



Momentum Strategy & Research is focused on informing alternative school accountability systems across the nation through a comprehensive national database of alternative school information, performance data, and related policy elements. Momentum's efforts in Colorado include support for alternative education campuses (AECs) in demonstrating how innovative measures of success can be used for accountability purposes. This project grew out of recommendations by a 2015 State legislatively-mandated workgroup that called for integrating qualitative measures in the School Performance Framework by:

*"capturing the essential unique qualities of effective AECs, and including additional performance measures that are relevant to a school's unique design and mission."*¹

This recommendation led to a collaboration between Colorado AECs and Momentum to design the Opportunity Measure Demonstration Project (OMDP) to provide a more effective evaluation of unique measures, potentially for accountability purposes.

The OMDP provides external review panels to validate schools' unique, mission-driven outcomes tied to interventions, programs, or services provided to their students. The term "opportunity measures" refers to the multiple pieces of information and data, both qualitative and quantitative, that are packaged together and explain the student outcomes.

The OMDP is coordinated by Momentum in conjunction with participating schools and is funded by a combination of philanthropic funds and school contributions. Participating schools present preliminary opportunity measure ideas and data, and Momentum helps schools refine their identified opportunity measures for submission. The school-submitted materials then go to external review panels, each of which are assembled to provide a balance of perspective and expertise. The panelists review and discuss the submitted information, and each panelist provides both feedback for school improvement and rubric-based ratings for potential accountability purposes. Momentum compiles the reviews, ratings, and attendant information provided by each panel and provides it to participating schools with an opportunity for further feedback.

The first year of the Opportunity Measure Demonstration Project included 11 schools as full participants, with other schools participating as part of the review panels. The first year of OMDP activities were reviewed by a program evaluator, and with her recommendations and the project team's experiences, the second year of the OMDP will feature improvements and the opportunity to serve additional schools and partners. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Liz Hackett at lhackett@momentum-sr.org.

¹ Full report can be found at: https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/2015_aec_awg_final_report