English Language Art and Math assessments; no assessment results for accountability purposes. • Federal Accountability Waiver approved April 21st. No new schools will be identified until fall of 2022; Schools will be exited due to graduation rates only. EASI 2021-2022 Planning: • Eligible schools remain the same as 2019-2020 list of schools, except for those removed for graduation rates and Targeted Support and Improvement schools that were identified in 2017-2018 or 2018-2019 and are now being exited by the LEA. • Considerations for prioritization include continuation of support for an additional year (CFS, Turnaround), schools that have not received funding,

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			and schools that participated in Exploration. Feedback from CoP Members • Districts follow own process for vetting vendors. • Prefer districts not be required to select from a list of vendors CDE has provided. Recommended that providers are required to go through CDE training, however, do not necessarily have to be on list. • Which supports for low grad rates? Some schools identified decline EASI; Support needed is not always in the form of diagnostic review. - CDE Response: Expanded supports are provided through CFS and AEC diagnostic reviews.

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Monitoring Indicator Discussions and Identification for 21-22
 	
11:05am-12:05pm
 	
Nazie Mohajeri-Nelson, Tammy Giessinger
	Nazie and Tammy will lead discussion with CoP on ESEA & ESSER Monitoring:
	
	• Seeking CoP input on updated indicators before they go to EDAC for approval.
	• Overview of ESSER reporting requirements and some examples of evidence. Update on identification and timelines.
		Type: Update and Feedback
		Prep: Review ESEA & ESSER Monitoring Indicators document
			Indicator Status Update:
			• Five indicators have been updated for ESEA and to include ESSER:
			– ID 9.1 Use of Funds
			– SE 9.11 Annual Consultation
			– ID 9.9 Implementation of Funds (GEPA)
			– FR 1.7 Proportionate Share
			– FR 9.4 Non-Public Use of Funds
			• CDE to seek EDAC approval in May and present to the field before fall.
			
			Feedback from CoP Members:
			ID 9.1 Use of Funds:
			• Demonstration of Compliance: Fair market value varied pre/post pandemic.
			   - CDE Response: Add qualifier that fair market value is aligned with area and timeframe.
			• Include language regarding environment of pandemic.
			   - CDE Response: Add qualifier that ESSER monitoring will take into consideration that reasonableness is in the context of the pandemic environment.
			• Funds were already spent; this seems backwards and late.
			   - CDE Response: CDE's guidance to the field from the beginning of ESSER has been that use of funds must be allowable, reasonable, and allocable, which

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			are the criteria for monitoring.
			• Examples of evidence and bidding requirements vary per district. Request districts produce purchasing policy. Inquire if they have purchases that exceeded guidelines.
			- CDE Response: We will add qualifier that documentation of obtaining bid is in accordance with local purchasing guidelines.
			• Documentation that similar expenses paid with other funds are in similar price range: Pricing varies pre/post COVID. Supplanting does not exist in ESSER.
			- CDE Response: We have added an intro, but will also add to each section, language that examples are options and not a requirement to use all of them. CDE is looking for reasonableness of expenses and that activities/items paid with ESSER/ESEA are not at a higher rate.
			• District turn over; not staffing up. Possibility that staff have limited familiarity with ESSER. Recommended to separate ESEA and ESSER indicators. Updating the format on the front end, may eliminate some confusion.

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			- CDE Response: We will provide separate condensed ESEA and ESSER indicators. Maintain master combined document for internal purposes.
			
			SE 9.11 Annual Consultation:
			• ESEA specific. With ESEA, the consultation for Non-public crosses district boundaries. For ESSER, it is in district boundaries.
			  - CDE Response: Include in ESEA version, omit indicator from ESSER version.
			• Update verbiage "invitation to non-public schools", to be clearer.
			  - CDE Response: Update to "Evidence of communication for non-public schools to participate."
			• In blue indicator, add "ESSER III is not applicable."
			  - CDE Response: Indicators will be updated in final doc.
			
			ID 9.9 Implementation of Funds (GEPA):
			• GEPA statement: Update verbiage "implemented", to "is implementing."
			• Previous app cycles allowed for a narrative of GEPA statement. Current application limits to one subgroup; limiting how robust a GEPA statement can be. Consider when

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			developing future Cons App. • GEPA statement declared steps or actions to be implemented by district, may be incompatible due to COVID. Consider adding language around limitations, and the effects of circumstances on district operations. - CDE Response: Districts are provided opportunity to revise or update GEPA statement, if impacted by COVID and not implementable. Revisit opportunity during Office Hours to provide clarity of expectations. • Add text box in ESSER III application, to address all. **FR 1.7 Proportionate Share:** • No changes. **FR 9.4 Non-Public Use of Funds:** • Update language in demonstration of compliance: Described in ESSER application, as opposed to consultation agreement. • Add example of ongoing communication with non-public school, e.g., collection of budget tool or action plan from non-public school. • CDE Response: Add language that any examples of planning documents or budgets built in collaboration with non-public schools. ESEA Proposed Timeline:

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			• Since 2018-2019, 24 districts have completed ESEA monitoring.
			• In 2020-2021, CDE gave districts who were previously identified and in process, the option to continue monitoring. Six LEAs are wrapping up monitoring this year; three districts have been identified for participation next year (2021-2022). No new districts will be identified for ESEA monitoring in 2021-2022.
			• CDE is resetting the timeline for all remaining districts starting in 2022-2023, spanning over 5 years. *Unless districts are qualified for Tier II or III.
			• Districts that sign over funds to a BOCES may be monitored together in one year (if that is the preferred method by the BOCES and districts in each BOCES).
			ESSER Monitoring Proposed Timeline Options:
			  - Option A: By indicator bucket.
			  - Option B: By award size (small to large).
			  - Option C: Based on when Funds are Drawn Down.
			• Feedback from some BOCES that option A is preferred for ESEA (not necessarily ESSER), as districts could collaborate and share exemplars.
			
			Feedback from CoP Members:
			• What is the timeframe for notifying districts being

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			ESEA monitored in 2022-2023?
			   - CDE Response: We hope to post proposed timeline in the Summer. Districts being monitored in 2022-2023 will receive an official notification next Spring. Each spring will notify districts on the list for the subsequent year.
			• Do we have to monitor everyone or select group?
			   - CDE Response: Everyone is monitored, but not to the same level. LEAS with smaller allocations will be monitored in a minimal way; More intense monitoring would be conducted for LEAs with larger allocations.
			• Differentiate options between BOCES, and other districts in State.
			   - CDE Response: We will discuss internally and map out options.
			• Rural districts would benefit from Option B, i.e. smallest awards.
			• Make Syncplicity folders available to capture documents in advance.
			• Requested to revisit at May meeting, if CDE will consider LEA external auditor reports satisfactory to meet monitoring requirements. APS provided report and

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			consented to sharing the report with internal CDE monitoring team.
Lunch			

District Needs
 	
12:30-12:45pm
 	
Mark Kirkemier
	What is it that CDE can help support your district on? What would be the highest leverage, best things to support on?	**Type:** Update/ Discussion/ Feedback
		Prep: N/A
			Feedback from CoP Members:
			• Where does the department stand in office-based work vs. being remote? Unit communication is delayed being remote. Recommended to add communication to Beeline, notifying field of best ways to contact CDE staff.
			   - CDE Response: We have a phased approach to returning to the office, beginning in June. Around September, we plan to return all staff to work at some point.
			   - The unit will publish CDE cell phone numbers on the website and update out going voicemail messages to include cell numbers.
			• BOCES will need support with ESSER, specifically business managers. Requested to schedule meetings with business manager. EC BOCES holds meetings once a quarter.
			   - CDE Response: Once a quarter, we can dedicate Office Hours targeted to Business Managers of smaller, and

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			rural districts. CDE Regional Contacts can also come to the BOCES meetings, by request, to answer questions. • Regarding monitoring, will there be any other documentation that should be collected outside of normal processes? Recommended CDE communicate updates more frequently. - CDE Response: CDE will consider methods to uptick the frequency of communications, e.g., weekly and/or as needed brief emails providing updates.
Migrant Education Updates **12:45-1:00pm** *Tomas Mejia*	Tomas will share three documents from Migrant Education Program: • Service Design Plan • Comprehensive Needs Assessment • 3-year planning doc	**Type:** Update **Prep:** Review MEP Documents	• First time MEP has implemented 3-year application. • Application due May 31st. • MEP requests Cop members: • Confirm Agricultural Survey is in registration packets at districts and schools. - MEP summer services must be supplemental activities, benefiting Migrant students. Consider supplemental activities. Feedback from CoP Members: • Consider supporting students engaging in community rec programs offered through city. - CDE Response: Services must be educational.

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			Community activities are an option; however, students are experiencing screen fatigue.
Ed Flex Update, EDT & Other Waivers **1:00-1:20pm** *Jeremy Meredith*	Jeremy will provide an update on the Ed Flex application, process, deadlines, and reviewer considerations.	**Type:** Update **Prep:** N/A	• CDE requests Ed Flex applications be submitted within 15 months of the initial grant period start date, for the relevant program in which the waiver pertains to. • Individual programmatic waiver: Each title program will require its own application. • Three-week public comment period is required. • Ed Flex guidance to be released in tandem with application. • Direct communications to be sent to field in May 2021 via Beeline, CDE update, and email.
Comparability Exceptions Collection tool **1:20-1:35pm** *Kathyrn Wisner*	Kathryn will share the comparability tool to collect exceptions from districts and solicit feedback from CoP.	**Type:** Update/ Discussion/ Feedback **Prep:** N/A	• Comparability Exceptions Collections tool available in Smartsheet form. • Form required for each school for which the districts is requesting an exception. **Feedback from CoP Members:** • Comparability training requested, to include HR and Feds Program staff. - CDE Response: Conduct two training sessions - Mid July, and late August/early September.

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May Meeting Discussion and Closing **1:35-1:45pm** *Laura Gorman & Joshua Shoemaker*	Next meeting: May 13. • Membership voting/recruitment • Set group meeting dates for next year (Doodle poll); select months, determine virtual or in-person Josh and Laura offer reflections on the day's discussion and close the meeting.	**Type:** Update/ Discussion/ Feedback **Prep:** None	• CoP membership survey to be emailed to members the week of April 26th. **Feedback from CoP Members:** • May meeting agenda item: Department of Agriculture extended the Free Meal Program, consider implications for Cons App.