



Continuously evaluating school performance and holding schools accountable for success is crucial to ensuring all students have access to a high-quality education that meets their needs.

This newsletter highlights the ways states are improving school accountability systems and working with stakeholders to ensure systems are changing with the needs of the students they serve.

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State Spotlights



The **New Mexico** Public Education Department has included the growth of the bottom 25 percent of students in each school as an additional indicator in its accountability system.

By incorporating this focus on the lowest-performing students in every school, the state helps ensure that the highest-needs students receive support and attention.

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In **Tennessee**, 40 percent of a school's rating is now based on the results of its low-income, special education, and African-American, Hispanic, and Native American students.

This decision came after an analysis showed the combined group led to the inclusion of approximately 43,000 more students in the Tennessee accountability system who otherwise would not have been counted.

Tennessee has used this combined subgroup since 2012 and has since seen a narrowing of achievement gaps.

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The **Louisiana** Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved the adoption of a new accountability system for alternative education schools across the state.

In the new accountability system, performance scores will be based on students' progress on state assessments, attainment of postsecondary credentials, and accumulation of core academic credits in one year and over time.

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Must Read

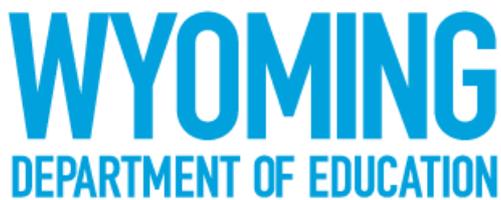


CCSSO's *Establishing Performance Standards for School Accountability Systems* describes a systematic process for establishing performance standards and includes case studies of two states - **Nevada** and **Utah** - that have implemented the framework.

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Tools & Resources



NASBE highlights the work of the **Mississippi** State Board of Education and the **Wyoming** Department of Education to include student growth as a school quality indicator in their respective accountability systems.

Mississippi approved an accountability plan with a student growth formula that calculates scores based on annual changes in reading and mathematics among five levels of proficiency.

Wyoming's formula for measuring academic growth includes student growth percentiles that calculate each student's growth in reading and math based on how it compares to peers with similar grades and test score histories.

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To help ensure that parents understand how their child's school is performing, ExcelinEd published an A-F school grading policy that measures overall student performance and progress, graduation rates, and college and career readiness.

With toolkits, presentations, and playbooks on school accountability, ExcelinEd empowers stakeholders with transparent and informative resources.



For example, **Mississippi** schools receive grades and report cards similar to the way students do. Schools within the state are evaluated on an A-F scale in areas like proficiency, growth, English language progress, acceleration, college and career readiness, and graduation rate.

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EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES

Your education policy team.

To provide states information on how they can effectively develop accountability systems for alternative schools, Education Commission of the States published a resource that outlines information about alternative education accountability in ESSA plans, as well as state examples from **Colorado, Texas, North Carolina**, and more.

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We want to hear from you!

Send your state's stories or organization's resources to communications@ccsso.org



The States Leading campaign celebrates the progress states are making toward providing equitable education for all students through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and innovative policies in other key areas of education, such as early childhood education, teacher preparation, and career readiness, among others.

Thank you to our proud partners:

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