

- A. The rules for the administration of the accreditation of schools and school districts (1CCR-301-1) require school districts to complete an accreditation contract with the State Board of Education in order to be accredited. It is the policy of the Board of Education that an accreditation contract be in effect and that the District maintain full accreditation status.
- B. Schools are accredited by the District Board of Education based on the recommendation of the DAAC (District Advisory Accountability Committee). Each school shall maintain a status of being accredited. The period of school accreditation shall be for three years unless the school district Board establishes a longer period up to six years for individual schools performing at high levels. Within a three-year period, each school must complete the District's established procedures for accreditation renewal.

The school accreditation contract is the focal point for holding the school accountable for student academic achievement. The contract embodies the school's leadership commitment to align with District requirements through school improvement planning using effective processes focused on rigorous results. Englewood Schools intends to accredit its schools based upon the accreditation rules, clear progress or attainment of the District's performance targets, and fulfillment of District requirements. The District will maintain an active District Accountability Committee (DAC) that fulfills all Colorado laws and Englewood Schools Board of Education policies for such a committee. A major role of the DAC will be to review school improvement plans and verify the accreditation status of each school for the Superintendent and the Board of Education.

Each school shall be designated fully accredited as of July 1, 2003, and shall retain that status until June 30, 2006, unless annual reporting depicts failure to implement required processes and procedures, regardless of accreditation status through other organizations or the school is designated as needing improvement by CDE.

Full accreditation will be based upon the school's fulfillment of the following requirements:

- Submit an annual school improvement action plan by October 1 each year that clearly articulates goals and strategies in alignment with the District's accreditation goals and performance targets.
- Make significant progress toward the accomplishment of goals, including subgroups, as outlined in the school improvement action plan.
- Increase the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on District and state assessments by the amount specified by the state AYP formula.
- Conduct a school climate stakeholder survey a minimum of once per year to review, analyze and respond to results.
- Report school achievement results on an annual basis as outlined in accreditation indicator reporting.

A school will continue to be accredited only upon verification by the District Advisory Council and Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent will submit a list of schools recommended for accreditation to the Board of Education for approval.

Intra-District Academic Watch:

The current emphasis on CSAP requires a prudent, advance warning system within our schools and an intense effort to remedy those conditions that result in test scores below the Colorado average. Academic Watch is intended to provide focus for school improvement efforts. Annual data will be collected from the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP), Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP), and other District assessments to monitor growth in student achievement.

As defined by CDE, all schools in the District must make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the following disaggregated groups: ethnic (Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American, and White), English language learners, special education, and disadvantaged.

In addition, a school must successfully fulfill any one of the requirements from the following indicators to remain in good standing:

Indicators

- *The annual School Accountability Report (SAR) rating must be average, high, or excellent. Schools rated unsatisfactory or low must show improvement or significant improvement as determined by the SAR.*
- *Adequate yearly progress on the map test (growth in RIT block) in accordance with the District targets for student growth and show positive growth on the District writing sample.*

Communication regarding Academic Watch is the responsibility of the principal. Academic Watch will require the principal to revise the school improvement plan, demonstrating adherence to the following (proven) improvement strategies.

Improvement Strategies:

The following nine criteria are researched based strategies found in high performing schools:

- Clear and shared focus
- High standards and expectations
- Strong school leadership
- Supportive learning environment
- Parent and community involvement
- Collaboration and communication
- Frequent monitoring of teaching and learning
- Alignment of curriculum, assessment and instruction
- Ongoing professional development

District support for school improvement efforts may include: research of best practices; data analysis; curriculum, instruction and assessment review; staff development; reallocation of fiscal and human resources; community partnership development; and the promotion of positive public relations.

Any school that fails to meet the criteria outlined in the Academic Watch plan will be placed on academic probation.

Intra-District Academic Probation:

Academic probation is a designation that requires the principal to submit a quarterly written report demonstrating progress toward goals outlined in a District remediation plan that reflects best practices of high performing organizations. A review team, formed by the District, will assist the principal and school advisory council or school improvement team in analyzing detailed information and monitoring the school improvement action plan. The review team will make additional recommendations to the school and the Superintendent regarding the remediation plan. The school will receive priority for District resources and services, including but not limited to, instructional supervision/evaluation and staff development.

1. At the time of accreditation renewal, high performing schools will receive special recognition from the school district Board of Education.
2. If a school's academic levels show a significant pattern of decline for two successive years or, over a two-year period, there is little or no evidence of improvement from a low achievement level, the Superintendent shall seek to correct deficiencies. If the situation is not corrected within one year, the school shall be placed on probation by at which time the school district Board of Education will direct actions to be taken after receiving recommendations from the Superintendent.

- C. The Superintendent of Schools is delegated the responsibility for managing accreditation including implementation of processes, procedures, and practices necessary to meet state requirements for District accreditation and for accreditation of each school.

ADOPTED: January 20, 1988  
REVISED: February 3, 2004