

HB16-1016: Rep. Dave Young

Multiple Measures: Tools for Measuring Student Academic Growth

HB16-1016 establishes a grant program to give schools and school districts the resources they need to effectively create and apply multiple measures of student academic growth. What is a "multiple measure?" There is more on that below.

The grant program is funded option, not an unfunded mandate, designed to support students, teachers and school districts. It does not create a new program. Instead, it provides funding for existing instructional programs initiated by the legislature.

Colorado law currently requires the use of multiple measures in educator evaluation, so every district across Colorado is working to develop them. Some districts are progressing well in their development of multiple measures, but many lack the resources and expertise to develop adequate multiple measures.

Multiple measures do not replace our current use of standardized testing. Instead, multiple measures supplement the information districts receive from standardized testing by providing on-going information about how students are performing.

The information from multiple measures helps students, parents, teachers and principals understand student academic growth in real time. Teachers can use multiple measures to adjust and improve their instruction, even during a lesson. Multiple measures might allow the state to create a more robust accountability system.

The term "Multiple measures of student academic growth" means performance-based methods of measuring student academic growth that:

- are based on setting measurable goals or objectives for a specific teaching assignment or class, which are aligned with the subject matter taught; and
- enable educators to evaluate the baseline performance of students and the measurable gain in student performance during the course of instruction.

What is a "performance-based" measure? It is a way to gather information about a wide range of observable student behaviors. Can a paper and pencil test or quiz be a performance-based measure? Sometimes, but more often the performance, like a speech, a project or an activity focused on deeper learning is best observed and evaluated without the use of a test or quiz.

If HB16-1016 passes, the grant program will be funded with \$20,000,000 from the State Education Fund, which was established by Amendment 23. The State Board of Education and the Colorado Department of Education will administer the program.

HB16-1610 is supported by the Colorado Association of School Boards, the Colorado Education Association, the Colorado Association of School Executives and the American Federation of Teachers.

