

**Accountability Evaluation
Interview Protocol: District Administrators**

District:

Name:

Date:

Interviewer:

District-Level Officials: Accountability Interview Questions

1. Tell us about your district's accountability system. [*Prompt: what do you think the key elements are?*]

2. Do you have districtwide standards in place? If so, to what extent are they aligned with:
 - State Board-approved standards?
 - District instructional materials?
 - Instruction in the classroom?

What is your sense of the extent of common understanding of these standards among district staff, principals, teachers, students, and parents?

3. When did your district begin developing an accountability system?
 - What prompted your district to begin developing an accountability system? (National movement, federal regulations, etc)
 - Where did you start ? (certain grades, content areas, etc)
 - In what ways, if any, have state actions or policies influenced the nature of the accountability system your district has adopted or is developing?
 - Has the State's accountability system converged or conflicted with the district's prior reform efforts?

4. What future developments are being planned for the system?

5. What is your role in the accountability system?

6. Clarification questions about the district's system and implementation based on con-app and survey responses (standards, measures, how measures are combined)

For instance: Have you had any problems with [district's particular assessment measures]? (*This is designed to get at reliability and validity without making the interviewee feel like we are doing a compliance review*) What process did the district use in comparing its standards to the State standards?

7. Please describe for what and how the following actors are held accountable in your district (if at all), even if there is no formal system in place:

District/Superintendent

- Accountable for what, to whom?
- How measured?
- Consequences (if any)?

Principals

- Accountable for what, to whom?
- How measured?
- Consequences (if any)?

Teachers

- Accountable for what, to whom?
- How measured?
- Consequences (if any)?

Students

- Accountable for what, to whom?
- How measured?
- Consequences (if any)?

Parents

- Accountable for what, to whom?
- How measured?
- Consequences (if any)?

Prompts:

- How is school performance assessed?
 - Are targets set for individual schools?
 - Are there absolute standards as well as standards for progress over time?
 - How are school in need of improvement identified?
 - What strategies are used for helping these schools?
 - What incentives and consequences do schools face?
8. What data are gathered and how do you use them? [*Prompt:* Are data used to make decisions about instruction? If so, does data-driven decision-making appear to have an affect on student outcomes?] By what factors are data disaggregated? Are they accessible to the school board, principals, parents, teachers, and students? If so, in what forms, and when? What professional development opportunities, if any, are offered to district personnel, principals, and teachers on using the data?
9. What do you see as the biggest challenges to implementing a successful accountability system in your district? (Data management, staff resistance, reliable measures, etc.) Specifically, what assistance or additional resources do you need to address these challenges to implementing an effective accountability system in your district? (If funding, how would it be spent?)
10. What are the successful accountability policies and practices accomplished by your district? To what extent do you think they would be possible to replicate in other districts?
11. What were (are) the primary sources of assistance to your district in the development of an accountability system? (CDE, ACSA, County Office, etc.) How has the State helped or hindered? What additional assistance would you like?
12. What concerns, if any, do you have about the new accountability system being implemented by the state? (Valid measures of student achievement, excessive record keeping and reporting, etc.)