



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

# 2023-24 Innovation Schools Annual Report

Submitted to:

**Governor Jared Polis**

**House of Representatives Education Committee**

**Senate Education Committee**

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# Table of Contents

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Executive Summary	3
Notable Trends and Highlights: Current Demographics	
Notable Trends and Highlights: Academic Performance	
Part I: Overview of Innovation School Act	5
Legislative Intent	
Organization and Structure	
Innovations Suggested	
Creating an Innovation Plan	
Submission Process for Innovation Plan	
Renewal Process	
Part II: Current Demographics of Innovation Schools	8
Districts of Innovation	
Innovation Schools	
Innovation Changes in 2023	
Innovation School Zones	
Alternative Governance Models in Innovation School Zones	
Part III: Description of the Innovations Implemented	16
Time	
Personnel	
Budget	
Part IV: Summary of Academic Performance of Innovation	18
School Performance Framework	
Academic Achievement and Growth	
CMAS English Language Arts and Math	
Disaggregated Results	
PSAT/SAT EBREW and Math	
Disaggregated Results	
Part V: Recommendations for Legislative Changes	34
Appendices	35
Appendix A: Required Components of an Innovation Plan	
Appendix B: List of Innovation Schools	
Appendix C: School Performance Framework Ratings from 2012 to 2023 for Schools Designated Innovation	



## Executive Summary

The Innovation Schools Act of 2008, § 22-32.5-102, et seq. C.R.S., was designed to provide a pathway for schools and districts to develop and implement innovative practices in a wide variety of areas and contexts to improve student outcomes. The Act provides a formal process that allows schools or groups of schools to make requests to their local school boards for waivers from district-level policies and for school boards to make requests to the Colorado State Board of Education for waivers from state-level laws and regulations. The Act enables schools to better provide educational services tailored to meet the needs of their student populations.

Innovation schools are required to articulate a vision around the autonomies they are seeking, as well as to gain support from a variety of stakeholders, including teachers, administrators, and School Accountability Committee members, before receiving the Innovation school designation. The Innovation application process (see Appendix A) requires schools to think through the common goal and vision that will be made possible by receiving greater autonomy, as well as to identify the policies and documents that will need to change when these innovations are implemented.

In compliance with the requirements of § 22-32.5-111, C.R.S., the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has prepared this annual report divided into the following parts:

Part I: Overview of the Innovation Schools Act

Part II: Current Demographics of Innovation Schools

Part III: Description of the Innovations Implemented

Part IV: Summary of the Academic Performance of Innovation Schools

Part V: Recommendations for Legislative Changes

### Notable Trends and Highlights: Current Demographics

From the information presented within the report, CDE observed several items to highlight, and other notable trends related to current demographics as outlined below:

- Overall, Innovation school enrollment increased slightly from 48,040 students in 2022-23 to 48,056 in 2023-24. In contrast, Innovation school student enrollment between 2021-22 and 2022-23 witnessed a slight decrease (218 students). Looking year-over-year, innovation schools would have shown declining enrollment in ways similar to overall state trends; however, the net increase in total enrollment was caused by the addition of a large high school to the list of innovation schools (Gateway High School). In 2023-24, the percentage of students in the state who attended an Innovation school was 5.5%
- The number of Innovation schools in operation revealed a slight decrease from 107 to 101.
  - One new school received Innovation status.
    - Gateway High School in Adams-Arapahoe 28J
  - Three Innovation schools either closed or were incorporated into other schools.
    - Denver Discovery School in Denver Public Schools
    - Monroe Elementary in Thompson School District
    - Paris Elementary School in Adams-Arapahoe 28J
  - Four Innovation schools voted to relinquish their Innovation status.
    - John H. Amesse Elementary in Denver Public Schools
    - Legacy Option High School in Denver Public Schools
    - Summit Academy in Denver Public Schools



- Vista Academy in Denver Public Schools
- One Innovation zone was dissolved; however, the associated schools remain as innovation schools
  - Beacon Network Innovation Zone within Denver Public Schools
- 100% of the schools in Burlington RE-6J, Holyoke RE-1J, Mancos RE-6, and Kit Carson R-1 maintain their Innovation status.
- Innovation schools continue to serve a markedly higher percentage of students who are Free and Reduced Lunch eligible, receive Special Education, or are multilingual learners or students of color in comparison with non-Innovation schools.

## Notable Trends and Highlights: Academic Performance

Notable trends related to academic performance are:

- Innovation schools displayed a reduction in the number of schools earning an “Insufficient Data” School Performance Framework (SPF) Rating. In 2022, 23 Innovation schools (including AEC Schools) received an SPF of “Insufficient Data” whereas six schools earned that rating in 2023. Prior to the pandemic, only 3.8% of Innovation schools earned the “Insufficient Data” rating. In 2022, when performance frameworks resumed, we saw a significant increase in schools earning this rating statewide (22.1%); however, we are now nearing pre-pandemic levels (5.7% in 2023).
- From 2022 to 2023, the number of Innovation schools earning a “Performance Plan” rating decreased from 48 to 45. In 2023, 45% of the schools earned a “Performance Plan” rating, which is equivalent to pre-pandemic levels. For non-innovation schools, 59% of schools earned a “Performance Plan” rating, which is approaching pre-pandemic levels.
- Student participation rates for the Colorado Measure of Academic Success (CMAS) state assessment in Innovation schools have risen slightly in most grade levels. Participation rates are approaching pre-pandemic levels but continue to remain lower. Innovation school participation rates are similar to but slightly higher than participation rates for non-innovation schools.
- Looking at the Mean Scale Score (MSS) obtained by students on the CMAS English Language Arts and Math assessments, non-Innovation schools outperformed Innovation schools in the 2022-23 school year. However, when looking at the Median Growth Percentile (MGP), a measure of student’s academic growth compared to previous years, students in Innovation schools performed better than those in non-Innovation schools in most cases.
- The average score (MSS) earned by students in both Innovation and non-Innovation schools fell within the “Approached Expectations” band in almost all grades on the ELA and Math portions of CMAS, with the exception of math in grade 4 Innovation schools in 2022-23, for which scores were in the “partially met expectations” band.
- In 2022-23, Innovation schools demonstrated higher achievement on math CMAS than in previous years post pandemic. Innovation school student math levels are returning to pre-pandemic levels. The same trend is also seen within non-Innovation schools.
- On the SAT and PSAT, the average scores in Innovation schools in 2022-23 were lower than in non-Innovation schools, as were measures of student growth (MGP), in both Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW)

This report includes information and data from multiple sources including, but not limited to, CDE’s Innovation Schools webpage, available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/innovationschools> and CDE’s Schoolview® webpage, available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/schoolview/coloradogrowthmodel>.



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## Part I: Overview of the Innovation Schools Act

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### Legislative Intent

The General Assembly enacted the Innovation Schools Act to achieve the following purposes:

- To grant Colorado’s school districts and public schools greater ability to meet the educational needs of a diverse and constantly changing student population;
- To encourage intentionally diverse approaches to learning and education within individual school districts;
- To improve educational performance through greater individual autonomy and managerial flexibility;
- To encourage school districts to create and manage a portfolio of schools that meet a variety of educational needs;
- To encourage innovation in education by providing local school communities and principals with greater control over operations with the aim of improving student achievement;
- To encourage school districts and public schools to find new ways to allocate resources for the benefit of the students they serve; and
- To hold public schools that receive greater autonomy under the Innovations Schools Act accountable for student academic achievement.<sup>1</sup>

### Organization and Structure

The Colorado State Board of Education may designate a school district as a “district of Innovation” pursuant to § 22-32.5-107, C.R.S. This designation, which is granted only after a district has approved an Innovation plan and submitted the plan to the state board, permits an Innovation school or an Innovation school zone to operate with waivers from certain state statutes and other regulations. An “Innovation school” is a school in which an Innovation plan is implemented pursuant to § 22-32.5-104, C.R.S. An “Innovation school zone” is a group of schools within a school district that implements an Innovation zone plan pursuant to § 22-32.5-104, C.R.S. The schools within an Innovation school zone share common interests, such as geographical location, education focus, grade level articulation, or other possible collaborative interests. A school district may also delegate management activities to another organization pursuant to § 22-32.5-104(5), C.R.S. and authorize an Innovation school zone with an alternative governance model.

### Innovations Suggested

In considering or creating an Innovation school or an Innovation school zone, the Innovation Schools Act strongly encourages local school boards to consider innovations in the following areas:

- Curriculum and academic standards and assessments<sup>2</sup>;
- Expanded local and state accountability measures;
- Provision of services, including services targeted to specific student groups;
- Teacher recruitment, training, preparation, and professional development;
- Teacher employment;
- Performance expectations and evaluation procedures for principals and teachers;
- Compensation for principals, teachers, and staff;
- School governance, including operating as a community school and alternative governance models; and
- Postsecondary workforce readiness preparation and counseling.

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<sup>1</sup> As stated in § 22-32.5-102(2), C.R.S.

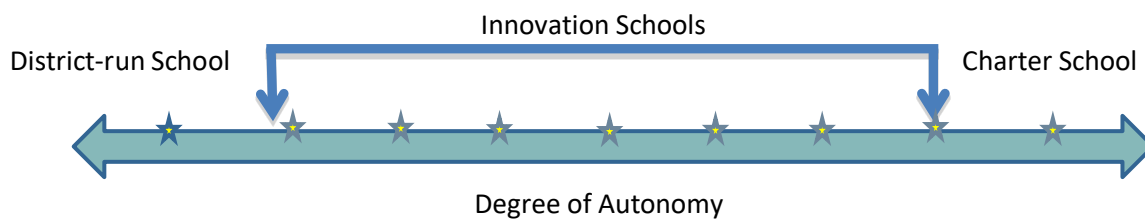
<sup>2</sup> Note, while Innovation schools or zones may not waive state assessments or the requirements to implement academic standards that meet or exceed state standards, they may receive flexibility to vary from local standards or local assessments.

## Creating an Innovation Plan

In the Innovation Schools Act, local school boards are encouraged to work collaboratively with the school or schools on the planning and application process for submitting an Innovation plan. Developing a plan requires a school or group of schools to identify both the “innovations” or new approaches that are intended to increase the school’s ability to achieve its mission and the specific waivers from district policy, collective bargaining agreement provisions, and/or state laws and regulation that are required to give the school or schools the ability to implement the innovation.

Exhibit A, below, illustrates the varying degree of autonomy that an Innovation school or Innovation school zone may seek and how, depending on the amount of autonomy sought, an Innovation school or an Innovation school zone will operate more like either a traditional, district-run school or a charter school. For example, an Innovation school may seek to waive out of district-level policies and state laws and regulations regarding only personnel practices. Conversely, another school may seek to operate free from district-level policies and state law and regulations relating to the school calendar, budget management, curriculum, and instructional practices, in addition to personnel practices. The former school would operate more like a traditional, district-run school, whereas the latter school would operate more like a charter school.

### Exhibit A: Range of Autonomy for Innovation Schools



A proposed Innovation school or Innovation school zone must demonstrate that it has received majority support from teachers, administrators, and School Accountability Committee members, and must provide a statement of the level of support from classified school staff, parents, students, and the surrounding community of the school(s). Because stakeholders at all levels can contribute to a plan, design elements often seek to address stakeholders’ ideas and concerns.

## Submission Process for Innovation Plan

After a public school or a group of public schools creates a plan, the plan is then submitted to a local school board for approval. Once submitted, the local school board must either approve or deny the plan within 60 days. If the local school board denies the plan, a written explanation with the basis for the decision must be provided to the school or the group of schools that submitted the plan. The school or the group of schools may resubmit an amended plan to the local school board at any time after denial. Unlike charter school applicants, Innovation school applicants do not have a right to appeal the denial of a plan to the state board. If the local school board approves the plan, the local board may submit the plan to the state board on behalf of the school(s) for approval. Upon approval by the state board, the school(s) is/are designated as an Innovation school or an Innovation school zone.

Please see Appendix A for a list of statutory requirements needed for Innovation school plans. Appendix A also includes the list of additional statutory requirements for community schools, Innovation school zones, and Innovation school zones with alternative governance. More information, including copies of state board-approved Innovation school applications, is available on CDE’s Innovation Schools webpage at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/innovationschools>.



## Renewal Process

Three years after a local school board approves an Innovation school or zone plan, the local school board is required to review the level of performance of the Innovation school and each school included in an Innovation zone and determine whether the Innovation school or Innovation zone is achieving academic performance results as identified in the Innovation plan. The local school board, in collaboration with a school or a zone, may revise the Innovation plan as necessary to improve or continue to improve academic performance at the school or zone. If the local school board finds that the students within an Innovation school are not improving academically, the local school board may revoke the school's Innovation status. If the local school board finds that the students enrolled in a school within an Innovation zone are not improving academically, the local school board may remove the underperforming school from the Innovation zone or revoke the Innovation zone's status.

If a local school board seeks to revise an Innovation plan, the board may request additional waivers or changes to existing waivers as necessary to accommodate the revisions to the Innovation plan. The state board then determines whether to grant any waiver requests based on whether the new or changed waivers would enhance educational opportunity, standards, and quality within the Innovation schools/zones and if the changes are fiscally feasible. Prior to requesting such changes, the local school board must demonstrate consent from a majority of the teachers, administrators, and school accountability members of the applicable school or zone.



## Part II: Current Demographics of Innovation Schools

### Districts of Innovation

A “District of Innovation” is a school district that has sought approval of an Innovation plan (or plans) on behalf of a public school or group of public schools and has had those plans approved by the state board. Currently, 18 districts are designated as Districts of Innovation in Colorado. Denver Public Schools (DPS) was the first district of Innovation, designated in 2009; whereas Adams County School District 14 was designated as the most recent district of Innovation in 2022. Colorado’s largest district of Innovation is DPS, which has 45 Innovation schools. Based on 2023-24 October Count data, DPS currently serves 20,783 students through Innovation schools which is 23.6% of the district’s total enrollment.

Kit Carson School District is Colorado’s smallest district of Innovation and has two Innovation schools: an Innovation PK-5 school and an Innovation 6-12 school. Kit Carson currently serves its entire PK-12 student population of 107 students through Innovation schools. Three other districts currently serve their entire student population through Innovation schools. Burlington School District RE-6J serves 768 PK-12 students, Holyoke School District serves 532 PK-12 students, and Mancos School District serves 521 PK-12 students. Table 1 shows student enrollment information related to each district of Innovation.

**TABLE 1: Student Enrollment in Districts of Innovation for the 2023-24 School Year**

District Name	Number of Innovation Schools	District Student Count	Innovation Student Count	Percent of Total Students in Innovation
Adams 12 Five Star Schools	1	34,998	372	1.1%
Adams County 14	1	5,484	367	6.7%
Adams Arapahoe 28J	5	39,148	5,780	14.8%
Burlington RE-6J	3	768	768	100.0%
Colorado Springs District 11	2	22,744	1,378	6.1%
Delta County 50(J)	1	4,614	107	2.3%
Denver County 1	45	88,235	20,783	23.6%
District 49	11	25,799	8,424	32.7%
Greeley 6	5	22,648	1,882	8.3%
Holyoke RE-1J	3	532	532	100.0%
Jefferson County R-1	1	76,172	373	0.5%
Kit Carson R-1	2	107	107	100.0%
Mancos RE-6	4	521	521	100.0%
Montrose County RE-1J	1	6,038	555	9.2%
Pueblo City 60	7	14,549	2,290	15.7%
Thompson R2-J	1	15,039	250	1.7%
Westminster Public Schools	4	7,631	1,331	17.4%
Widefield 3	4	2,715	2,236	82.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>367,742</b>	<b>48,056</b>	<b>13.1%</b>

Data Source: 2023-24 Student October Count, CDE’s Data Services Unit

Table 2 displays the student enrollment in Innovation schools from the school year 2009-10 to 2023-24. Initially, Innovation schools experienced growth in enrollment up to the 2019-20 school year, in which enrollment peaked





at 49,621 students. Beginning in the 2020-21 school year, student enrollment numbers in Innovation schools declined slightly each year. This downward trend persisted until the current school year, 2023-24, when a slight uptick in enrollment was observed. Notably, 14 out of the 18 school districts reported a decrease in enrollment for this academic year. Nevertheless, Adams-Arapahoe 28J, Burlington, Kit Carson, and Mancos RE-6 school districts defied this trend by showcasing an increase in student enrollment.

**TABLE 2: Student Enrollment within Innovation Schools in Districts of Innovation by School Year**

District Name	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Denver 1	1,395	3,630	7,204	10,702	13,180	17,066	18,438
Colorado Springs 11 <sup>3</sup>		1,007	996	977	0	0	0
Kit Carson			120	110	114	108	128
District 49				6,934	7,560	7,991	8,042
Pueblo City					1,260	1,261	1,262
Westminster					184	264	283
Delta County						149	150
Greeley 6							141
Holyoke							594
Montrose 1J							585
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,395</b>	<b>4,637</b>	<b>8,320</b>	<b>18,723</b>	<b>22,298</b>	<b>26,839</b>	<b>29,623</b>

District Name	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Denver 1	20,963	21,991	22,586	22,919	23,462	22,765	21,359	20,783
Colorado Springs 11	0	0	0	0	0	550	1,476	1,378
Kit Carson	126	109	108	109	97	100	101	107
District 49	9,475	9,445	9,657	9,217	8,723	8,729	8,596	8,424
Pueblo City	2,691	3,211	3,154	3,147	2,793	2,680	2,457	2,290
Westminster	396	653	932	1,340	1,369	1,379	1,360	1,331
Delta County	148	144	150	145	120	130	128	107
Greeley 6	208	2,190	2,171	2,108	2,089	1,958	1,924	1,882
Holyoke	581	583	577	587	584	578	558	532
Montrose 1J	554	614	609	643	588	578	582	555
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	4,922	4,567	4,380	4,470	4,100	4,043	4,243	5,780
Burlington	775	781	788	778	747	749	762	768
Weld 3	406	452	494	2,212	2,133	2,202	2,312	2,236
Adams 12		446	430	413	339	343	391	372
Mancos RE-6		500	497	507	465	485	509	521
Thompson		558	565	569	515	549	508	250
JeffCo R-1			443	457	415	440	394	373
Adams 14							380	367
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41,245</b>	<b>46,244</b>	<b>47,541</b>	<b>49,621</b>	<b>48,539</b>	<b>48,258</b>	<b>48,040</b>	<b>48,056</b>

<sup>3</sup> Colorado Springs School District 11 was a district of Innovation from August 2010 to June 2013. The district once again became a district of Innovation in September 2021.



Table 3 shows student demographic information for four Innovation districts which currently serve their entire student population through Innovation schools. Student groups that contain fewer than 16 students are not displayed because of data privacy and are reflected as “n<16.” “Special Education Students” indicates students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

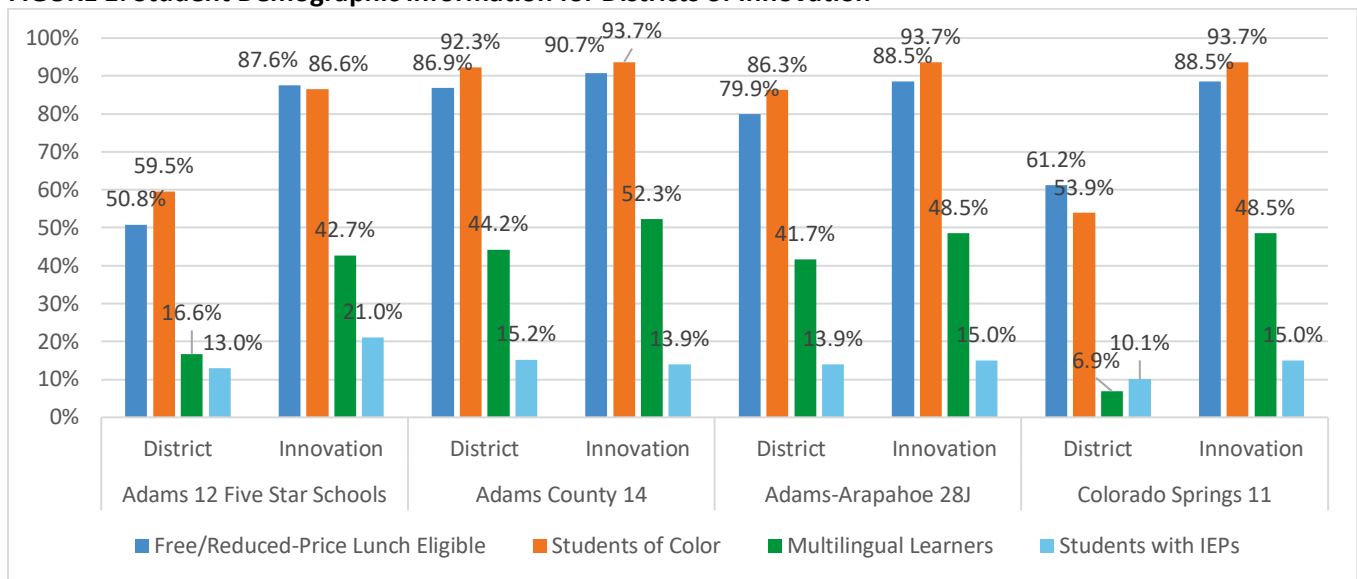
**TABLE 3: 2023-24 Demographic Information for Districts Serving Entire Population through Innovation Schools**

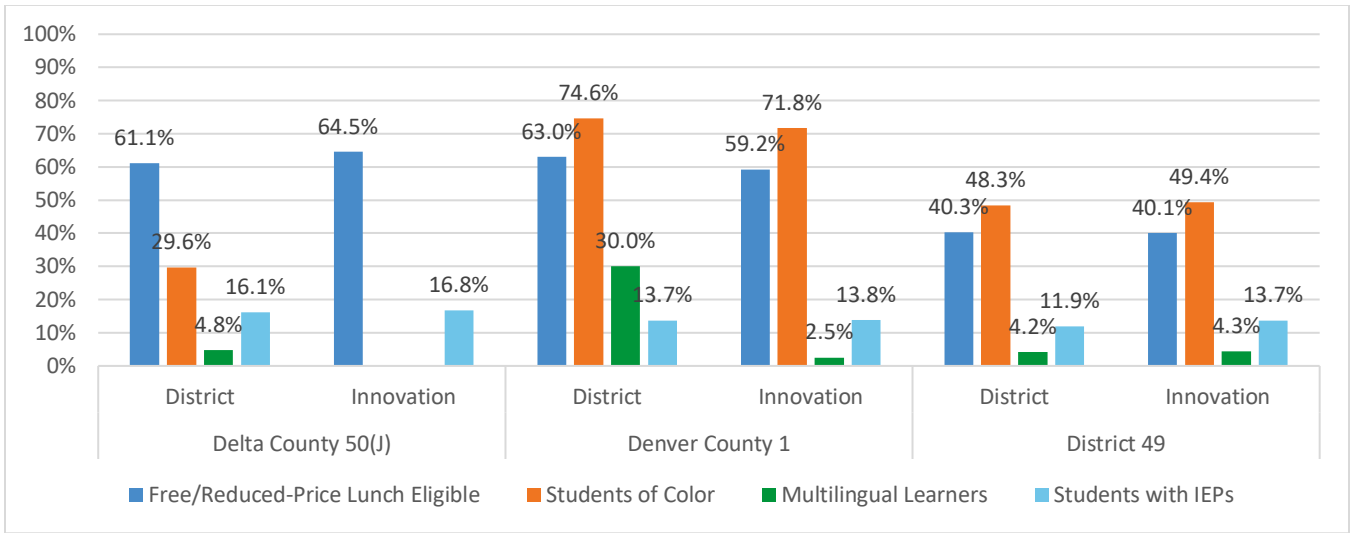
District Name	Student Count	FRL Eligible Percent	Students of Color Percent	Multilingual Learner Percent	Students with an IEP Percent
Burlington RE-6J	768	65.9%	49.9%	17.2%	8.7%
Holyoke RE-1J	532	66.0%	53.4%	19.4%	15.8%
Kit Carson R-1	107	49.5%	29.9%	29.9%	n<16
Mancos RE-6	521	53.9%	24.2%	6.3%	14.0%
Statewide	881,464	45.7%	49.5%	13.0%	12.9%

Data Source: 2023-24 Student October Count, CDE’s Data Services Unit

Figure 1 shows the same demographic information for all other districts of Innovation and the district average for each student group. The district numbers indicate the percentages for total student population of the district. Due to a small student population, some distributions for Innovation schools could not be displayed.

**FIGURE 1: Student Demographic Information for Districts of Innovation**

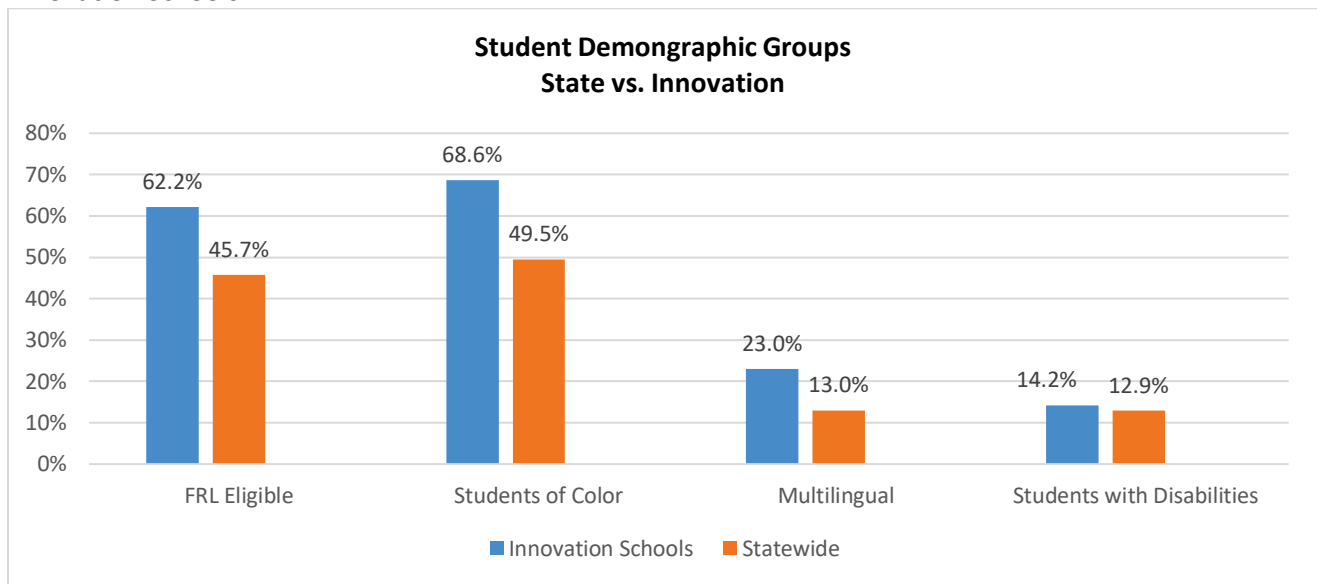






Compared to Colorado’s public schools as a whole, Innovation schools serve a higher percentage of students in the following disaggregated groups: students eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL); students of color students; Multilingual Learners (ML)<sup>4</sup>; and Special Education students. Colorado’s public school population includes 45.7% of students who are FRL eligible, while Colorado’s Innovation schools serve a student population that includes 62.2% of students who are FRL eligible. Similarly, the state population includes 49.5% of students who are students of color, while Innovation schools serve a population that includes 68.6% of students who are students of color. Figure 2 shows the comparison between Innovation schools and the state average for each of these disaggregated student groups.

**Figure 2: 2023-24 Student Demographic Information by Disaggregated Group for the State Average and Innovation Schools**



Data Source: 2023-24 Student October Count, CDE’s Data Services Unit

### Innovation Schools

As of January 1, 2024, Colorado has 101 Innovation schools within 18 districts of Innovation. Of Colorado’s 881,464 public school students from pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Innovation schools serve 48,056 of those students (roughly 5.5 percent of the overall PK-12 student population).

Table 4 shows the years in which the state board approved each district of Innovation and the growth of Innovation schools within each district from the 2009-10 school year through the 2022-23 school year.

Appendix B contains a list of Colorado’s Innovation schools, the date on which they received designation, and the date of removal from Innovation status as may be applicable in limited situations.

<sup>4</sup> Data includes Non-English Proficient, Limited English Proficient, Fluent English Proficient Monitor Year 1, and Fluent English Proficient Monitor Year 2 students.



**TABLE 4: Number of Innovation Schools within Districts of Innovation by School Year**

District Name	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Denver 1	3	7	19	25	31	36	40	47	49*	51*	52	53*	52*	50*	45
Colorado Springs District 11		1	1	1*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
Kit Carson			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
District 49				9	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Pueblo City					3	3	3	6	8	8*	7	7	7	7	7
Westminster					1	1	1	1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4
Delta 50J						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greeley 6							1	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Holyoke							3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Montrose 1J							1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Adams-Arapahoe 28J								5	5	5	5	5	5	5*	5
Burlington								3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Widefield 3								1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4
Adams 12									1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mancos RE-6									4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Thompson									2	2	2	2	2	2*	1
JeffCo R-1										1	1	1	1	1	1
Adams 14														1	1
<b>TOTAL-*</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>101</b>

\*Indicates that a school either closed or its Innovation status was revoked at the end of the school year.

Data Source: 2010-2024 School Directory information, CDE's Data Services Unit



Table 5 shows the Innovation schools which either closed or had their Innovation designation revoked since 2010.

**TABLE 5: List of Schools Closed or with an Innovation Status Removed**

School Name	District Name	Effective Date	Reason
Wasson High School	Colorado Springs 11	6/30/2013	School Closed – declining enrollment
Place Bridge Academy	Denver County 1	6/30/2018	Revoked – school request
Noel Community Arts School	Denver County 1	6/30/2019	Revoked – school request
Heroes K-8 Academy	Pueblo City 60	6/30/2019	School Closed – facility concern
West Early College	Denver County 1	6/30/2021	Revoked – district reorganization
West Leadership Academy	Denver County 1	6/30/2021	Revoked – district reorganization
Collegiate Prep Academy	Denver County 1	6/30/2022	School Closed – district reorganization
DCIS at Montbello	Denver County 1	6/30/2022	Revoked – district reorganization
Denver Discovery School	Denver County 1	6/30/2023	School Closed
John H. Amesse Elementary	Denver County 1	6/30/2023	Revoked – school request
Legacy Options High School	Denver County 1	6/30/2023	Revoked – school request
Summit Academy	Denver County 1	6/30/2023	Revoked – school request
Vista Academy	Denver County 1	6/30/2023	Revoked – school request
Monroe Elementary	Thompson School District	6/30/2023	School Closed
Paris Elementary School	Adams-Arapahoe 28J	6/30/2023	School Closed

Data Source: 2015 Innovation Report, DPS board resolutions, and Pueblo City Schools board minutes, CDE Data Services Unit

### Innovation Changes in 2023

In 2023, the state board approved the following new Innovation school plan:

- Gateway High School in Adams-Arapahoe 28J was approved as an Innovation school in June 2023. The Innovation plan was part of an early action accountability [hearing](#) presented to the state board.

It is noteworthy that Columbine Elementary School’s Innovation application was approved by the Denver Public Schools board in June of 2023; however, the application did not come to the State Board of Education until the publication of this report. Data for Columbine Elementary School will be included in next year’s report.

The following changes occurred in DPS relating its Innovation schools and zones:

- John H. Amesse Elementary, Legacy Option High School, Summit Academy, and Vista Academy voted to relinquish their Innovation school designation.
- Denver Public Schools voted to revoke the Innovation status of the Beacon Network School Innovation Zone in April of 2023 based on insufficient academic progress. In June of 2023, a [hearing](#) was held before the State Board of Education regarding the revocation. The State Board of Education provided formal written feedback with the majority of the members recommending that Beacon Network School Innovation Zone should be permitted time to address academic achievement due to challenges imposed by the pandemic prior to the revocation. Following a review of the feedback, Denver Public Schools again voted to revoke the Innovation status of Beacon Network School Innovation Zone. The schools that were in the zone remain schools of



Innovation but are now under the direct authority of the district rather than under the authority of the Innovation Zone’s school board.

### Innovation School Zones

Within the current districts of Innovation, Colorado has nine Innovation school zones that are made up of 38 Innovation schools and that operate within eight districts of Innovation. Of Colorado’s 881,464 public school students from pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 18,554 of those students are served by Colorado’s Innovation zones (roughly 2.1% of the overall PK-12 student population). Table 6 below contains more information on Colorado’s Innovation school zones.

**TABLE 6: Summary of Innovation School Zones in the 2023-24 School Year**

District of Innovation	Innovation School Zone Name	Number of Schools in Zone	PK-12 Student Count
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	Innovation Zone at APS	5	5,780
Burlington RE-6J	Burlington Innovation Zone	3	768
Denver County 1	Luminary Learning Network	6	2,411
Denver County 1	Northeast Denver Innovation Zone	3	2,259
District 49	Power Zone	5	3,886
Holyoke RE-1J	Holyoke Innovation Zone	3	532
Kit Carson R-1	Kit Carson Innovation Zone	2	107
Mancos RE-6	Mancos Innovation Zone	4	521
Pueblo City 60	Pueblo I-Zone	7	2,290
<b>Total</b>	<b>9 Innovation Zones</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>18,554</b>

Data Source: 2023-24 Student October Count, CDE’s Data Services Unit

### Alternative Governance Models in Innovation School Zones

The most recent bill related to the Innovation Schools Act was adopted in 2022. [S.B. 22-197](#) confirms that Innovation school zones can use an alternative governance structure by which the local school board delegates management activities of schools within the Innovation zone to another organization and the organization forms a partnership with the local school board. The statute further clarifies a process for creating such zones moving forward. A dispute resolution process was also created to resolve disagreements between both parties regarding the administration of the Innovation zone plan. A list of [mediators](#) is posted on the CDE website.

The law requires a local school board to review both the performance of an Innovation zone with alternative governance as a whole and the performance of each school within the Innovation zone with alternative governance. If a local school board votes to revoke the status of an Innovation zone with alternative governance, or a school within the Innovation zone with alternative governance, or to remove a school from the Innovation zone, the zone organization may submit a written request to the state board to review and comment on the local school board's determination. The state board must hold a public hearing within 60 days of the request to hear presentations from both parties and then issue comments and recommendations. The comments issued by the state board would be included in the local school board’s next voting meeting for consideration.



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## Part III: Description of the Innovations Implemented

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School level autonomy and flexibility is the foundation for the Innovation Schools Act. These flexibilities might include “a high degree of autonomy in implementing curriculum, making personnel decisions, organizing the school day, determining the most effective use of resources, and generally organizing the delivery of high-quality educational services.”<sup>5</sup> Schools are thereby tailoring services to meet the needs of the population of students served. To achieve this, Innovation schools seek waivers from various district policies, state statutes, and other rules/requirements related to educational programming and school operations. For example, a school may find that its school district’s existing policies and procedures inhibit the school’s ability to customize learning to meet the needs of its students. As a result, the school may seek Innovation status and waivers to implement an instructional model and/or curriculum that differs from that of the school’s authorizing school district. Table 7 highlights the top 20 waivers from state statute requested by Innovation schools. As explained in more detail below, these commonly requested waivers tend to fall into one of three categories – time, personnel, and budget.

### Time

The most common set of waivers requested are those related to time. An Innovation school often requests the authority to make decisions about when the school will operate, as long as the school continues to meet statutory minimum requirements related to pupil-teacher contact hours and school calendar days. With these waivers, an Innovation school is permitted to establish its school calendar that differs from the calendar established by its authorizing district. In many cases, schools with waivers related to school calendar and contact hours have extended their school day and school year to effectively implement the innovations outlined in their Innovation plan. Those Innovation schools that seek waivers from school calendar and contact hour requirements also tend to seek flexibilities related to personnel, professional development, professional learning communities, school data teams, and other forms of teacher collaboration so that they can provide greater opportunity for local design decisions related to each element.

### Personnel

The next most common set of waivers are those related to personnel. Among all Innovation schools, the ability for an Innovation school to employ staff with flexibility on credentials, create its personnel evaluation system, set its salary schedule, draft its employee agreements, and prohibit teacher transfer are the highest requested personnel waivers. School leaders have sought to create their own hiring and termination policies to hire educators that are the best fit for their school’s mission and vision and terminate staff when they are not meeting the specific performance expectations of the Innovation school. Thus, many Innovation schools with these waivers have their staff employed on an at-will basis or replace non-probationary status with time-bound contracts.

### Budget

Many Innovation schools request waivers from district budgetary policies. Through such waivers, the district delegates more authority to oversee school budgets to the school or zone level. In turn, the Innovation school is permitted to make more budget decisions at the local level and align its spending with the school’s specific initiatives. Flexibilities with the school budget may allow Innovation schools to do such things as use actual, rather than district averages, for teacher salaries and to reallocate funds to pay for new supports, positions, or resources. In addition, innovations requested by schools often require supplementary spending. For example, if schools received the flexibility to change their calendar to create a longer school day/year, they may need additional funding to be able to compensate teachers for this extra time or give teachers incentives and stipends for

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<sup>5</sup> § 22-32.5-102(2)(e), C.R.S.





managing additional responsibilities. As another example, if a school converted to a blended learning model, budgetary flexibility could allow the school to better meet technological needs.

**TABLE 7: Most Requested Waivers by Innovation Schools in the 2023-24 School Year**

<b>Colorado Statute</b>	<b>Description of Waiver</b>
22-32-109(1)(n)(II)(B)	Related to adoption of district calendar
22-32-109(1)(n)(II)(A)	Related to determination of teacher-pupil contact hours
22-32-109(1)(n)(I)	Related to determination of school calendar
22-63-201	Related to teacher licensure
22-32-109(1)(t)	Related to determination of educational program and prescription of textbooks
22-32-109(1)(f)	Related to selection of staff and pay
22-63-206	Related to the transfer of teachers
22-63-402	Related to paying licensed teachers
22-9-106	Related to performance evaluation of licensed personnel
22-63-203	Related to probationary teacher status and to renewal and nonrenewal of employment contracts
22-63-401	Related to determination of salary schedule
22-63-202	Related to teacher employment contracts
22-63-301	Related to grounds for teacher dismissal
22-63-302	Related to teacher dismissal procedure
22-32-109(1)(jj)	Related to principal training
22-32-110(1)(h)	Related to bonding of staff members
22-32-109(1)(aa)	Related to the implementation of content standards
22-63-403	Related to payment of salaries
22-32-109(1)(g)	Related to returning moneys to treasurer of district
22-32-126	Related to employment and authority of principals

Data Source: List of Approved State Waivers – Innovation Schools, CDE’s Schools of Choice Unit



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## Part IV: Summary of the Academic Performance of Innovation Schools

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### School Performance Framework

Innovation schools, like all public schools in Colorado, are held accountable for academic performance through Colorado's School Performance Framework (SPF). The key performance indicators of the SPF are academic achievement and academic growth for all students and disaggregated student groups as well as a third indicator, postsecondary and workforce readiness, for high schools only.<sup>6</sup> The SPF assigns to each school one of four plan types: Performance Plan, Improvement Plan, Priority Improvement Plan, and Turnaround Plan. Schools are then required to adopt and implement their assigned plan type. Some schools are assigned a rating of "Insufficient Data" either because the school has too small of a tested population or assessment participation was below a certain threshold. The plan type of each school is determined in the fall based on their performance in the previous school year. This report includes the fall 2023 SPF ratings of Innovation schools, based on their performance in the 2022-23 school year. Ratings based on the 2023-24 performance will be available in fall 2024.

An Alternative Education Campus (AEC) is defined in statute as a school that has a specialized mission to serve a high-risk student population and has a nontraditional instructional delivery. Ninety percent of the student population must meet one or more of the conditions as outlined in statute to qualify for designation as an AEC<sup>7</sup>. The Education Accountability Act authorizes CDE to conduct a distinct performance review, with additional indicators and adjusted calculations, for those schools that meet the definition of an AEC. To distinguish between school types in a final SPF rating, all AECs will have "AEC" noted in the rating name.<sup>8</sup>

Appendix C outlines the SPF ratings assigned to all of Colorado's Innovation schools. SPF ratings for 2015 are not available due to the transitioning of state assessments in 2015. In response to disruptions created by the pandemic, Colorado paused the accountability frameworks for two school years (2020 and 2021), and frameworks for these years are therefore not included in this report.

On April 13, 2022, Governor Polis signed [S.B. 22-137](#) into law. This bill, titled "Transition Back to Standard K-12 Accountability," required CDE to calculate both school and district performance frameworks in 2022-23 using 2019 statewide performance indicator targets. The law suspended the automatic advancement of schools and districts on the state's accountability system and created a transitional year for schools and districts.

Since many of the Innovation schools previously operated as traditional district-run schools, bold borders have been inserted to illustrate the years in which SPF ratings were earned while operating with Innovation status. When a traditional district-run school converts to an Innovation school, the school's SPF rating carries over to the newly designated Innovation school. In addition, sometimes a district will open a new school as an innovation school. When opening as a new school, there are no applicable SPF ratings for that school prior to the school completing its first full year of operations. When a school first opens, the district is required to assign a plan type; most have assigned these new Innovation schools an accountability rating of Performance by default (noted in the table with a ~ symbol). In addition, "N/A" is used in Appendix C to indicate those years in which an Innovation

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<sup>6</sup> For more information on the history of Colorado's SPF, including the calculations for each indicator, please visit CDE's website at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/historyofperformanceframeworks>.

<sup>7</sup> For more information on the accountability for AECs, please visit CDE's website at: [http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/stateaccountabilityaecs\\_draft](http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/stateaccountabilityaecs_draft)

<sup>8</sup> In 2023-24, Denver Public Schools had three Innovation schools operating as AECs. In 2022-23 Denver Public Schools had six Innovation schools operating as AECs; however, three of those schools requested to have their Innovation status revoked at the end of the 2022-23 school year, as shown in table 5.



school was not yet in operation. Similarly, if an Innovation school closed or its status was revoked, the SPF rating of the school is no longer included in this report.

Overall, 103 schools operated under Innovation status in the 2022-23 school year and had a School Performance Framework assigned. Table 8 displays the ratings distribution for the 2022-23 school year, along with the distribution for the 2021-22 school year, for comparison.

As illustrated in Table 8, the number of Innovation schools earning the “Insufficient Data” rating decreased from 22 to six. Prior to the pandemic, 3.8% of Innovation schools earned the “Insufficient Data” rating. After the pandemic we saw a significant increase in schools earning this rating; however, we now are nearing pre-pandemic levels. A slight decrease from 48 to 45 in Innovation schools earning a “Performance Plan” rating was also observed from 2021-22 to 2022-23. In 2022-23, 45% of Innovation schools earned a “Performance Plan” rating, which is equivalent to pre-pandemic levels. The number of schools earning an “Improvement Plan” rating increased from 11 to 27. This increase can mostly be attributed to the change seen within the “Insufficient Data” ratings as mentioned above.

**TABLE 8: Innovation Schools Performance Ratings 2023**

School Performance Rating	Number of Schools 2021-22	Number of Schools 2022-23
Performance Plan	48	45
Improvement Plan	11	27
Priority Improvement Plan	12	16
Turnaround Plan	5	3
Insufficient Data	22	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>AEC Data</b>		
AEC: Performance Plan	3	3
AEC: Improvement Plan	2	3
AEC: Insufficient Data Plan	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

Data Source: 2021-2023 State Accountability Data Files, CDE’s Accountability Analytics Unit

### Academic Achievement and Growth

As previously mentioned, academic achievement and academic growth are two of the three performance indicators that make up the SPF. A school’s Mean Scale Score (MSS) represents average academic achievement and focuses on performance at a given point in time, whereas Median Growth Percentiles (MGP) are used to represent academic growth and measure progress from year to year<sup>9</sup>With state assessments paused in 2020 due to the pandemic, MGPs could not be calculated in 2021 for accountability purposes. For 2022, the MGP was calculated for the limited grades tested in 2021 and included in the transitional SPFs issued for 2022.

Currently, the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) measures achievement and growth in the SPF for elementary and middle schools, whereas the Colorado PSAT/SAT exam measures high school achievement and growth. CMAS is the state’s common measurement of student progress at the end of the school year in English

<sup>9</sup> For more information about how the Median Growth Percentiles for a school or a disaggregated group of student is computed, please see [this document](#).



Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for grades third through eighth. The Colorado Alternate (CoAlt) assessments are provided to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in place of the corresponding CMAS and PSAT/SAT assessments and are included in this report as well.

### CMAS English Language Arts and Math

In the 2021 legislative session, the General Assembly passed legislation reducing the number of state assessments given in the spring of 2021. Colorado’s approved federal waiver provided for assessing alternating grades for ELA in grades three, five, and seven and math in grades four, six, and eight, with the provision that parents could choose to have their child assessed in both content areas. Only results from the required ELA and math assessments are included below.

CMAS ELA and Math have five performance levels: Exceeded Expectations, Met Expectations, Approached Expectations, Partially Met Expectations, and Did Not Yet Meet Expectations. Performance levels are color-coded for analysis purposes in the results section. Students who “Met Expectations” or “Exceeded Expectations” are considered to be on track for college and career readiness in the tested content areas. Students who take the CMAS assessment earn an overall scale score and performance level. During the standard setting process, score ranges are set that define each performance level as displayed in Table 9.

**TABLE 9: CMAS Performance Level Cut Scores for ELA and Math**

Grade Level/Content	Does Not Yet Meet Expectations (Level 1)	Partially Met Expectations (Level 2)	Approached Expectations (Level 3)	Met Expectations (Level 4)	Exceeded Expectations (Level 5)
<b>Mathematics</b>					
Grade 3	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-789	790-850
Grade 4	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-795	796-850
Grade 5	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-789	790-850
Grade 6	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-787	788-850
Grade 7	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-785	786-850
Grade 8	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-800	801-850
<b>English Language Arts/Literacy</b>					
Grade 3	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-809	810-850
Grade 4	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-789	790-850
Grade 5	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-798	799-850
Grade 6	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-789	790-850
Grade 7	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-784	785-850
Grade 8	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-793	794-850

Data Source: CDE Assessment Unit

The pandemic continued to impact many educational programs in Colorado in the 2021-22 school year. Due to lower than usual participation rates and representativeness of tested students (i.e., how well tested students mirrored enrolled students), the MSS in spring 2021 may be an overestimate of the true means of enrolled students overall for both ELA and Math. Comparisons across types of schools should be made prudently due to the varying impacts of the pandemic and dissimilar participation rates and representativeness. Due to the pandemic, state assessments were not administered in 2020 and were administered only to limited grades in 2021.



Table 10 contains achievement (MSS) and growth (MGP) data from the CMAS and CoAlt ELA exam for both Innovation and Non-Innovation schools by grade level for the 2018-19 through the 2022-23 school years. The MSS results in the table are color-coded based on Performance Level Cut Scores using the colors from Table 9. The Median Growth Percentiles are color-coded based on whether they meet the growth expectation of 50 or more (green) or not (red).

**TABLE 10: CMAS and CoAlt ELA Data from 2019 to 2023 by School Type and Grade Level**

Year	Grade Level	Innovation Schools				Non-Innovation Schools			
		N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation	N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation
2019	Grade 03	3,082	732.3	N/A	96.4%	59,727	740.0	N/A	96.9%
	Grade 04	3,180	734.1	46	96.7%	61,372	745.5	50	96.7%
	Grade 05	3,218	738.8	53	96.1%	62,594	747.2	50	96.1%
	Grade 06	4,235	738.3	54	96.2%	60,396	743.4	50	94.5%
	Grade 07	4,266	741.8	57	95.5%	58,487	745.4	50	92.2%
	Grade 08	4,094	743.2	56	93.4%	54,827	745.1	49	88.4%
2021	Grade 03	1,920	723.2	N/A	60.3%	44,275	736.4	N/A	76.5%
	Grade 04	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Grade 05	1,981	734.3	N/A	60.7%	45,213	746.2	N/A	75.0%
	Grade 06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Grade 07	2,050	732.8	N/A	41.8%	41,113	742.3	N/A	65.4%
	Grade 08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2022	Grade 03	2,947	727.6	-	93.0%	53,712	737.4	-	93.6%
	Grade 04	2,867	731.3	48	93.4%	54,166	740.6	50	93.1%
	Grade 05	2,914	737.8	-	93.4%	54,652	745.6	-	92.3%
	Grade 06	4,117	738.3	52	91.0%	52,075	742.1	50	88.7%
	Grade 07	4,201	737.8	-	88.0%	51,321	740.9	-	84.5%
	Grade 08	4,187	742.1	55	85.8%	48,701	742.5	50	77.9%
2023	Grade 03	3,337	727.0	N/A	93.6%	58,039	737.3	N/A	93.8%
	Grade 04	3,218	731.4	49	93.3%	57,877	741.4	51	93.6%
	Grade 05	3,096	739.1	53	92.7%	58,721	747.6	51	92.3%
	Grade 06	4,396	741.7	53	92.3%	58,357	742.6	51	89.1%
	Grade 07	4,415	742.2	54	89.4%	59,404	744.0	50	84.8%
	Grade 08	4,651	741.3	54	86.8%	61,334	741.2	51	78.5%

Data Source: 2019-2023 CMAS Math and ELA School Overall Results, CDE’s Accountability Analytics Unit

Overall, the MSS in Innovation schools for English Language Arts are lower than in Non-Innovation schools but fall within the same performance level band of “Approached Expectations” for the 2022-23 school year. MGP scores for Innovation schools were higher than Non-Innovation schools for grades 5-8 and students in both Innovation and Non-Innovation schools met the growth expectations of a median growth percentile of 50, except for grade 4 Innovation schools. Participation rates in grades 5-8 were also higher in Innovation schools than Non-Innovation schools, although the participation rates in both school types remain below pre-pandemic levels by roughly 3-5 percent.

Table 11 contains CMAS and CoAlt math data for both Innovation and Non-Innovation schools by grade level for the 2018-19 through the 2022-23 school years.



**TABLE 11: CMAS and CoAlt Math Data from 2019 to 2022 by School Type and Grade Level**

Year	Grade Level	Innovation Schools				Non-Innovation Schools			
		N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation	N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation
2019	Grade 03	3,087	730.1	N/A	96.1%	59,999	740.0	N/A	97.1%
	Grade 04	3,212	725.6	44	96.7%	61,792	735.3	50	96.8%
	Grade 05	3,265	728.9	52	96.4%	63,150	737.7	50	96.4%
	Grade 06	4,294	725.9	49	96.5%	60,880	732.6	50	94.7%
	Grade 07	4,342	729.5	55	95.8%	58,955	734.9	50	92.4%
	Grade 08	4,158	728.9	54	93.5%	55,185	735.9	50	88.5%
2021	Grade 03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Grade 04	2,053	718.1	N/A	62.5%	45,047	729.7	N/A	76.3%
	Grade 05	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Grade 06	2,298	717.4	N/A	48.1%	42,846	726.7	N/A	70.1%
	Grade 07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Grade 08	1,763	717.6	N/A	38.1%	37,760	730.4	N/A	59.4%
2022	Grade 03	2,955	727.4	-	93.0%	53,964	737.2	-	93.8%
	Grade 04	2,886	722.9	-	93.4%	54,390	732.2	-	93.1%
	Grade 05	2,946	728.0	53	93.7%	54,888	735.8	50	92.4%
	Grade 06	4,165	723.7	-	91.3%	52,267	728.1	-	88.6%
	Grade 07	4,236	725.9	49	87.9%	51,524	730.3	50	84.5%
	Grade 08	4,200	726.5	-	85.6%	49,023	731.3	-	78.1%
2023	Grade 03	3,332	727.1	NA	93.9%	58,020	738.6	N/A	94.2%
	Grade 04	3,217	724.4	49	93.5%	57,866	733.7	51	93.7%
	Grade 05	3,097	728.6	52	93.6%	58,712	737.3	51	92.6%
	Grade 06	4,393	727.2	55	93.1%	58,362	729.4	51	89.5%
	Grade 07	4,417	728.5	52	89.9%	59,416	730.8	51	85.2%
	Grade 08	4,651	728.9	55	87.0%	61,324	731.6	51	79.0%

Overall, the Mean Scale Scores in Innovation schools for math are lower than in Non-Innovation schools but fall mostly in the same performance level band of “Approached Expectations” for the 2022-23 school year, except for grade 4 in Innovation schools. Median Growth Percentiles for Innovation schools were higher than Non-Innovation schools for grades 5-8, and students in both Innovation and Non-Innovation schools met the growth expectations of 50 except for grade 4 in Innovation schools. Participation rates in grades 5-8 were also higher in Innovation schools than in Non-Innovation schools, although the participation rates in both school types remain below pre-pandemic levels by approximately 3-5 percent.

### Disaggregated Results

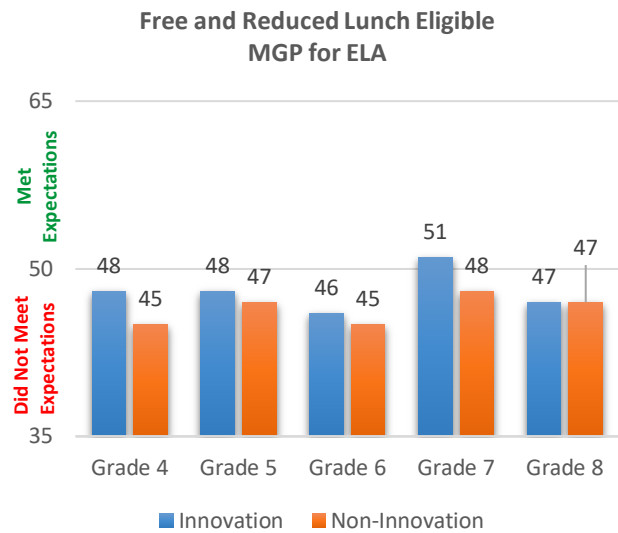
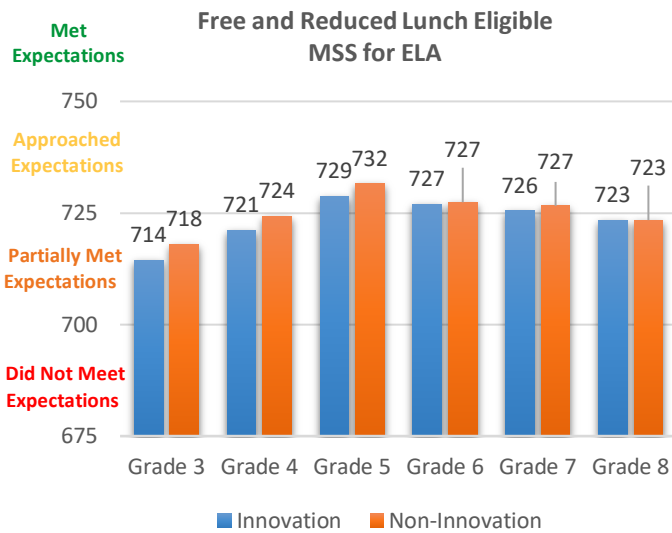
As illustrated in Figure 2 of this report, Innovation schools serve a higher percentage of students in all of the following disaggregated groups: Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) eligible students, Multilingual Learners, students of color, and students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The data depicted in the figures below analyze the MSS and MGP for each disaggregated group of students in Innovation and Non-Innovation schools. Students



in grade 3 do not have an associated MGP score because grade 3 is the initial year of CMAS administration and thus, growth cannot be calculated.

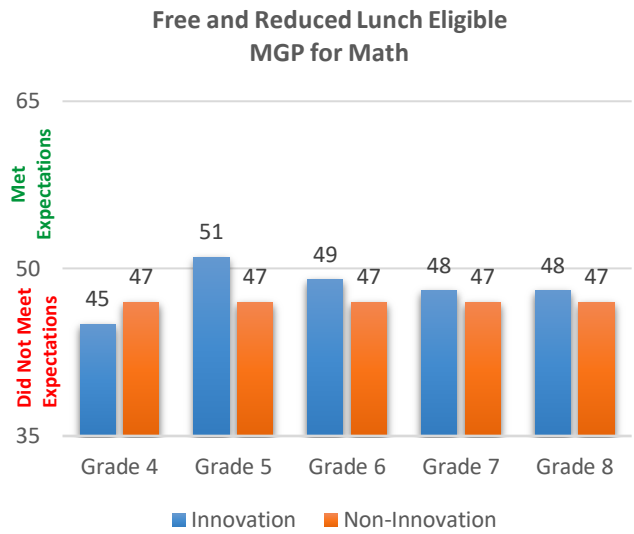
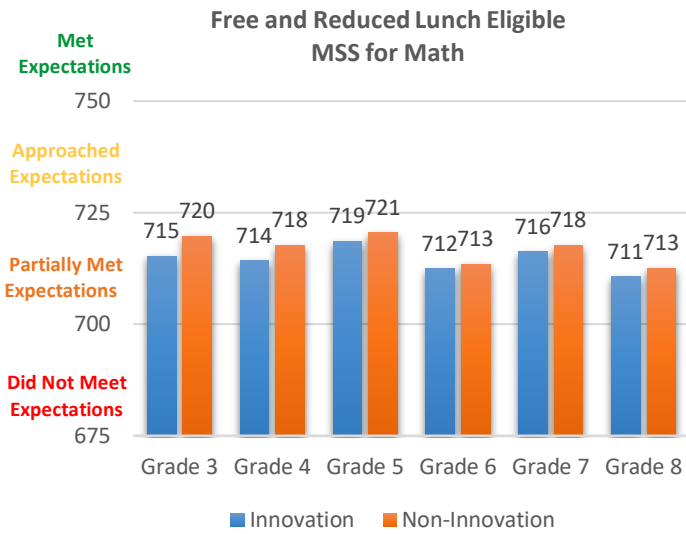
Figures 3 and 4 isolate FRL students in Innovation schools and Non-Innovation schools on CMAS ELA and math assessments for the 2022-23 school year. In both subjects' Non-Innovation schools saw a slightly higher MSS; however, students within Innovation schools had a higher MGP in almost all grade levels. Growth measures remain below expectations for all grade levels except for grade seven ELA and grade five math within Innovation schools.

**Figure 3: Students eligible for FRL on CMAS ELA**



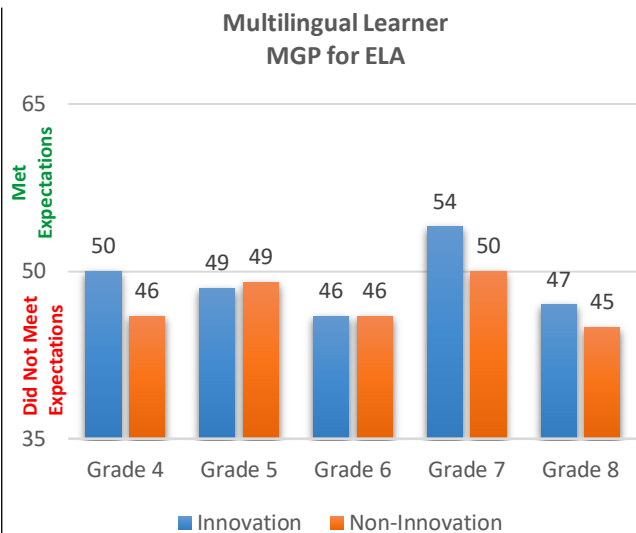
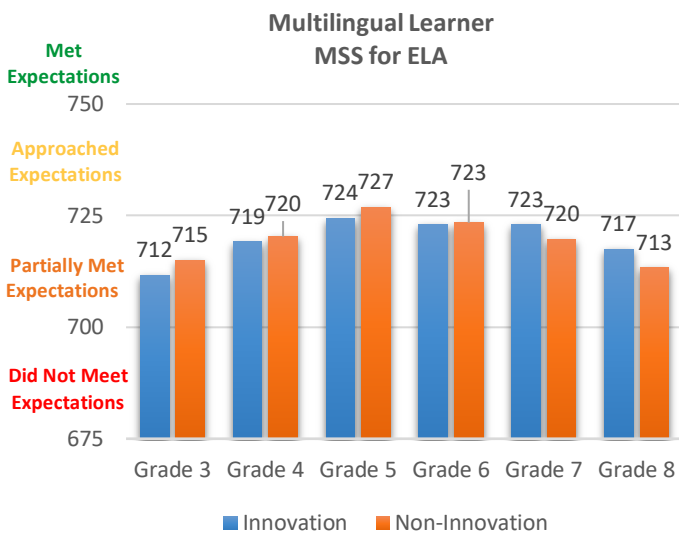


**Figure 4: Students eligible for FRL on CMAS Math**



Figures 5 and 6 focus on MSS and MGP on CMAS assessments for Multilingual learners in Innovation schools compared to Non-Innovation schools. The MSS results in ELA and math were slightly higher among students enrolled in Non-Innovation schools from grades 3-6. A shift occurred for grades 7-8, where the data indicates that Innovation school achievement was slightly higher than Non-Innovation schools. Average achievement was in the “Approached Expectations” category for all grades in both types of schools, except for grade 5 in Non-Innovation schools where it was in the “Met Expectations” category. The MGP expectation of 50 in ELA was achieved by only grades 4 and 7 in Innovation schools and by grade 7 in Non-Innovation schools. In math, the MGP of 50 was achieved in grade 5 in Innovation and Non-Innovation schools.

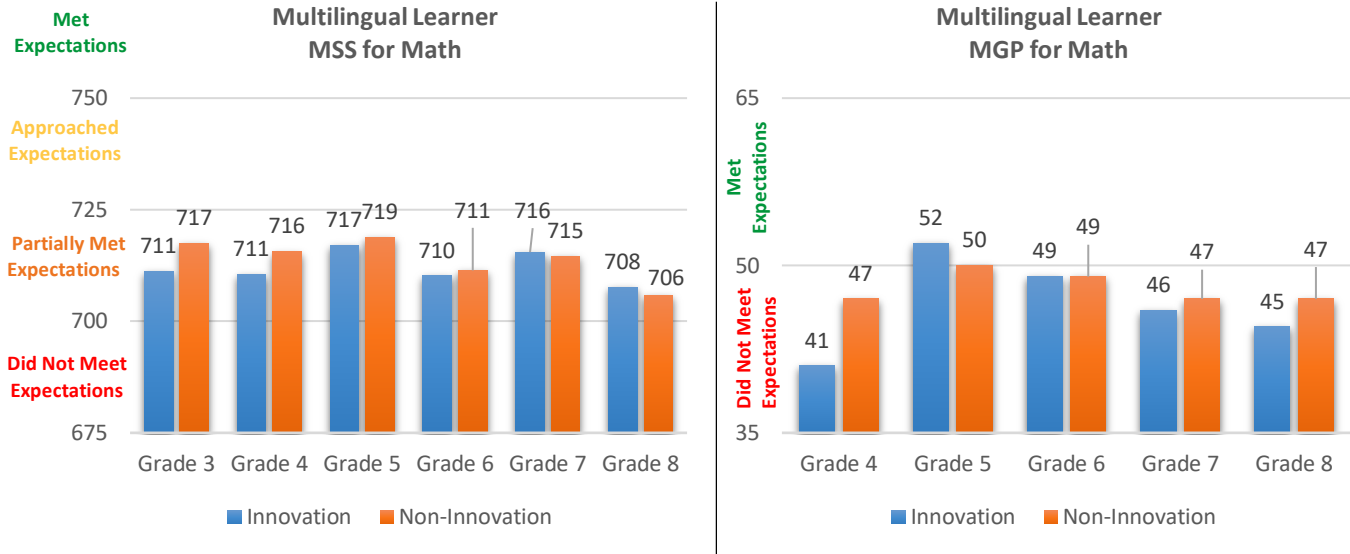
**Figure 5: Multilingual Learners on CMAS ELA**





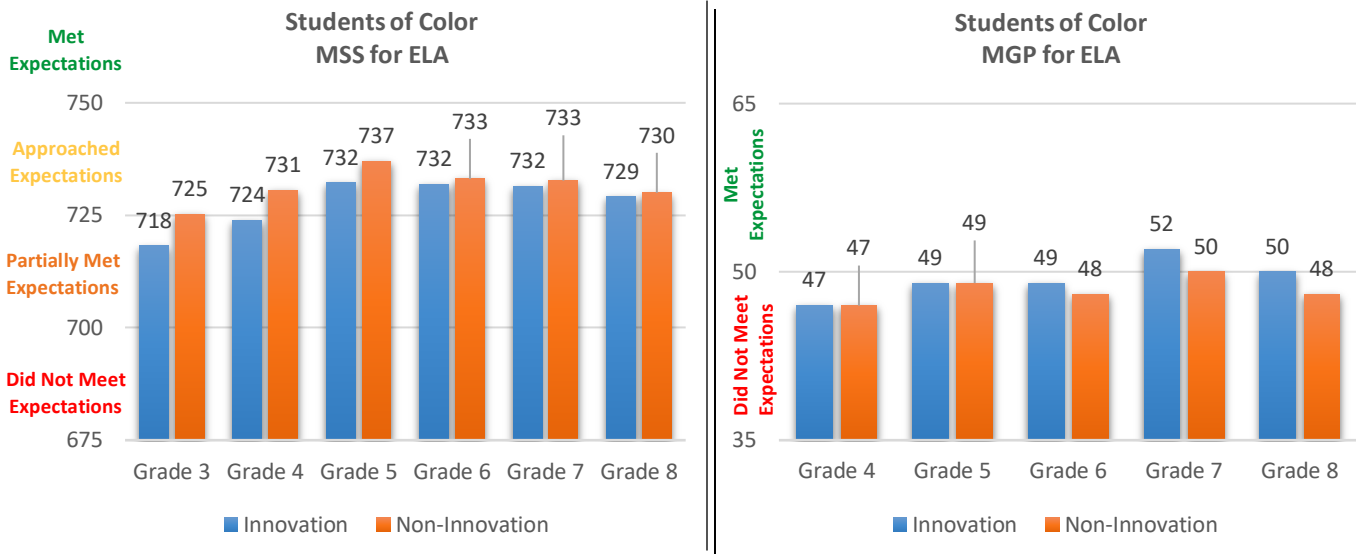


**Figure 6: Multilingual Learners on CMAS Math**



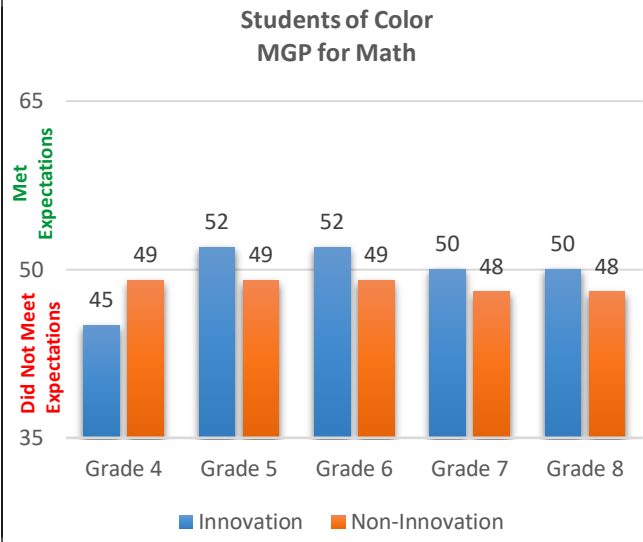
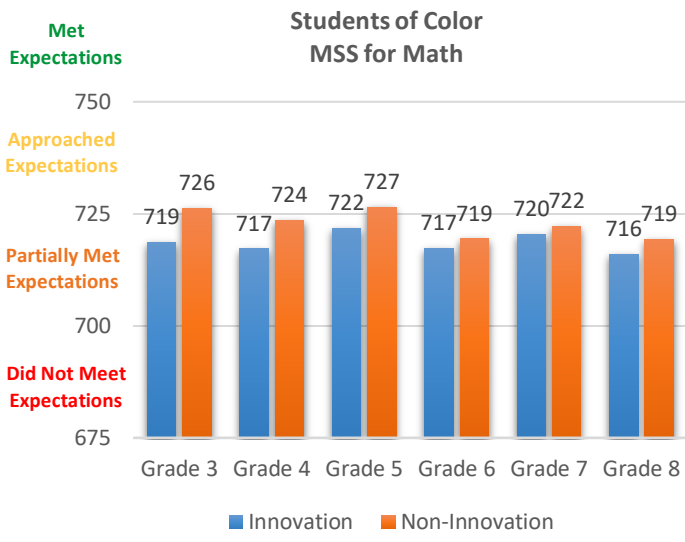
Figures 7 and 8 show an analysis of CMAS results for students of color. Innovation schools demonstrated generally higher growth through the MGP scores, however, Non-Innovation schools outperformed Innovation schools in mean achievement scores in both ELA and math. Growth expectations for students of color were “Met” in ELA only in grade 7 for Non-Innovation schools, and in grade 7 and 8 for Innovation schools. In math, growth expectations were “Met” in all but grade 4 by innovation schools, but in no grade by Non-Innovation schools. ELA achievement “Approached Expectations” in both types of schools for grades 5-8, and in grade 4 for Non-Innovation schools, and was “Partially Met” expectations in other grades. Achievement of students of color in math only “Approached Expectation” in grades 3 and 5 in Non-Innovation schools. It “Partially Met Expectations” in Innovation schools for all grades and in Non-Innovation schools for grades 4, 6, 7, and 8.

**Figure 7: Students of Color on CMAS ELA**



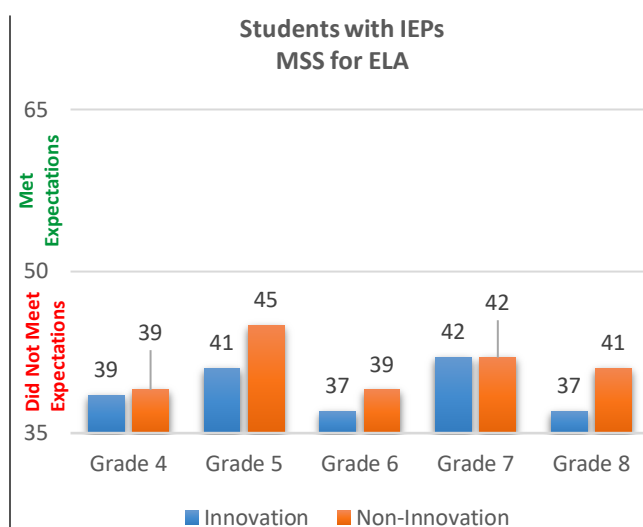
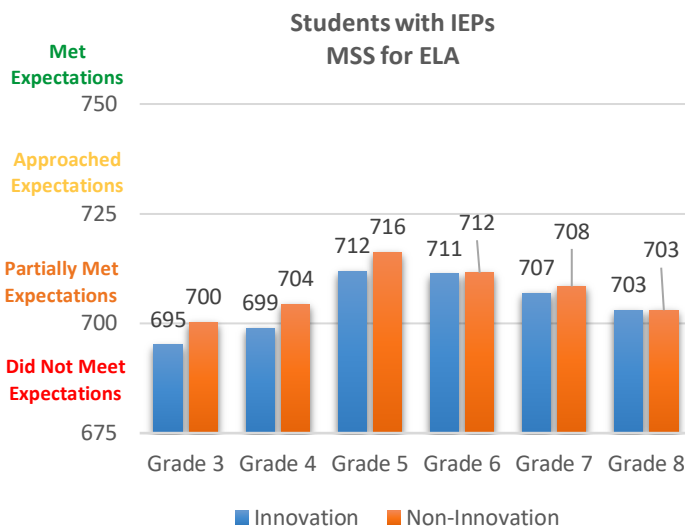


**Figure 8: Students of Color on CMAS Math**



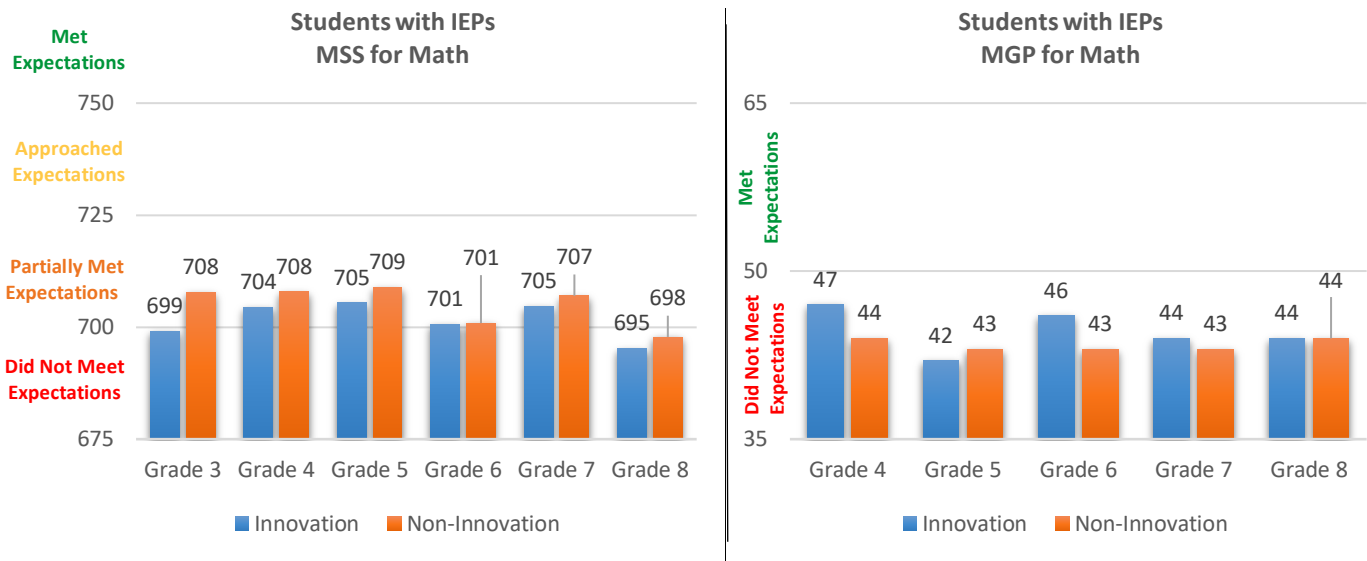
Figures 9 and 10 depict the achievement and growth of Students with an IEP. Non-Innovation schools scored slightly higher in terms of both MSS and MGP on the ELA assessment. In math, special education students also earned higher average scores in Non-Innovation schools in all grades. Growth in math for Special Education Students was higher in Innovation schools than in Non-Innovation schools except for grades 5 and 8. Median growth percentiles, being lower than 50, did not meet growth expectations in either type of school for ELA or math for Special Education students. Average achievement scores “Partially Met Expectations” in both types of schools in ELA and Math, except for grades 3 and 4 in Innovation schools in ELA, grade 3 in Innovation schools in math, and grade 8 in both types of school in math, which “Did Not Meet Expectations.”

**Figure 9: Students with IEPs on CMAS ELA**





**Figure 10: Students with IEPs on CMAS Math**



### PSAT/SAT EBRW and Math

Performance levels are used to measure how well a student meets academic expectations and the level of college readiness. As shown in Tables 12 and 13, there are four performance levels for the PSAT and SAT assessments in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) and Math. Each performance level is indicated by a color code to assist with result analysis within the report. It is important to note that the cut scores for each grade level and assessment are different.

**TABLE 12: PSAT and SAT Performance Level Cut Scores for EBRW**

Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	Level 1 Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Level 2 Approached Expectations	Level 3 Met Expectations	Level 4 Exceeded Expectations
SAT	200-430	440-470	480-630	640-800
PSAT 10	160-380	390-420	430-590	600-760
PSAT 9	120-360	370-400	410-560	570-720

**TABLE 13: PSAT and SAT Performance Level Cut Scores for Math**

Math	Level 1 Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Level 2 Approached Expectations	Level 3 Met Expectations	Level 4 Exceeded Expectations
SAT	200-450	460-520	530-650	660-800
PSAT 10	160-420	430-470	480-580	590-760
PSAT 9	120-400	410-440	450-550	560-720

As noted above, the MSS in spring 2021 may be an overestimate of the true achievement of enrolled students overall. Thus, comparisons across types of schools should be made prudently. While the number of students tested in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years increased, the participation rates are still quite a bit lower than in 2019.



With the pause of state assessments in 2020 due to the pandemic, MGPs for the Colorado PSAT/SAT could not be calculated in 2021 for accountability purposes.

Tables 14 and 15 contain assessment results from Colorado PSAT/SAT in EBRW and math and CoAlt ELA and math for both Innovation and Non-Innovation schools in school years 2018-19 through 2022-23. The Mean Scale Scores in the tables are color-coded based on Performance Level Cut Scores using the colors from Tables 12 and 13. The Median Growth Percentiles are color-coded based on whether they meet the growth expectation of 50 or more (green) or not (red).

The SAT/PSAT MSS and MGP in Innovation schools are consistently lower than in Non-Innovation schools in both math and EBRW. In 2023, Innovation schools did not meet growth expectations in EBRW or in math, while Non-Innovation schools met them for both. Mean Scale Scores indicated that, on average, high school students in Innovation schools did not yet meet grade-level expectations in math on the PSAT and SAT, while in Non-Innovation schools high school students approach expectations. In EBRW, students in Innovation schools, on average, met expectations in grade 10 and approached expectations in grades 9 and 11. In Non-Innovation schools, students met expectations on the EBRW PSAT and SAT in all grades on average.

**TABLE 14: PSAT/SAT EBRW and CoAlt ELA Data from 2019 to 2022 by School Type and Grade Level**

Year	Grade Level	Innovation Schools				Non-Innovation Schools			
		N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation	N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation
2019	Grade 09	2,968	415.9	N/A	95.3%	60,148	459.1	N/A	93.2%
	Grade 10	2,635	428.8	47	94.8%	58,181	477.8	50	92.2%
	Grade 11	2,446	455.4	42	95.2%	55,640	506.8	50	92.5%
2021	Grade 09	1,677	416.8	N/A	46.7%	48,323	462.3	N/A	73.8%
	Grade 10	1,529	444.1	N/A	48.9%	47,049	484.3	N/A	73.9%
	Grade 11	1,989	469.1	N/A	67.7%	49,381	514.1	N/A	79.7%
6/2022	Grade 09	2,841	410.1	N/A	83.3%	56,005	452.3	N/A	85.7%
	Grade 10	2,495	434.3	46	83.2%	54,049	481.8	49	85.0%
	Grade 11	2,365	453.4	40	87.0%	52,993	505.1	50	86.7%
2023	Grade 09	3,622	401.9	N/A	88.1%	65,340	451.8	N/A	84.9%
	Grade 10	3,434	428.3	46	87.0%	64,251	477.2	50	83.3%
	Grade 11	3,124	449.5	43	86.7%	62,035	507.9	50	86.4%

Data Source: 2019-2023 PSAT and SAT School Overall Results, CDE’s Accountability Analytics Unit



**TABLE 15: PSAT/SAT Math and CoAlt Math Data from 2019 to 2022 by School Type and Grade Level**

Year	Grade Level	Innovation Schools				Non-Innovation Schools			
		N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation	N-Count	MSS	MGP	Participation
2019	Grade 09	2,983	407.3	47	95.3%	60,269	449.5	51	93.2%
	Grade 10	2,636	418.3	48	94.8%	58,179	463.0	53	92.2%
	Grade 11	2,445	440.6	45	95.1%	55,640	497.6	51	92.4%
2021	Grade 09	1,677	407.4	N/A	46.7%	48,322	441.5	N/A	73.8%
	Grade 10	1,529	431.9	N/A	48.9%	47,048	464.1	N/A	73.9%
	Grade 11	1,989	452.2	N/A	67.7%	49,383	499.1	N/A	79.7%
2022	Grade 09	2,852	395.6	43.5	83.3%	56,242	434.9	50	85.7%
	Grade 10	2,512	415.3	41	83.2%	54,245	455.7	49	85.0%
	Grade 11	2,374	433.6	40	87.0%	53,158	484.2	50	86.7%
2023	Grade 09	3,622	395.8	41	88.0%	65,338	442.0	51	84.9%
	Grade 10	3,434	421.1	46	86.9%	64,250	455.6	50	83.3%
	Grade 11	3,124	429.4	41	86.7%	62,037	486.0	50	86.4%

Data Source: 2019-2023 PSAT and SAT School Overall Results, CDE’s Accountability Analytics Unit

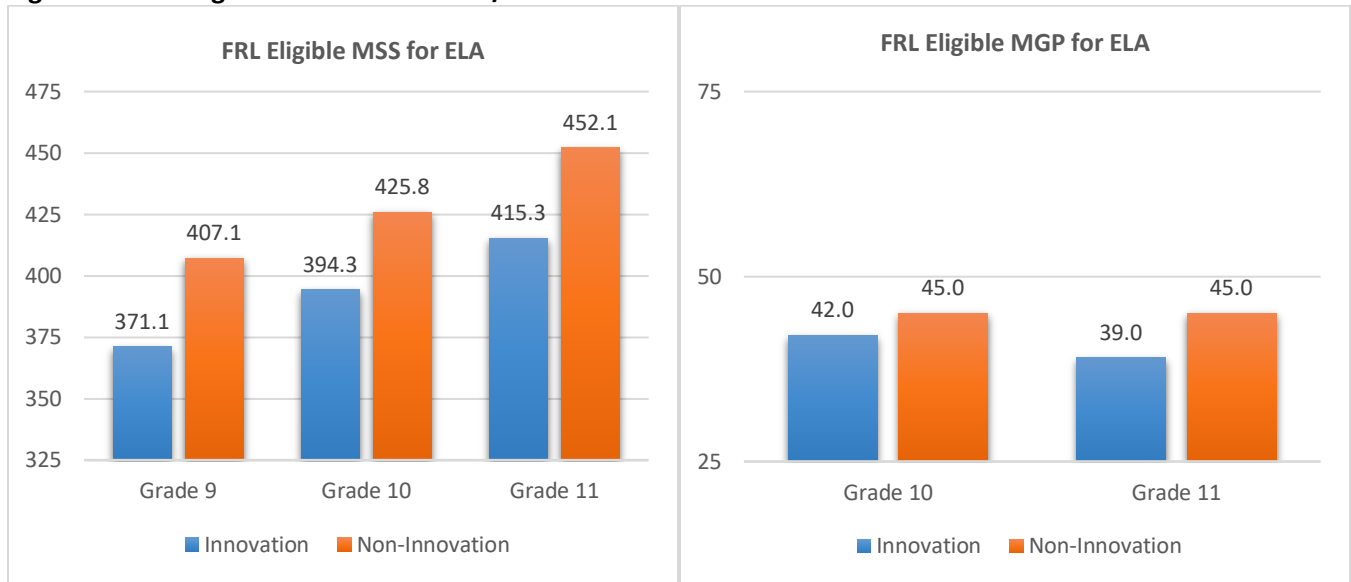
### Disaggregated Results

As illustrated in Figure 2 of this report, Innovation schools serve a higher percentage of students eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL), Multilingual Learner (ML) students, students of color and students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

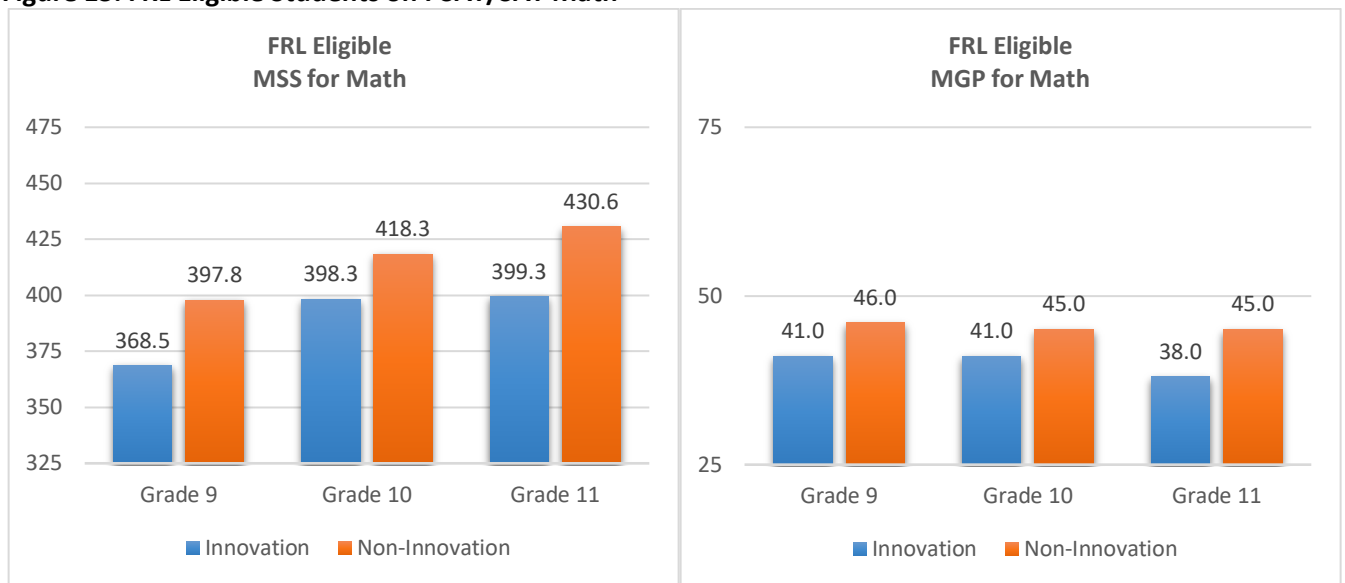
The data depicted in Figures 12-19 analyze the MSS and MGP for each demographic group of students in Innovation and Non-Innovation schools on the PSAT/SAT EBRW and math assessments for the 2022-23 school year.<sup>10</sup> Students in all demographic groups showed higher achievement and growth in Non-Innovation when compared with Innovation schools.

<sup>10</sup> As the performance level cut scores for the PSAT and SAT vary by grade, they are not displayed on these graphs.

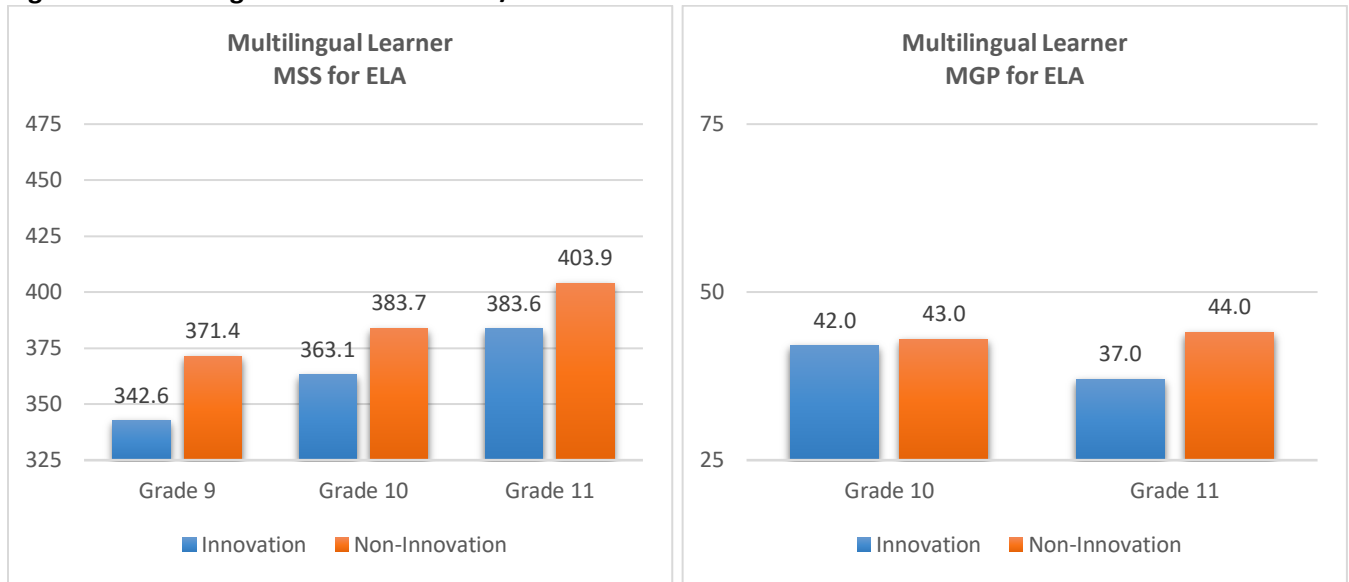
**Figure 12: FRL Eligible Students on PSAT/SAT ELA**



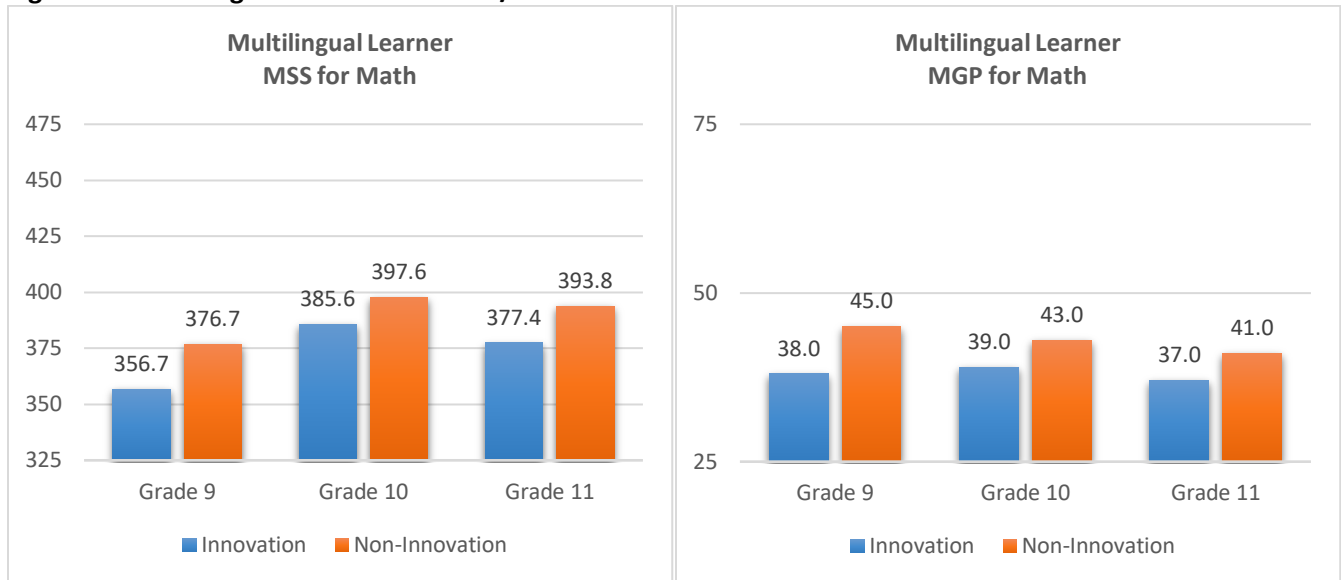
**Figure 13: FRL Eligible Students on PSAT/SAT Math**



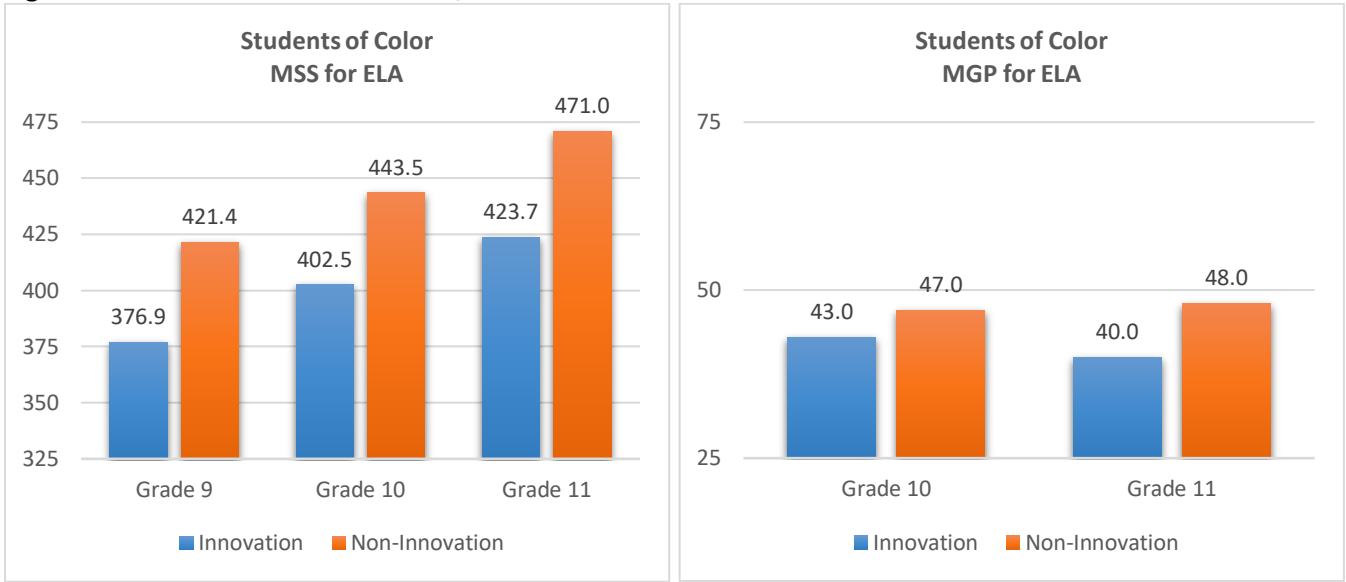
**Figure 14: Multilingual Learners on PSAT/SAT ELA- 2023**



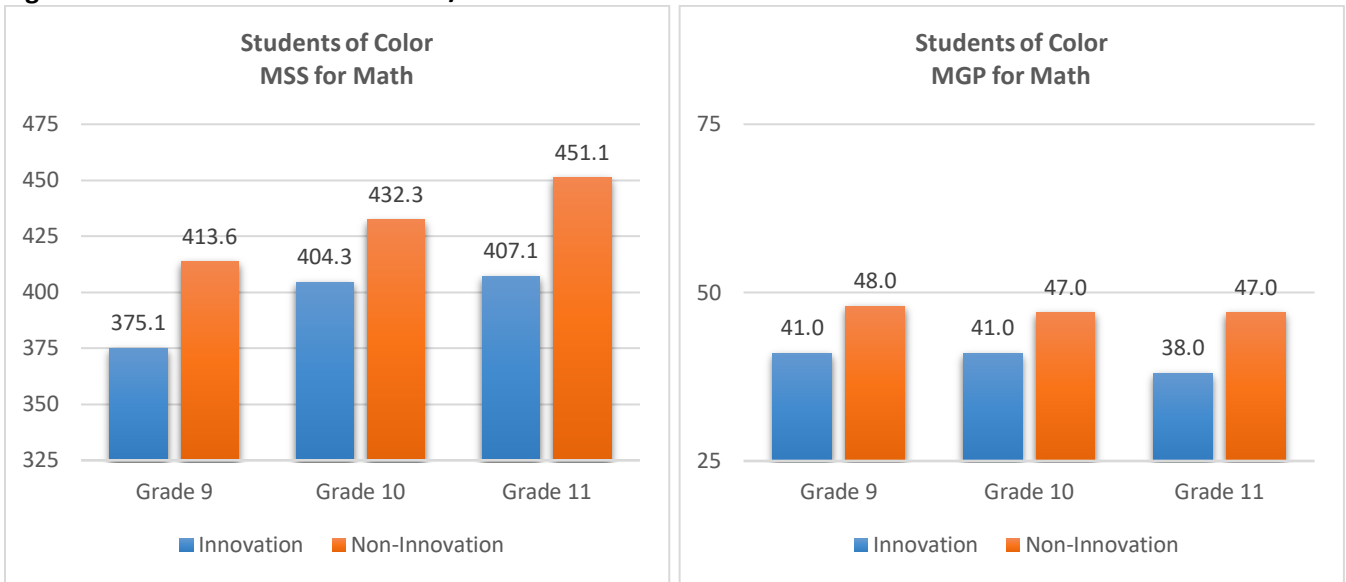
**Figure 15: Multilingual Learners on PSAT/SAT Math- 2023**



**Figure 16: Students of Color on PSAT/SAT ELA- 2023**



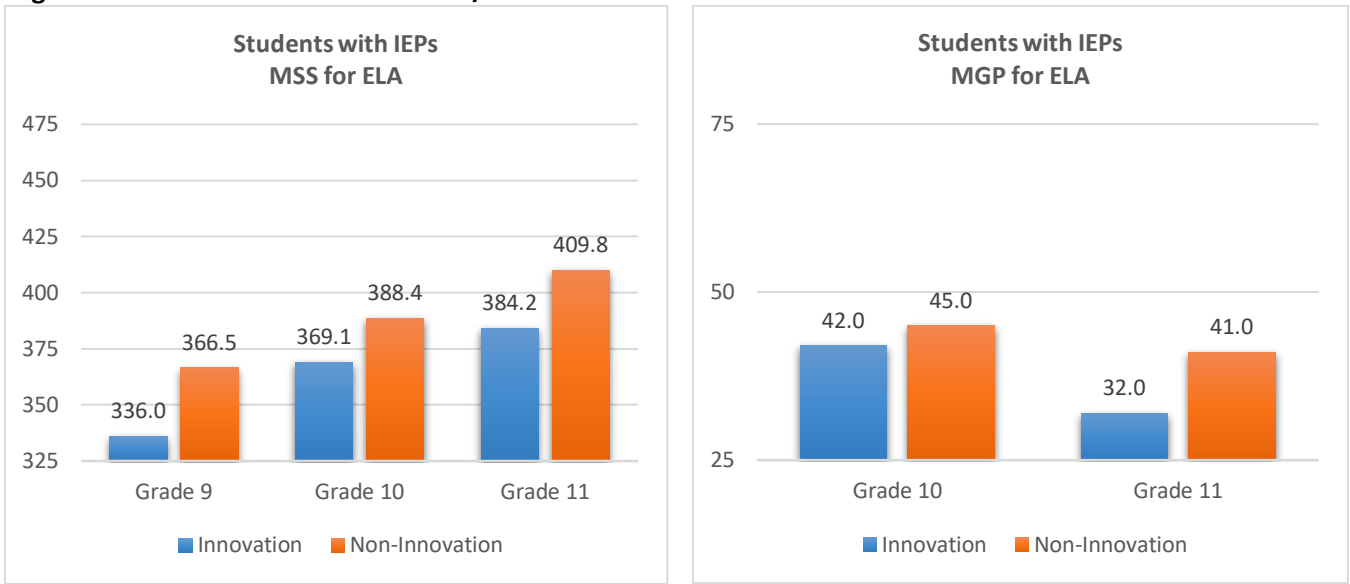
**Figure 17: Students of Color on PSAT/SAT Math- 2023**



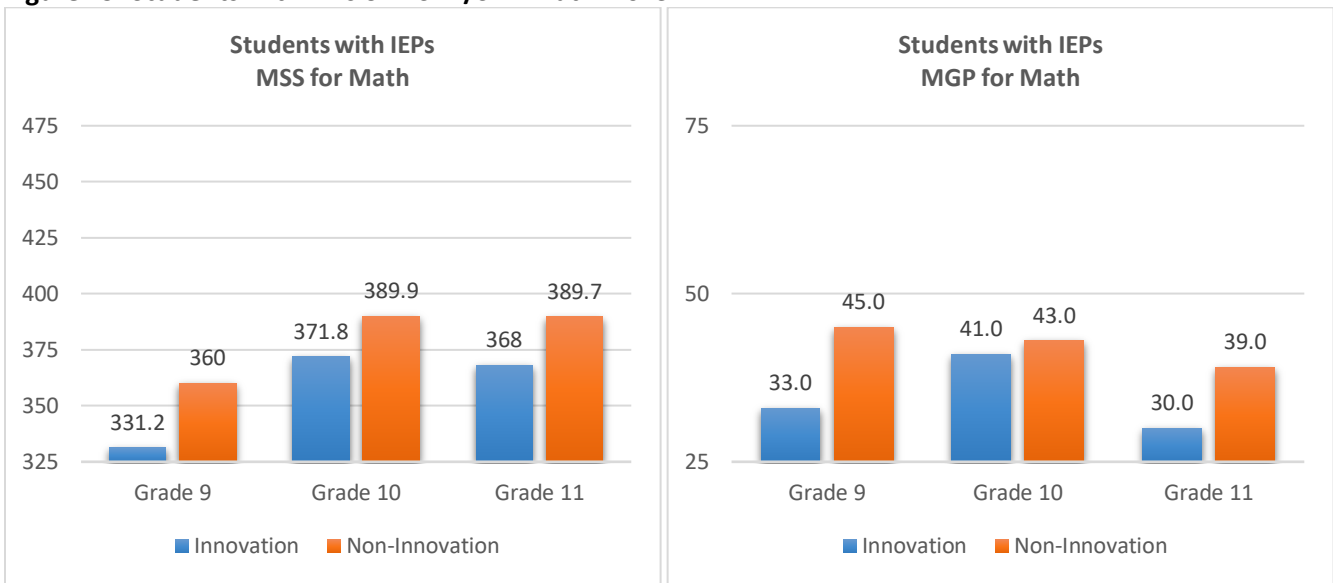




**Figure 18: Students with IEPs on PSAT/SAT ELA- 2023**



**Figure 19: Students with IEPs on PSAT/SAT Math- 2023**





## Part V: Recommendations for Legislative Changes

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CDE does not have any additional recommendations for legislative changes at this time; rather, CDE would like to highlight policy questions that have come up over time that the General Assembly may want to consider resolving. These policy questions are included below:

- Should districts of Innovation report changes made to Innovation plans after the three-year reviews to CDE? Currently CDE only receives Innovation plans as approved by the state board or any addition of waivers to plans.
- If an Innovation school wishes to start a new program (for example, a single-district online program), does the school need to modify its Innovation plan?
- If a school board adopts new policies impacting areas in which flexibility was granted to Innovation schools or Innovation zones, how do those policies apply to Innovation schools? Would historic waivers extend to such policies?
- Does adding or removing a school from an Innovation zone require a comprehensive vote of the entire zone each time?
- The state has received inquiries regarding Innovation for career-focused programming within schools. Does the legislature want to consider enabling conditions for districts to authorize such designs as stand-alone zones or schools, even if the students may have enrollment in another school?

In writing this report and looking at the performance of innovation schools over the years, CDE has some observations about additional analysis that might be helpful. The Innovation Schools Act has been in implementation since 2009, and more technical research may be helpful to better understand the extent to which innovation status affects student academic achievement as well as the extent to which innovation schools are able to adapt to changing needs in a community. Given that innovation is used for different purposes in different communities, it would be important that a study consider the initial objectives for why innovation status was sought by a school or community. Additionally, we would like to note that when looking at the performance of individual Innovation schools, one will find that some schools are indeed performing quite well. Given the program-specific experiences of such schools, the Department recommends conducting deeper analysis of effective Innovation schools. Such a study should be similar to the analysis of turnaround schools carried out by the Center for Assessment, Research, and Evaluation at CU Boulder found [here](#).



## Appendices

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### Appendix A: Required Components of an Innovation Plan

An Innovation plan must be submitted along with the following documents:

- A signed resolution from the local school board, signaling approval of the plan and intent to submit the plan to the State Board of Education for its approval;
- A separate document listing the state laws and State Board of Education rules that the school is seeking to waive, as well as “replacement plans” for each of those waivers (i.e., a description of how the school will comply with the intent of the waived statutes or rules and will be accountable to the state for such compliance); and
- A separate document showing the school’s prior year budget (if an already existing school) and a proposed budget, including funding required for all innovations to be implemented. This budget should include all costs associated with innovations, including staffing costs, and information about any local, state, federal or private funds the school anticipates receiving.

An Innovation plan must also include the following components:

- A statement of the school’s mission and why designation as an Innovation school would enhance the school’s ability to achieve its mission;
- A description of the innovations the school would implement;
- A description of the improvements in academic achievement that the school expects to achieve as a result of the innovations. For example, a school may expect to see a narrowing in achievement gaps, a decreased dropout rate, or increased scores on state or local assessments;
- A list of the programs, policies, and/or operational documents at the school that would be affected by the innovations, and how these would be affected. For example, if a school proposes to extend the school year, that would affect the school’s calendar. Other examples of programs/policies/documents that may be affected include the following:
  - the research-based educational program the school would implement;
  - the length of the school day and year at the school;
  - student promotion and graduation policies;
  - assessment plans; or
  - staffing and/or compensation plans;
- A narrative of the school’s prior year budget (if an already existing school) and a proposed budget, including funding required for all innovations to be implemented.
- An estimate of the cost savings and increased efficiencies that the school expects to see as a result of the innovations if any;
- Evidence that a majority of the administrators employed at the school consent to designation as an Innovation school;
- Evidence that a majority of the teachers employed at the school consent to designation as an Innovation school. (Note: For a school that is seeking to waive one or more of the provisions of a collective bargaining agreement, the school plan must include evidence of approval of at least 60% of the members of the collective bargaining unit who are employed at the Innovation school. The approval must be gathered by means of a secret ballot vote.);
- Evidence that a majority of the school accountability committee for the school consent to designation as an Innovation school;



- A statement describing the level of support for designation as an Innovation school demonstrated by other persons employed at the school, students and parents of students enrolled in the school, and the community surrounding the school;
- A description of any statutes or any regulatory or district policy requirements that would need to be waived for the public school to implement its identified innovations; and
- A description of any provision of the collective bargaining agreement at the school that would need to be waived for the school to implement its identified innovation

For schools implementing a community school model as an innovation strategy, the Innovation plan must implement the following:

- The school engages at least 75% of families, students, and educators;
- The Innovation plan contains an annual asset and needs assessment;
- A strategic plan for continuous improvement with problem-solving teams, clear roles for educators and community partners, and the plan utilizes key tools and lessons from improvement science in the continuous improvement process;
- A process to engage partners in implementing the school's goals; and
- A community school coordinator who will facilitate problem-solving teams and assemble stakeholders to solve problems identified in a strategic plan and the annual asset and needs assessment.

#### **Additional Requirements for Innovation Zones Only**

- For schools that are jointly seeking designation as an Innovation School Zone, the Innovation plan must include all of the information described above, for each school in the zone. In addition, the Innovation plan for an Innovation School Zone must include:
- A description of how the schools will work together to achieve results that would be less likely if each school worked alone;
- An estimate of any economies of scale that may result from schools implementing innovations jointly; and
- A showing of how each school in the Innovation School Zone solicited input from students, parents, and community members concerning the selection of the schools in the zone and the strategies and procedures that would be used to implement and integrate innovations in schools within the zone.

#### **Additional Requirements for New Innovation Zones with Alternative Governance Models**

- For Innovation zones with an alternative governance model, the following information must be included in the Innovation School Zone plan which began in the 2022-23 school year:
- Explanation of how alternative governance will help achieve the vision and goals of the Innovation Zone;
- A description of the organization, the governing board, and governance structure;
- A description of the roles and duties of the organization's governing board, which must include at least overseeing the implementation of the Innovation plan and supporting academic progress;
- A description of the zone staffing structure and management the organization will provide;
- An accessible link to Federal Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF on the website;
- A description of the terms under, and the process by which, a school within an Innovation school zone may elect to leave the Innovation school zone; and
- A description of the method the school district will use for determining the cost of services and a corresponding financial agreement with the Innovation school zone.



## Appendix B: List of Innovation Schools

District Name	School Code	School Name	Grade Range	SBE Approval Date	Innovation End Date	2023 School Performance Rating
Adams 12 Five Star Schools	8842	Thornton Elementary School	PK-5	4/13/2017		Improvement Plan
Adams County 14	1426	Central Elementary School	K-5	6/8/2022		Priority Improvement Plan
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	1458	Aurora Central Campus	9-12	5/11/2016		Insufficient Data
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	9396	Aurora West College Preparatory Academy	6-12	5/11/2016		Priority Improvement Plan
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	0914	Boston K-8	PK-8	5/11/2016		Improvement Plan
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	1948	Crawford Elementary School	PK-5	5/11/2016		Improvement Plan
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	3354	Gateway High School	9-12	6/14/2023		Turnaround Plan (Not earned under Innovation)
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	6728	Paris Elementary	PK-5	5/11/2016	6/30/2023	School Closed
Burlington RE-6J	1144	Burlington Elementary School	PK-4	9/15/2016		Priority Improvement Plan
Burlington RE-6J	1152	Burlington High School	9-12	9/15/2016		Improvement Plan
Burlington RE-6J	1150	Burlington Middle School	5-8	9/15/2016		Turnaround Plan
Colorado Springs District 11	5948	Mitchell High School	9-12	4/13/2022		Priority Improvement Plan
Colorado Springs District 11	6306	North Middle School	6-8	9/9/2021		Performance Plan
Colorado Springs District 11	9298	Wasson High School	9-12	8/11/2010	6/30/2013	School Closed
Delta County 50(J)	1952	North Fork Montessori @ Crawford	PK-6	5/14/2014		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	10	Abraham Lincoln High School	9-12	2/13/2020		Priority Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	418	Ashley Elementary School	PK-5	3/11/2014		Performance Plan



District Name	School Code	School Name	Grade Range	SBE Approval Date	Innovation End Date	2023 School Performance Rating
Denver County 1	650	Beach Court Elementary School	PK-5	8/16/2018		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	1077	Bear Valley International School	PK-5	11/9/2016		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	1400	Centennial, A School for Expeditionary Learning	PK-5	8/14/2013		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	3655	Center for Talent Development at Greenlee	PK-5	8/16/2018		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	1785	Cole Arts and Science Academy	PK-5	8/12/2009		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	1295	Collegiate Prep Academy	9-12	6/8/2011	6/30/2022	N/A
Denver County 1	1489	Compassion Road Academy	9-12	3/12/2013		AEC: Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	3698	Creativity Challenge Community (C3)	K-5	4/11/2012		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	2205	DCIS at Ford	PK-5	5/11/2011		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	2209	DCIS at Montbello	45455	5/11/2011	6/30/2022	N/A
Denver County 1	2188	Denver Center for 21st Century at Wyman	6-12	6/8/2011		AEC: Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	2129	Denver Center for International Studies at Fairmont	PK-5	3/12/2013		Priority Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	2227	Denver Discovery School	PK-5	3/11/2015	6/30/2023	School Closed
Denver County 1	2176	Denver Green School Northfield	6	8/14/2019		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	2125	Denver Green School Southeast	K-8	5/12/2010		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	2167	Denver Montessori Junior/Senior High School	7-12	3/12/2013		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	2241	Denver School of Innovation and Sustainable Design (DSISD)	9-12	11/11/2015		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	5605	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Early College	6-12	9/15/2010		Priority Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	2641	Excel Academy	9-12	8/14/2013		AEC: Performance Plan



District Name	School Code	School Name	Grade Range	SBE Approval Date	Innovation End Date	2023 School Performance Rating
Denver County 1	3478	Godsman Elementary	PK-5	8/3/2011		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	3512	Goldrick Elementary School	PK-5	10/12/2016		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	3600	Grant Beacon Middle School	6-8	5/9/2012		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	3641	Green Valley Elementary	PK-5	8/3/2011		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	4253	Inspire Elementary School	PK-4	8/16/2017		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	3778	International Academy of Denver at Harrington	PK-5	10/12/2016		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	4213	Isabella Bird Community School	PK-5	6/11/2014		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	4383	Joe Shoemaker Elementary School	PK-5	11/11/2015		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	0220	John H. Amesse Elementary	PK-5	8/16/2018	6/30/2023	Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	4513	Kepner Beacon Middle School	6-8	11/9/2016		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	5044	Legacy Options High School	9-12	11/11/2015	6/30/2023	AEC: Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	5448	Manual High School	9-12	3/19/2009		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	5897	McAuliffe International School	6-8	3/7/2012		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	5973	McAuliffe Manual Middle School	6-8	11/9/2016		Priority Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	5685	McGlone Academy	PK-8	8/3/2011		Turnaround Plan
Denver County 1	5826	Merrill Middle School	6-8	5/8/2019		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	6002	Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment	PK-5	3/19/2009		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	6098	Morey Middle School	6-8	8/16/2017		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	6239	Noel Community Arts School	9-12	5/11/2011	6/30/2019	N/A
Denver County 1	2757	Northeast Early College	9-12	6/8/2011		Priority Improvement Plan



District Name	School Code	School Name	Grade Range	SBE Approval Date	Innovation End Date	2023 School Performance Rating
Denver County 1	6368	Northfield High School	9-12	10/7/2015		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	8131	Oakland Elementary School	PK-5	8/13/2014		Priority Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	7045	Place Bridge Academy	PK-8	6/10/2015	6/30/2018	N/A
Denver County 1	2025	Robert F. Smith STEAM Academy	9	8/11/2021		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	7698	Schmitt Elementary School	PK-5	10/12/2016		Priority Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	8145	Summit Academy	6-12	8/3/2011	6/30/2023	AEC: Performance Plan
Denver County 1	8453	Swigert International School	PK-5	8/3/2011		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	8909	Trevista at Horace Mann	PK-5	9/12/2012		Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	408	Valdez Elementary School	PK-5	6/3/2010		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	9050	Valverde Elementary School	PK-5	10/12/2016		Performance Plan
Denver County 1	8995	Vista Academy	6-12	8/3/2011	6/30/2023	AEC: Performance Plan
Denver County 1	9693	West Early College	45455	3/7/2012	6/30/2021	N/A
Denver County 1	9702	West Leadership Academy	45455	3/7/2012	6/30/2021	N/A
Denver County 1	9548	Whittier ECE-8 School	PK-8	9/15/2010		Priority Improvement Plan
Denver County 1	3991	Willow Elementary School	PK-5	2/18/2015		Performance Plan
District 49	1618	Evans Elementary School	PK-5	8/8/2012		Improvement Plan
District 49	2908	Falcon High School	9-12	9/14/2016		Performance Plan
District 49	2906	Falcon Middle School	6-8	6/13/2012		Improvement Plan
District 49	4102	Horizon Middle School	6-8	9/12/2012		Performance Plan
District 49	6483	Odyssey Elementary School	PK-5	6/13/2012		Performance Plan





District Name	School Code	School Name	Grade Range	SBE Approval Date	Innovation End Date	2023 School Performance Rating
District 49	7317	Remington Elementary School	PK-5	8/8/2012		Performance Plan
District 49	7339	Ridgeview Elementary School	PK-5	6/13/2012		Performance Plan
District 49	7960	Skyview Middle School	6-8	6/13/2012		Performance Plan
District 49	8010	Springs Ranch Elementary School	PK-5	5/15/2013		Performance Plan
District 49	8266	Stetson Elementary School	PK-5	6/13/2012		Performance Plan
District 49	8791	Vista Ridge High School	9-12	6/13/2012		Improvement Plan
Greeley 6	2657	Early College Academy	9-12	6/10/2015		Performance Plan
Greeley 6	3162	Franklin Middle School	6-8	4/24/2017		Performance Plan
Greeley 6	3173	Fred Tjardes School of Innovation	K-8	3/8/2017		Improvement Plan
Greeley 6	6774	Martinez Elementary School	K-5	6/14/2017		Performance Plan
Greeley 6	4438	Prairie Heights Middle School	6-8	4/24/2017		Performance Plan
Holyoke RE-1J	2686	Holyoke Alternative School	7-12	4/24/2017		Insufficient Data
Holyoke RE-1J	4076	Holyoke Elementary School	K-6	6/10/2015		Turnaround Plan
Holyoke RE-1J	4080	Holyoke Senior High School	7-12	6/14/2017		Performance Plan
Jefferson County R-1	3201	Free Horizon Montessori	PK-8	6/14/2018		Performance Plan
Kit Carson R-1	4738	Kit Carson Elementary School	PK-5	3/9/2011		Insufficient Data
Kit Carson R-1	4742	Kit Carson Junior-Senior High School	6-12	3/9/2011		Insufficient Data
Mancos RE-6	6179	Mancos Early Learning Center	PK	12/15/2016		N/A
Mancos RE-6	5446	Mancos Elementary School	K-5	12/15/2016		Insufficient Data
Mancos RE-6	5452	Mancos High School	9-12	12/15/2016		Priority Improvement Plan



District Name	School Code	School Name	Grade Range	SBE Approval Date	Innovation End Date	2023 School Performance Rating
Mancos RE-6	5450	Mancos Middle School	6-8	12/15/2016		Insufficient Data
Montrose County RE-1J	1392	Centennial Middle School	6-8	3/11/2015		Improvement Plan
Pueblo City 60	0822	Bessemer Elementary School	PK-5	9/13/2017		Improvement Plan
Pueblo City 60	0756	Franklin School of Innovation	PK-5	9/15/2016		Performance Plan
Pueblo City 60	8030	Heroes K-8 Academy	K-8	9/13/2017	6/30/2019	N/A
Pueblo City 60	4302	Irving Elementary	K-5	9/15/2016		Performance Plan
Pueblo City 60	5916	Minnequa Elementary School	PK-5	9/15/2016		Performance Plan
Pueblo City 60	5048	Pueblo Academy of Arts	6-8	5/16/2013		Priority Improvement Plan
Pueblo City 60	4376	Risley International Academy of Innovation	6-8	5/16/2013		Priority Improvement Plan
Pueblo City 60	7481	Roncalli STEM Academy	6-8	5/16/2013		Priority Improvement Plan
Thompson R-2J	5992	Monroe Elementary School	PK-5	6/14/2017	6/30/2023	School Closed
Thompson R-2J	9674	Winona Elementary School	K-5	6/14/2017		Performance Plan
Westminster Public Schools	4334	Colorado STEM Academy	PK-8	4/10/2013		Performance Plan
Westminster Public Schools	7810	John E. Flynn A Marzano Academy	PK-6	5/10/2019		Performance Plan
Westminster Public Schools	4334	Metropolitan Arts Academy	PK-6	5/8/2019		Performance Plan
Westminster Public Schools	9236	Westminster Academy for International Studies	PK-8	6/14/2017		Performance Plan
Widefield School District 6	3692	Grand Mountain School	PK-8	1/9/2019		Performance Plan
Widefield School District 6	5602	Martin Luther King Elementary School	K-5	1/9/2019		Performance Plan
Widefield School District 6	4346	Talbott STEAM Innovation School	K-5	2/10/2016		Improvement Plan
Widefield School District 6	9562	Widefield Elementary Schools of the Arts	K-5	1/9/2019		Performance Plan



**Appendix C: School Performance Framework Ratings from 2010 to 2023 for Schools Designated Innovation**

Performance (P)	Improvement (I)	Priority Improvement (PI)	Turnaround (T)	Insufficient Data (ID)
*= Low Participation				
**= Decreased Due to Participation				
~= District Assigned SPF Rating				
AEC= Alternative Educational Campus				
Bolded Box = SPF result was earned under Innovation status				



Innovation School by District	Date of Approval	SPF 2010	SPF 2011	SPF 2012	SPF 2013	SPF 2014	SPF 2016	SPF 2017	SPF 2018	SPF 2019	SPF 2022	SPF 2023
<b>ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS</b>												
Thornton Elementary School	4/13/2017	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	P	P	I	I	I	I
<b>ADAMS COUNTY 14</b>												
Central Elementary School	6/8/2022	I	I	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	T	PI
<b>ADAMS-ARAPAHOE 28J</b>												
Aurora Central Campus	5/11/2016	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	T	PI*	PI	PI	T*	ID*
Aurora West College Preparatory Academy	5/11/2016	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	I	PI**
Boston K-8 School	5/11/2016	I	PI	PI	PI	PI	P	P	P	P	I	I
Gateway High School [1]	6/14/2023	I	PI	I	I	PI	PI	PI	PI*	T**	T*	T**
Crawford Elementary School	5/11/2016	I	PI	PI	PI	I	I	PI	I	I	PI	I
Paris Elementary School [2]	5/11/2016	PI	I	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	I	I	PI	Closed
<b>BURLINGTON RE-6J</b>												
Burlington Elementary School	9/15/2016	P	P	P	P	P	P*	P*	PI*	P*	I	PI**
Burlington High School	9/15/2016	I	I	I	I	P	P*	I*	I*	I	PI*	PI
Burlington Middle School	9/15/2016	I	PI	PI	P	I	I*	PI*	ID*	I*	PI*	T
<b>COLORADO SPRINGS 11</b>												
Mitchell High School	4/13/2022	I	I	I	I	P	PI**	PI**	PI*	PI*	T*	PI
North Middle School	9/9/2021	I	I	I	I	PI	I*	T*	P	P	P*	P
Wasson High School [3]	8/11/2010	I	PI	PI	Closed							
<b>DELTA COUNTY 50(J)</b>												
North Fork Montessori @ Crawford	5/14/2014	P	P	P	P	P	P*	P	P*	P	P	P
<b>DENVER COUNTY 1</b>												
Abraham Lincoln High School	2/13/2020	I	PI	I	I	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI
Ashley Elementary School	3/11/2014	I	PI	T	PI	I	PI	PI	I	I	P	P
Beach Court Elementary School	8/16/2018	P	P	P	P	PI	T	I	I	I	ID*	I



Innovation School by District	Date of Approval	SPF 2010	SPF 2011	SPF 2012	SPF 2013	SPF 2014	SPF 2016	SPF 2017	SPF 2018	SPF 2019	SPF 2022	SPF 2023
Bear Valley International School	11/9/2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	I	I	I	I*	I
Centennial A School for Expeditionary Learning	8/14/2013	PI	I	T	T	T	I	PI	I	I	ID*	P
Center for Talent Development at Greenlee	8/16/2018	P	T	T	T	T	PI	I	I	P	ID*	I
Cole Arts and Science Academy	8/13/2009	I	I	I	I	I	I	T	PI	T	P	I
Collegiate Preparatory Academy [4]	6/8/2011	N/A	~P	P	I	PI	P	I*	T*	PI	Closed	
Compassion Road Academy	3/12/2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	AEC: T	AEC: I	AEC: P	AEC: PI	AEC: P	AEC: I	AEC: I
Creativity Challenge Community	4/11/2012	N/A	N/A	~P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
DCIS at Ford	5/11/2011	N/A	~P	P	PI	PI	I	P	P	I	P	P
DCIS at Montbello [5]	5/11/2011	N/A	~P	I	I	I	I	T	PI	PI*	Closed	
Denver Center for 21st-Century Learning at Wyman	6/8/2011	N/A	~P	AEC: T	AEC: T	AEC: T	AEC: I	AEC: P	AEC: I	AEC: I	AEC: P	AEC: I
Denver Center for International Studies at Fairmont	3/12/2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	I	PI*	P	I	T	ID*	PI
Denver Discovery School [6]	3/11/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P	I	PI*	T*	T*	Closed
Denver Green School Northfield	8/14/2019	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P*	P
Denver Green School Southeast	5/12/2010	P	PI	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	ID*	P
Denver Montessori Junior/Senior High School	3/12/2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	T	P	I	PI	T	ID*	P
Denver School of Innovation and Sustainable Design	11/11/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	I	PI	P*	I**
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Early College	9/15/2010	I	I	I	P	I	I	P	I*	PI**	I*	PI**
Excel Academy	8/14/2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	AEC: T	AEC: T	AEC: I	AEC: I	AEC: P	AEC: I	AEC: P
Godsman Elementary School	8/3/2011	I	PI	P	P	P	I	I	I	I	P	I
Goldrick Elementary School	10/12/2016	P	I	PI	I	PI	P	P	P	I	P	I



Innovation School by District	Date of Approval	SPF 2010	SPF 2011	SPF 2012	SPF 2013	SPF 2014	SPF 2016	SPF 2017	SPF 2018	SPF 2019	SPF 2022	SPF 2023
Grant Beacon Middle School	5/9/2012	I	I	I	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Green Valley Elementary School	8/3/2011	PI	I	P	P	P	I	P	P	P	P	I
Inspire Elementary	8/16/2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	T	P	P	P
International Academy of Denver at Harrington	10/12/2016	I	I	I	I	T	T	P	I	I	ID	I
Isabella Bird Community School	6/11/2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P	I	P	P	I	ID	P
Joe Shoemaker School	11/11/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	T*	T*	PI*	I	ID*	I
John H. Amesse Elementary [7]	8/16/2018	PI	PI	I	T	T	PI	I	I	I	P	I
Kepner Beacon Middle School	11/9/2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P	P	I	PI	I
Legacy Options High School [8]	11/11/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	T*	AEC: I	AEC: PI	AEC: P	AEC: ID*	AEC: I
Manual High School	3/19/2009	I	I	I	T	T	PI**	PI*	PI	T	PI	I
McAuliffe International School	3/7/2012	N/A	N/A	~P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P*	P
McAuliffe Manual Middle School	11/9/2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P	P	PI	P*	PI
McGlone Academy	8/3/2011	T	I	P	P	P	P	I*	T	I	PI	T
Merrill Middle School	5/8/2019	I	I	P	P	P	P	I	I	I	P	P
Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment	3/1/2009	P	P	P	P	P	I	P	I	I	P	P
Morey Middle School	8/16/2017	P	P	P	I	PI	P	P	P	I	P*	P
Noel Community Arts School [9]	5/1/2011	N/A	~P	I	I	T	PI**	PI	I	PI		
Northeast Early College	6/8/2011	N/A	~P	P	P	I	I	I	PI	I	T*	PI
Northfield High School	10/7/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	P	I	I	P	I**
Oakland Elementary	8/13/2014	N/A	P	P	T	T	T	I	P	P	I*	PI
Place Bridge Academy [10]	6/10/2015	I	I	P	P	P	P	P	PI			
Robert F. Smith STEAM Academy	8/11/2021										ID	I**
Schmitt Elementary School	10/12/2016	I	I	I	I	T	PI	P	I	T	I*	PI



Innovation School by District	Date of Approval	SPF 2010	SPF 2011	SPF 2012	SPF 2013	SPF 2014	SPF 2016	SPF 2017	SPF 2018	SPF 2019	SPF 2022	SPF 2023
Summit Academy [11]	8/3/2011	P	AEC: T	AEC: T	AEC: T	AEC: T	AEC: I	AEC: P	AEC: I	AEC: P	AEC: P	AEC: P
Swigert International School	8/3/2011	N/A	~P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P*	P
Trevista at Horace Mann	9/12/2012	PI	T	PI	T	PI	P	P	P	I	P	I
Valdez Elementary School	6/3/2010	I	P	P	P	I	P	P	P*	P	ID	P
Valverde Elementary School	10/12/2016	I	PI	I	PI	T	T	PI	I	P*	ID	P
Vista Academy [12]	8/3/2011	N/A	~P	AEC: I	AEC: I	AEC: I	AEC: I	AEC: I	AEC: I	AEC: P	AEC: P	AEC: P
West Early College [13]	3/7/2012	N/A	N/A	~P	T	T	T	I	I	I		
West Leadership Academy [14]	3/7/2012	N/A	N/A	~P	I	I	I	I	T	T		
Whittier ECE-8 School	9/15/2010	I	P	P	I	I	P	P	P	I	ID	PI
Willow Elementary School	2/18/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>DISTRICT 49</b>												
Evans Elementary School	8/8/2012	P	P	P	P	I	P	P	I	I	PI	I
Falcon High School	9/14/2016	P	P	P	P	P	P*	P	P	P	P*	P
Falcon Middle School	6/13/2012	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P*	I
Horizon Middle School	9/12/2012	P	P	P	P	P	I	P	P	P*	P*	P
Odyssey Elementary School	6/13/2012	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	I	P	ID	P
Remington Elementary School	8/8/2012	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Ridgeview Elementary School	6/13/2012	P	P	P	P	P	P	I	P	P	P	P
Skyview Middle School	6/13/2012	P	P	P	I	P	P	P	P*	P	P*	P
Springs Ranch Elementary School	5/15/2013	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Stetson Elementary School	6/13/2012	P	P	P	P	P	P	I	I	P	P	P
Vista Ridge High School	6/13/2012	P	P	P	P	P	I**	P*	P	P	P*	I
<b>GREELEY 6</b>												
Early College Academy	6/10/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P
Franklin Middle School	4/24/2017	PI	PI	PI	T	PI	PI	P	I	I	PI	P



Innovation School by District	Date of Approval	SPF 2010	SPF 2011	SPF 2012	SPF 2013	SPF 2014	SPF 2016	SPF 2017	SPF 2018	SPF 2019	SPF 2022	SPF 2023
Fred Tjardes School of Innovation	3/8/2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	T*	PI	ID	I
Martinez Elementary School	6/14/2017	I	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	P	P	I	P
Prairie Heights Middle School	4/24/2017	T	T	T	PI	PI	PI	PI	P	P	P	P
<b>HOLYOKE RE-1J</b>												
Holyoke Alternative School	6/10/2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P	ID	ID	ID	ID	ID
Holyoke Elementary School	6/10/2015	P	P	P	P	P	I	P	P	P	P	T
Holyoke Senior High School	6/10/2015	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P*	P
<b>JEFFERSON COUNTY R-1</b>												
Free Horizon Montessori	6/14/2018	P	P	I	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>KIT CARSON R-1</b>												
Kit Carson Elementary School	3/9/2011	P	P	P	P	P	ID*	ID*	ID*	ID*	ID*	ID
Kit Carson Junior-Senior High School	3/9/2011	P	P	P	P	P	ID*	P*	P*	P*	ID*	ID
<b>MANCOS RE-6</b>												
Mancos Early Learning Center [15]	12/15/2016											
Mancos Elementary School	12/15/2016	P	P	P	I	P	ID*	ID*	ID*	ID*	ID*	ID
Mancos High School	12/15/2016	P	P	P	P	P	ID*	I**	P	P	I*	PI*
Mancos Middle School	12/15/2016	P	P	P	P	I	ID*	ID*	ID*	ID*	ID*	ID
<b>MONTROSE COUNTY RE-1J</b>												
Centennial Middle School	3/11/2015	P	P	P	P	P	P*	P	P	P	P*	I
<b>PUEBLO CITY 60</b>												
Bessemer Elementary School	9/13/2017	T	T	PI	T	PI	PI	PI	I	PI	ID	I
Franklin School of Innovation	9/15/2016	PI	PI	PI	T	T	P	I	P	PI	P	P
Heroes Academy PreK-5 [16]	9/13/2017	I	I	I	I	PI	T*	PI	T	Closed		
Irving Elementary School	9/15/2016	T	T	T	PI	T	P	P	P	T	P	P
Minnequa Elementary School	9/15/2016	I	I	PI	T	T	T	T	PI	I	P	P





Innovation School by District	Date of Approval	SPF 2010	SPF 2011	SPF 2012	SPF 2013	SPF 2014	SPF 2016	SPF 2017	SPF 2018	SPF 2019	SPF 2022	SPF 2023
Pueblo Academy of Arts	5/13/2013	T	T	T	I	T	I	T	I*	I	T	PI
Risley International Academy of Innovation	5/16/2013	T	T	T	PI	T	T	T	T*	PI*	PI*	PI
Roncalli Stem Academy	5/16/2013	PI	T	T	T	T	I*	T	T*	I	T*	PI
<b>THOMPSON R2-J</b>												
Monroe Elementary School [17]	6/14/2017	I	I	PI	P	I	I	P	T	I	I	Closed
Winona Elementary School	6/14/2017	P	P	P	I	I	PI*	P*	PI	I	PI	P
<b>WESTMINSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>												
Colorado STEM Academy	4/10/2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	I	P	P	P	P	P	P
John E. Flynn A Marzano Academy	5/10/2018	I	PI	P	P	P	PI	I	I	I	P	P
Metropolitan Arts Academy	5/8/2019	I	I	PI	I	I	PI	PI	P	P	ID	P
Westminster Academy for International Studies	6/14/2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~I	P	P	P	P	P
<b>WIDEFIELD 3</b>												
Grand Mountain School	1/9/2019	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	~P	P	P
Martin Luther King Jr Elementary School	1/9/2019	I	T	I	P	I	P	P	P	P	P	P
Talbott STEAM Innovation School	2/10/2016	P	I	PI	I	I	P	P	P	P	P	I
Widefield Elementary School of the Arts	1/9/2019	I	I	I	P	I	P	P	P	P	P	P

