



Unified Improvement Planning: 2025-26 Guidance for Combined Plans

Introduction

This document provides guidance for creating and updating a combined Unified Improvement Plan (UIP), a single plan written for a district and all its schools. The option to write a combined plan is a flexibility offered to small districts (less than 1,200 students). District administrators must indicate in the UIP Online System if the district is submitting a combined plan per the instructions in this document.

Combined Plan Eligibility

Eligibility to submit a combined plan is based on the district's enrollment, as measured by the Student October Count. The prior school year's count determines eligibility for the following year; for example, eligibility to write a combined plan for the 2025-26 school year is based on the 2024 Student October Count.

District's Student Count	Eligibility Determination
Less than 1,000	Automatically eligible to submit a combined improvement plan without approval from CDE
1,001-1,200	Eligible to submit a combined improvement plan with approval from CDE Email uiphelp@cde.state.co.us to request approval
Greater than 1,200	Not eligible to submit a combined improvement plan

Refer to the "Navigating the UIP Online System" section of this document for instructions on how to view eligibility and indicate use of this flexibility in the UIP Online System.

Considerations for Districts with Identified Schools

A district with a state and/or federally identified school (e.g., Priority Improvement, Turnaround, On Watch, and/or Comprehensive Support) is still eligible to create a combined plan. However, there are additional requirements for identified schools that the district must meet in the combined plan. The following are some specific considerations:

- The UIP must reflect the needs, actions, and magnitude of the issues specific to the identified school(s).
- The district should consider what additional supports the identified school(s) may need – beyond what other schools are receiving – and document this support in the plan.
- Schools implementing a turnaround plan are required to submit a turnaround strategy in the UIP and integrate that strategy into the action plan. If the district is submitting a combined plan, this turnaround strategy must be included in the combined plan.

Sometimes, it may be more effective to create a separate UIP for the identified school and a combined UIP for the district and the remaining schools. The district will need to decide which solution best fits the local context and needs. If there will be separate plans for identified schools, districts must email uiphelp@cde.state.co.us to explain which schools are included in the district's combined plan to ensure accurate tracking of UIP submissions.

Combined Plan Requirements

Districts who will be utilizing the combined plan flexibility option must write and submit their improvement plan using the district's UIP template. All district and school level requirements must still be met in a combined plan, including any special expectations associated with a grant, program, or identification. The following are some specific recommendations to meet planning requirements:

- Provide an analysis of data for each school. At a minimum, provide an analysis for each performance indicator (e.g., achievement, growth, post-secondary workforce readiness) where the district and/or the school(s) did not meet state expectations (i.e., approaching, does not meet).
- Identify trends, student performance priorities (SPPs), root causes, and major improvement strategies aligned to each of these indicators for both the district and the school(s). See a root cause example below:
 - **Root Cause:** Current curriculum and scope/sequence across all schools are tied to textbooks and other resources as opposed to state standards. This causes gaps in skills as students progress through our school system, and especially as they transition from one school to another (e.g., elementary to middle school).

Combined School & District Accountability Committees (SAC/DAC)

School districts with less than 1,000 students may have their DAC serve as their SAC, meaning there may be just one accountability committee in the district.

Navigating the UIP Online System

Viewing Combined Plan Eligibility on the UIP Online System

Information regarding the district's eligibility to submit a combined plan can be found in the district's current UIP. Begin by accessing the current district UIP template by clicking the UIP name under the "District List View" on the home screen. This action will take users to the "UIP Details" page of the current district UIP.

UIP
District List View

1 item • Sorted by UIP Name • Filtered by All uip • Record Type • Updated 6 minutes ago

UIP Name	District Name	Or...	Last Modified By	Last Modified D...	UIP Status	Biennial Flex	Biennial Flex Inst...	Combined Plan	Combined Plan E...	C...	Course Taking In...	R...	READ Act Direct...
CDE Test District s...	CDE Test Distri...	88...	Stacey Battagli...	4/24/2025 2:27 P...	In Progress	Not Eligible for Bi...	CDE recommends...	The district has be...	Yes, with CDE app...	Yes	Districts must revi...	Yes	The UIP must incl...

On the "UIP Details" page, refer to the "Combined Plan Eligible" field to determine if the district is eligible to submit a combined plan. The "Combined Plan Approved Instructions" field provides additional information about combined plan eligibility.

UIP
CDE Test District smaller UIP 2025-26 combo elg

Access UIP Submit for Public Posting

Related Details

UIP Name CDE Test District smaller UIP 2025-26 combo elg

UIP Status In Progress

District Name CDE Test District

Organization Code 8888

School Name

School Code

Last Modified By Stacey Battaglia, 4/24/2025 2:27 PM

Record Type District UIP 2025

UIP Annual CDE Plan 2025 District Template

EMH Code EMH

Biennial Flex Not Eligible for Biennial Flexibility

Biennial Flex Instructions CDE recommends that the district prepare to submit a plan for public posting on or before October 15, 2024. In the case that the district earns an accredited rating of performance or distinction on the 2024 frameworks, the district will be eligible for biennial flexibility.

Biennial Plan Eligible

Combined Plan

Combined Plan Eligible Yes, with CDE approval

Combined Plan Approved

Combined Plan Approved Instructions The district has been approved to submit a combined improvement plan. Ensure the improvement plan is completed and submitted in the district level template to take this flexibility. Refer to the Combined Plan Guidance for further information.
https://www.cde.state.co.us/uiip/combined_plan_guidance

Activity Chatter

Filters: All time • All activities • All types

Refresh Expand All View All

Upcoming & Overdue

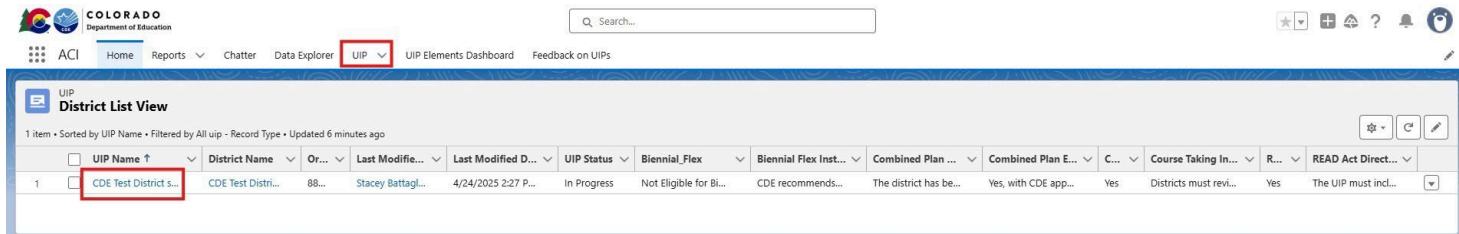
No activities to show.

Get started by sending an email, scheduling a task, and more.

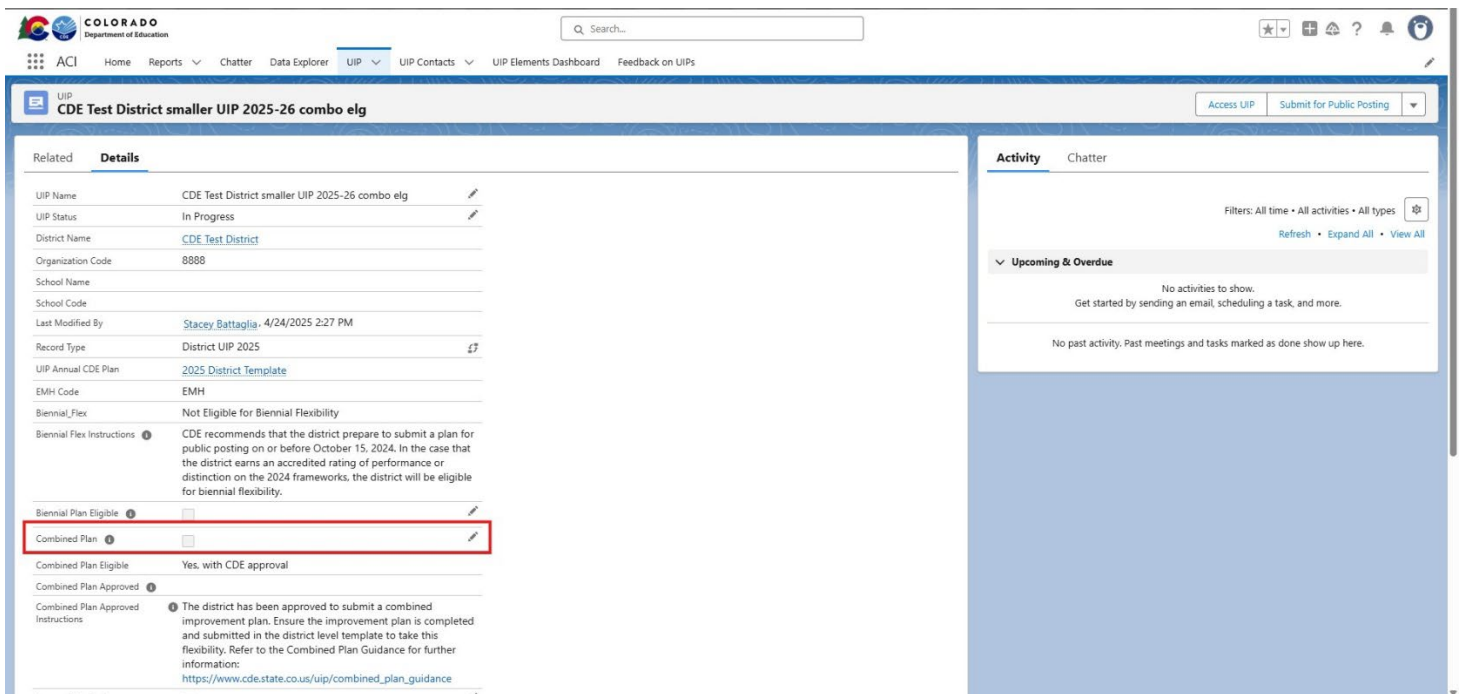
No past activity. Past meetings and tasks marked as done show up here.

Submitting a Combined Plan on the UIP Online System

A combined plan must be completed and submitted in the district UIP template. Begin by accessing the current district UIP template by clicking the UIP name under the “District List View” on the Home screen. This action will take users to the “UIP Details” page of the current district template.



On the “UIP Details” page, click the pencil in the “Combined Plan” row. Check the box to indicate that the district is submitting a combined plan and click the blue “Save” button found at the bottom of your screen.



Behind the Scenes: Once the district plan is submitted for posting, the district UIP status will change from “In Progress” to “Submitted for Posting.” When a district UIP is submitted for posting and the “Combined Plan” checkbox has been checked, the status for **all** of the school UIPs will be changed to “Combined Plan Submitted.”

If there will be separate plans for certain schools, districts must email uiphelp@cde.state.co.us to explain which schools are included in the district’s combined plan. CDE will manually update the UIP status of schools not included in the combined plan.