

# Denver Public Schools E-2 Teaching and Learning Monitoring Report

September 2023

Board policy is indicated in **bold** typeface throughout.

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Ends policy E-2, "Teaching and Learning" according to the schedule set out. I certify that the information contained in this report is true, and represents compliance with all aspects of the policy unless specifically stated otherwise.

Signed *Alex Nunn*, Superintendent

Date 9/29/2023

**As a result of the effects of the global pandemic on teaching and learning, we envision an accelerating learning experience by providing a culturally and linguistically sustaining education that enables us to re-envision rather than repeat the district's historical inequities to provide an equitable education for ALL of our students. Students will become independent learners who use their skills and knowledge to affect change in our global society.**

To this end, we expect:

- 1. All students will demonstrate a well-rounded educational experience to include the arts, literacy, numeracy and critical thinking skills at or above grade level, both as a whole and by sub-groups. Students demonstrating below grade level learning will demonstrate greater than a year's growth each school year.**
- 2. All students will have exposure to curricula that are culturally and linguistically relevant and accurately reflect the contributions and challenges of others based on religion, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, language and ability.**
- 3. All students will have opportunities to demonstrate their agency to affect change as a product of their learning.**
- 4. Students with disabilities will receive the necessary resources and support to eliminate barriers to success.**
- 5. All students will demonstrate grade-level competence on state and district assessments. Scholars demonstrating below grade level competence will demonstrate significant academic growth each school year.**

## Definitions

- 1. BIPOC** - Black, Indigenous, People of Color
- 2. Student Agency** - The concept of student agency, as understood in the context of the OECD Learning Compass 2030, is rooted in the principle that students have the ability and the will to positively influence their own lives and the world around them. Student agency is thus defined as the capacity to set a goal, reflect and act responsibly to affect change.
- 3. Accelerating learning** - ensuring students consistently receive grade-level materials, tasks and assignments along with appropriate scaffolds that make the work accessible. More specifically, instead of sending students backward to fill in all the potential gaps in their learning, leaders and teachers should focus on filling in only the most critical gaps—and not in isolation, but at the moment they're needed
- 4. Culturally and linguistically sustaining education** - an education that perpetuates, Family of Schoolsters, cultivates and sustains the cultural and linguistic strengths of the students we serve. Students see themselves reflected in our curriculum and learn about the history of their communities and contributions

to our nation and world. Students see their native language(s) as an asset that we build upon and cultivate through our commitment to bilingual education.

5. **Re-envision** - rather than repeating practices that perpetuate historical inequities, re-envisioning is innovation that provides an alternative path forward focused on the decentering of whiteness and Eurocentrism to bring marginalized communities from the margins to the center of everything we do
6. **Historical Inequities** - deeply rooted systems of oppression that have historically resulted in inequitable access and distribution of opportunities and resources for those who represent marginalized identities, including race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, language and ability
7. **Equitable Education** - fair and impartial access to resources and opportunity to ensure the elimination of the predictability of success or failure for our students
8. **Independent Learners** - ability to take responsibility for one's own learning utilizing strategies and processes for tackling new tasks
9. **Global Society** - conditions under which society is considered a single, international entity
10. **Well-rounded educational experience** - creates learning for the whole-child, including emphasis on both academic and social emotional opportunities for growth
11. **Critical thinking skills** - intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully, conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action
12. **Sub-groups** - a distinct subset of a larger group
13. **Culturally and linguistically relevant** - ensuring classroom, school, and district environments and coursework are representative and inclusive of the diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and languages of students
14. **Student Agency** - giving voice and choice in learning through activities that are meaningful and relevant to learners, driven by their interests, and often self-initiated with appropriate guidance from teachers
15. **Multilingual Learners** - Children and adults who use multiple languages on a regular basis in school and in contexts outside of school
16. **Significantly Below Grade Level (SBGL)** - The READ Act requires the creation and implementation of an individual intervention plan, called a [READ plan](#), for students in K-3 identified as having a significant reading deficiency (SRD). [Colorado's READ Act](#) requires that a READ plan acquired in grades K-3 remains in place until a student has reached grade level reading competency.

### Standard - RI Must-haves

- The standard of measurement for one or more parts of the policy
- The level of achievement on the standard for one or more parts of the policy
- The rationale for the standard of measurement for one or more parts of the policy
- The rationale for the level of achievement on the standard for one or more parts of the policy

### TP.2 Reasonable Interpretation

Learning over the past two years has been disrupted globally. Students have lost significant ground in their learning trajectories in their content areas. Some estimate that BIPOC and MLL students have lost as much as 12 months of learning. This is unprecedented and requires districts to close academic gaps while facing the fallout from the spread of a pandemic and unvaccinated community populations. An additional challenge involves the lack of reliable state assessment data in order to set targets for achievement. Nonetheless, our primary goal is to educate children, support families, and change lives by preparing students for college or careers, all in a safe environment.

Our goals for 21-22 have been firmly established and achieved. One of our tasks was to clearly define a well-rounded education for students of DPS. Our work culminated in the following definition:

### DPS Definition of a Well-rounded Education

#### A well-rounded education is defined as follows:

All DPS students will experience a well-rounded education when students

- are challenged academically;
- learn to express themselves in a healthy way;
- have access to a safe, social space;

- experience perspectives from a diverse range of cultures and peoples;
- have access to a healthy learning environment;
- know how to access resources to support a healthy learning environment;
- have access to a variety of relevant extracurricular activities;
- have the agency to push back and challenge authority respectfully;
- are engaged in critical thinking and know how to apply this knowledge appropriately;
- have the opportunity to experience a diverse selection of the Arts.
- have a wide range of learning experiences;
- are able to apply an array of knowledge to a variety of situations;
- have the opportunity to develop strong character traits and a growth mindset;
- have opportunities to teach themselves;
- have the ability and space to share their learning and knowledge with their peers;
- experience strong student-teacher relationships;
- feel mentally & emotionally supported;
- have opportunities to solve complex trans-disciplinary problems; and
- have healthy relationships with teachers through their learning experiences.

For the 22-23 school year, our goals and objectives are to continue our work from the 21-22 school year and to continue to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on learning. We are better prepared as an organization to address interruptions in student learning and staffing. In alignment with the Strategic Roadmap, we are now focusing on the Student Experience to address teaching and learning.

## Outcomes:

Compliance with this End Statement will be achieved for 22-23 when we:

1. a. Set achievable targets in the 2022-23 SY for achievement to have students perform at grade-level and above on the Colorado State Assessments, including CMAS, CSLA, READ Act and COSAT. This is a reasonable target since it re-establishes our ability to set meaningful and measurable goals for student achievement.
- b. Establish a plan for consistency in the district assessment system that facilitates progress monitoring and teaching and learning to indicate whether or not students are on track to meet grade-level targets in math and literacy. This is a reasonable level of achievement as we have lost the ability to anticipate student performance as a result of the effects of COVID-19.
- c. Now that we have an established definition of a well-rounded educational experience for students, we can survey students to determine the extent to which we are meeting their needs with regard to this definition.
2. Reduce the number of students reading below grade level in K-3 as measured by READ ACT data by 2%.
3. Ensure that all MLLs receive high-quality native-language instruction, Integrated Content Language Development and English Language Development as demonstrated by an ELA program review. This is a reasonable standard of measurement as it is the most thorough manner in which to measure compliance to the Modified Consent Decree.
4. Observe that students in district-managed schools will report experiencing curricula that are culturally and linguistically relevant via Your Voice Survey. This is a reasonable standard of measurement and level of achievement as it focuses on student experiences rather than teacher plans and requires the use of a survey to capture student responses.
5. Observing 50% of students in district-managed schools will report that they have “student agency” via Your Voice Survey. This establishes a Student Agency Index that captures student agency based on five key questions about their learning. The standard of measurement is reasonable because it focuses on what students experience. The target of 50% is set based on the fact that this is a new measure being

introduced for the first time.

6. Observe that Students with Disabilities receive the necessary supports, as demonstrated by compliance with CDE standards. As a result of the pandemic, our district faced staffing shortages which prevented our Students w/ Disabilities from receiving full services. This standard of measurement and target are reasonable since it is a requirement of state and federal law and we will need to address our staffing shortages.
7. Observe students below grade level growing at the 65% percentile or higher. The rationale for an alternative to Greater than a year's growth is as follows: The CMAS and P/SAT assessments are not designed to indicate more than a year's worth of growth. For Colorado, growth is not expressed in test score point gains or losses, but in student growth percentiles. Using the Colorado Growth Model, students with the same achievement history are compared to each other, helping us understand whether their growth is high, typical, or low. Per the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) there is currently no single "rule of thumb" for deciding what are low, typical, or high growth median growth percentiles, and it is important to recognize that relatively 'high' growth may not be sufficient to move students to proficiency. As defined by Colorado State Board of Education rule, a student growth percentile for a single child that falls within the 35th-65th percentile range reflects Typical Growth, and a student growth percentile for a single child that is above the 65th percentile reflects High Growth.

### Colorado Measures of Academic Success

Measure	Family of Schools or District Managed Schools	3rd-8th Baseline	3rd-5th Grade		6th-8th Grade		Report Timing	Justification
			Target	Baseline	Target	Baseline		
<b>1.2.1a %Proficient Math: CMAS Grade 3-8 overall</b>	Family of Schools (all schools)	29%	33%	31%	28%	26%	August	Our Strategic Roadmap outlines a 10% increase in grade level achievement overall by grade level. These targets are reasonable because they represent the first year targets to accomplish that goal. Per guidance from our Multilingual Education team, we should monitor status results for in-program MLLs when assessments are given in students' native language, should focus on growth results for assessments given in English to in-program MLLs, and should monitor all results for exited/redesignated students to ensure they maintain adequate progress.
1.2.1b Black		15%	19%	16%	16%	13%		
1.2.1c Latinx		14%	19%	16%	15%	12%		
1.2.1d In-program MLLs		13% (3-4th grade)	16%	13%				
1.2.1d Redesignated MLLs					22%	19%		
1.2.1e Students with IEPs		5%	10%	7%	6%	3%		
<b>1.2.1k %Proficient Literacy: CMAS Grade 3-8 overall</b>	Family of Schools (all schools)	38%	40%	38%	41%	39%	August	
1.2.1l Black		26%	26%	23%	31%	28%		
1.2.1m Latinx		23%	26%	23%	27%	24%		
1.2.1n In-Program MLLs Grades 3-4		13%	22%	19%				
1.2.1n Redesignated MLLs					39%	42%		
1.2.1o Students with IEPs		7%	8%	11%	5%	8%		

**Colorado P/SAT**

Measure	Family of Schools or District Managed Schools	Target	Baseline	Report Timing	Justification
<b>1.2.1f % Meeting Benchmark Math: COSAT Grades 9-11 overall</b>	Family of Schools (all schools)	33%	31%	August	Our Strategic Roadmap outlines a 10% increase in grade level achievement overall by grade level. These targets are reasonable because they represent the first year targets to accomplish that goal. Per guidance from our Multilingual Education team, we should monitor status results for in-program MLLs when assessments are given in students' native language, should focus on growth results for assessments given in English to in-program MLLs, and should monitor all results for exited/redesignated students to ensure they maintain adequate progress.
1.2.1g Black		22%	19%		
1.2.1h Latinx		20%	17%		
1.2.1i Redesignated MLLs		15%	12%		
1.2.1i Exited MLLs		36%	33%		
1.2.1j Students with IEPs		7%	5%		
<b>1.2.1p % Meeting Benchmark: COSAT EBRW Grade 9-11 overall</b>	Family of Schools (all schools)	53%	50%	August	
1.2.1q Black		44%	41%		
1.2.1r Latinx		39%	36%		
1.2.1s Redesignated MLLs		34%	31%		
1.2.1s Exited MLLs		67%	64%		
1.2.1t Students with IEPs		14%	11%		

**READ ACT**

Measure	Family of Schools or District Managed Schools	Target	Baseline	Report Timing	Justification
<b>1.2.1w %Grade Level Literacy: READ Grades K-3 overall</b>	Family of Schools (all schools)	61%	59%	August	Our Strategic Roadmap outlines a 10% increase in grade level achievement overall by grade level. These targets are reasonable because they represent the first year targets to accomplish that goal. Per guidance from our Multilingual Education team, we should monitor status results for in-program MLLs when assessments are given in students' native language, should focus on growth results for assessments given in English to in-program MLLs, and should monitor all results for exited/redesignated students to ensure they maintain adequate progress.
1.2.1x Black		50%	47%		
1.2.1y Latinx		51%	48%		
1.2.1z In-Program MLLs		51%	48%		
1.2.1aa Students with IEPs		33%	30%		
<b>1.2.3 Reduce %SBGL: READ Grades K-3 overall</b>	Family of Schools (all schools)	18%	21%	August	
1.2.3a Black		27%	30%		
1.2.3b Latinx		28%	31%		
1.2.3c In-program MLLs		30%	33%		

1.2.3d Students with IEPs		50%	53%		
Measure	Family of Schools or District Managed Schools	Target	Baseline	Report Timing	Justification
1.2.1u Implement a plan for consistent implementation of a district assessment system that facilitates progress monitoring and teaching and learning	District Managed Schools (not charters)	N/A	N/A	September	Establish by the EOY makes sense since we have to get the FOS on board and the work is ongoing.
1.2.1v Establish baseline on items of well-rounded education	District Managed Schools (not charters)	N/A	N/A	September	<a href="#">Research</a> has shown that student engagement increases significantly when the lessons that they experience include stories reflecting their <a href="#">cultural</a> and racial backgrounds. Now that the definition has been established, we recommend focusing on measuring via the measures outlined in the strategic roadmap.
1.2.3a) Percent of schools tentatively passing MLL program review	Family of Schools (all schools)	Return to 2019 baseline on Domain 2 (2A: ELD 33% 2B: ICLD 47% 2C: BP 40%)	2A: ELD 33% 2B: ICLD 47% 2C: BP 40% (domain level baseline for 2019) 54% overall 2019 baseline	June	This measure addresses the culture and climate which is experienced by MLLs in the classroom. If students feel pressured to speak one language, it can prohibit an inclusive and diverse culture.
1.2.4a) YourVoice/Tu Voz survey % of MLLs reporting at least sometimes to "Do your teachers like it when you speak more than one language in class?" YourVoice/Tu Voz survey (MLLS only)	District Managed Schools (not charters)	90%	88%	June	This is a reasonable measure because we are assessing the degree to which staff equity training and professional development on culturally and linguistically responsive instruction is impacting the student experience by measuring student perception. Equity experience modules will be required for all teachers and DCTA contract staff within the first year for new hires and by June 2024 for existing staff.

1.2.4b) YourVoice/Tu Voz survey Average number of subgroups students say they learn about from [People from different races, Women, People with disabilities, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people, People who speak different languages]	District Managed Schools (not charters)	2.75	2.15	June	This is a reasonable measure because we are assessing the degree to which staff equity training and professional development on culturally and linguistically responsive instruction is impacting the student experience by measuring student perception. Equity experience modules will be required for all teachers and DCTA contract staff within the first year for new hires and by June 2024 for existing staff.
1.2.5) Establish baseline % of students reporting they have student agency via Your Voice Survey	District Managed Schools (not charters)	Establish baseline in 2023	N/A	June	Since this is a new student survey item, we will be establishing a baseline for future target setting.
1.2.6) Establish baselines for key indicators of adequate and timely service for students with disabilities and for school and district compliance measures	Family of Schools (all schools)	Establish baselines in 2023	N/A	February	Based on several issues pertaining to SPED, DPS recently created the Office of SPED Compliance to monitor and support schools in meeting all of the legal requirements needed to provide robust SPED programming that fully complies with all of the Federal/State Requirements
1.2.7) Observe students below grade level growing at the 65 percentile or higher on CMAS and COSAT	Family of Schools (all schools)	Students below grade level average 65th percentile growth or higher	N/A	September	The rationale for an alternative to Greater than a year's growth is as follows: The CMAS and P/SAT assessments are not designed to indicate more than a year's worth of growth. As defined by Colorado State Board of Education rule, a student growth percentile for a single child that falls within the 35th-65th percentile range reflects Typical Growth, and a student growth percentile for a single child that is above the 65th percentile reflects High Growth.

### Aggregation Methodology

I will be successful if I achieve 75% of the weighted targets.

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## Evidence of Outcomes Achieved

**Goal:** Compliance with this End Statement will be achieved for 22-23 when:

1. b. Establish a plan for consistency in the district assessment system that facilitates progress monitoring and teaching and learning to indicate whether or not students are on track to meet grade-level targets in math and literacy. This is a reasonable level of achievement as we have lost the ability to anticipate student performance as a result of the effects of COVID-19.

c. Now that we have an established definition of a well-rounded educational experience for students, we can survey students to determine the extent to which we are meeting their needs with regard to this definition.

7. Observe students below grade level growing at the 65% percentile or higher. The rationale for an alternative to Greater than a year's growth is as follows: The CMAS and P/SAT assessments are not designed to indicate more than a year's worth of growth. For Colorado, growth is not expressed in test score point gains or losses, but in student growth percentiles. Using the Colorado Growth Model, students with the same achievement history are compared to each other, helping us understand whether their growth is high, typical, or low. Per the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) there is currently no single "rule of thumb" for deciding what are low, typical, or high growth median growth percentiles, and it is important to recognize that relatively 'high' growth may not be sufficient to move students to proficiency. As defined by Colorado State Board of Education rule, a student growth percentile for a single child that falls within the 35th-65th percentile range reflects Typical Growth, and a student growth percentile for a single child that is above the 65th percentile reflects High Growth.

## September Measures

**Green** indicates achieving or exceeding targets, **Yellow** indicates improvement/increases but missed targets, **White** indicates missed targets or significant decreases.

Measure	Family of Schools or District Managed	Target	Baseline (2021-22)	Result	
1.2.1u Implement a plan for consistent implementation of a district assessment system that facilitates progress monitoring and teaching and learning	District Managed Schools (not charters)	N/A	N/A	<b>Implementation Plan below</b>	
1.2.1v Establish baseline on items of well-rounded education	District Managed Schools (not charters)	N/A	N/A	<b>74.57%</b>	
1.2.7) Observe students below grade level growing at the 65 percentile or higher on CMAS and COSAT	Family of Schools (all schools)	Students below grade level average 65th	N/A	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>MGP for Students whose Scores were Below expectations in 2021-22</b>
				CMAS ELA	49
				CMAS Math	50



		percentile growth or higher		COSAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	46
				COSAT Math	44

## Summary

### District Assessment System

**The district has provided an update on the implementation of our assessment system below.**

#### Formative Assessment

Formative Assessment is the foundation of the current plan underway. School leaders and Collaborative Directors will review formative assessment practices and unit assessment data. For K-3 students, there is a diagnostic Reading assessment given minimally 3 times per year to support teachers and ILTs in addressing instructional needs at the Tier 1 (universal) level monthly. Dates vary by school and curriculum. Schools piloting assessments have differing windows because we are in a curriculum adoption cycle.

#### Interim Assessments

Opt-In schools data will be reviewed at the standard level by the Chief of Schools and Chief of Academics, as the basis for mid-year shifts in Professional Learning, School Supports, or additional intervention based on student performance. Opt-out schools with approved interim assessment strategies will be required to share the data with their Collaborative Director. Opt-out schools with Interim Assessment strategies that do not meet minimum criteria will be required to administer the iReady Assessment provided by the district, and the data will also be reviewed. Interim Assessments occur three (3) times throughout the school year, and the windows for administration are specific to the grade and content band.

#### Summative Assessment

Summative Assessment is a required function of all schools in the district at or above 95% participation. Schools will be provided additional training and support to meet the goal. Opt-outs must be completed by the state-mandated deadline, and participation will still be assessed against the total number of students eligible.

For the 23-24 school year, the district has provided specific guidance to leaders on assessment participation requirements.

### Well-Rounded Education

**The district successfully established a survey baseline for the Board’s definition of a well-rounded education.**

Student perception of their education was measured through the Tu Voz/Your Voice survey in the spring of 2023. The Well-Rounded Education perception tool consists of survey questions that assess the elements within the Board’s Definition of a Well-rounded Education with Ends Policy 2: Teaching and Learning. Of the 3-12th grade students who responded to the May Your Voice/Tu Voz Survey, this is the % that answered positively (i.e. agree/strongly agree) to survey questions that aligned with the definition of a well-rounded education.

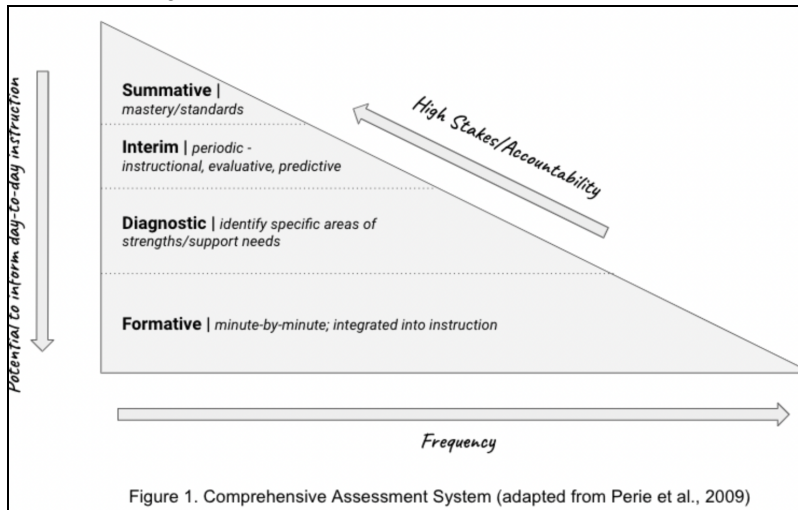
**Further, the district has partnered with external organizations to redesign instructional walkthrough tools** that teacher coaches, school leaders, Collaborative Directors, and District leaders can use to support classrooms and schools in improving instructional practice to create a more well-rounded educational experience for students.

### Student Growth

**Students whose scores were below grade level in 2021-22 were not observed growing at 65 Median Growth percentile (MGP) or above.** Median growth percentiles for CMAS was near typical growth in a year (50 MGP), and growth for high school students was slightly below average.

## Additional Resources

The below diagram outlines a research based framework the district uses to guide assessment practice.



## Explanatory notes for preparing a monitoring report

### Non-compliance:

The district did not meet its goal to observe 65 MGP or higher growth for students whose scores are below grade level. As outlined in the monitoring report for Ends 2 in August, the district has plans to continue to improve upon our work to increase student achievement by accelerating the trajectory of our students, particularly historically marginalized students.

Specifically, in the 23-24 school year, the district will support school leaders and thus educators to better use disaggregated data to develop action plans for their schools and students, especially our historically marginalized students. Our new data review structures, such as the DPS Data MINE and Principal Quarterly meetings, and targeted Professional Learning and coherence strategies will be critical levers for this. Additionally, this will accelerate the work of the district shifting from a district of schools, to a school district aligned to the same goals and centralizing supports specific to the accelerated trajectory. Via strong collaboration with teachers and school leaders, continuing to improve our implementation of effective practices outlined above, we believe we will see accelerated growth for our students in the coming academic years.