

## **SB19-204 “Public School Local Accountability System” Analysis**

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Senate Bill 19-426 is a bill for evaluation of public schools in Colorado. It would allow for the creation of local accountability systems to be administered in a supplemental capacity to the state-wide evaluation system already in place. Local accountability systems may introduce new measures of evaluation of both school performance and the effectiveness of existing state performance indicators but cannot alter district accreditation ratings. The Colorado Department of Education will review applications for local accountability systems and pass along recommendations to the state board of education.

The bill proposes the creation of a grant program, totaling nearly \$500,000, to be distributed by the State Board of education to single or groups of local education providers for the development and implementation of local accountability systems. Grant money may be used to fund evaluation from a third-party evaluator which could include a public (or private) institution of higher education or a private nonprofit entity. The bill requires that between \$25,000 and \$50,000 must be allocated to each local education provider or under \$75,000 to groups of local education providers. SB19-204 also requires that at least one grant must be allocated to a rural education provider.

Reports detailing findings from local accountability systems must be submitted yearly to the Colorado Department of Education who will hold a yearly meeting with purveyors of local accountability systems to discuss findings and effectiveness.

The purpose of SB19-204 is to support the accurate evaluation of all Colorado public schools by allowing them to implement accountability standards that take into account their specific student populations. Currently, under a statewide accountability system in which all

is unlikely to lead to better outcomes, particularly for students of color, low-income students, and

These school-specific indicators are already present in many schoolsø

system. By addressing this market failure, SB19-204 improves efficiency in the education market and therefore is economically justified. I support its ratification.

## Work Cited

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