Accountability – JeffCo Schools (Policy AE)

Purpose of the School Accountability Committee:

1. Serve in an advisory role to the principal. The principal is responsible for implementing the accountability process in the school.
2. Each year, adopt building goals/objectives for the improvement of education in the building that are aligned with the district Strategic Plan and with state statute.
3. Each year, adopt a plan to improve educational achievement, maximize graduation rates, and increase the ratings for the school's accreditation category that is aligned with the district's Strategic Plan and state statute.
4. Report on educational performance of the school and provide data for appraising such performance to students, parents, Board members, and educators.
5. Prior to the Board's adoption of the annual budget, make recommendations to the area administrator regarding prioritization of expenditures of district moneys.
6. Make recommendations to the principal regarding expenditure of school grants.
7. Discuss safety issues related to the school environment and develop, revise, and implement a safe school plan for the school consistent with the district's safe school plan and policies.

Responsibilities:

1. Select from its members a chair, who is not an employee of the school district, and a recorder.
2. Adopt rules of operation consistent with district policy. School accountability committees are encouraged to adopt a rule to meet at least quarterly during the school year.
3. Approve the school's accountability plan for the following year and review the school's annual report to the community. The annual report should include student achievement data as well as data concerning the learning environment in the school during that year, including specific information on conduct and discipline actions taken during the school year. The plan and report will be sent to the area administrator.

Membership:

1. Have the goal to be balanced consistent with racial/ethnic/gender proportional representation of the area it serves.
2. Consist of at least one parent, one teacher, the principal, and one non-parent community member if possible. Upper level (grades 6-12) students should be included whenever appropriate.
3. Determine its meeting schedule and publish time, date, and location of meetings, with all meetings open to the public.
4. Adopt goals, monitor progress, and report results in a manner consistent with the Strategic Plan, state law, Colorado Department of Education regulations, and district policies.
Accountability – State of Colorado

According to Colorado Revised Statues: Title 22, Article 7, and Parts 101-107:

State mandate:

- Each local district develops its own goals and accountability program tailored to its community and consistent with the state's goals.
- Each school in a district develops its own goals and accountability program consistent with the state and district's goals.
- Each accountability program—district, and building level—is guided by a representative advisory committee which reviews improvement plans, makes recommendations, and reports its progress frequently and clearly to the appropriate audience whether it be the general public, the State Board of Education, the local school board, or the school community.
- Annual reports are disseminated by each school to its public and by each district to the community on progress toward local and state goals as well as improvement plans for the next school year.

Membership:

If your Accountability committee existed before January 1, 2000 the membership should consist of at least one administrator, one parent, one teacher, one non parent member of the community and age appropriate students. The chair person should not be a district employee.

Each local school accountability committee should:

- Set prioritization of expenditures of school money
- Meet at least quarterly
- Work on means for determining whether decisions affecting the educational process are advancing or impeding student achievement
- Report educational performance to the public
- Review safety issues
- Each year adopt high, but achievable goals and objectives for improvement of education in its building and adopt a plan to improve educational achievement in the school, to implement methods of maximizing graduation rates in secondary schools of the district and to increase the rating for the school's accreditation category.

Colorado Department of Education Summary:

An effective accountability program focuses on asking the right questions, choosing the right indicators of student performance, and reporting the results to the right audiences.