



**Colorado State Board of Education
School District Accreditation Contract**

Montrose County RE-1J

District Accreditation Rating	Improvement 2025
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1. Parties

This contract is between the local school board for Montrose County RE-1J, hereinafter referred to as the District, and the Colorado State Board of Education, hereinafter referred to as the State Board, to administer accreditation in accordance with part 2 of article 11 of title 22 and 1 CCR 301-1.

2. Purpose of Contact

This contract serves to recognize Montrose County RE-1J as a Colorado school district that is accredited by the State Board and is in good standing. The contract also sets forth associated requirements and obligations.

3. Length of Contract

This accreditation contract shall have a term of one year and shall be automatically renewed each year so long as the District remains in the accreditation category of Accredited with Distinction or Accredited.

4. Renegotiation

The contract may be renegotiated at any time by the parties, based upon appropriate and reasonable changes in circumstances upon which the original terms of the contract were based.

5. Attainment on Performance Indicators

The District is responsible for overseeing the academic programs offered in its schools and ensuring that those programs meet or exceed state and local expectations for levels of attainment on the statewide performance indicators, as specified in 1 CCR 301-1.

6. Adoption and Implementation of District Plan

The District shall create, adopt and implement an Improvement Plan as required by the Colorado Department of Education (Department), in accordance with the time frames specified in 1 CCR 301-1. Said plan will conform to all of the requirements specified in 1 CCR 301-1.

7. Accreditation of Public Schools and Adoption and Implementation of School Plans

The District will implement a system of accrediting all of its schools, as described in section 22-11-307, C.R.S., which may include measures specifically for those schools that have been designated as

Alternative Education Campuses, in accordance with the provisions of 1 CCR 301-57. The District will ensure that plans are implemented for each school in compliance with the requirements of the State Board pursuant to 1 CCR 301-1.

8. Accreditation of Online Schools

The District will implement a system of accrediting its online schools, as defined in section 22-30.7-102(9.5), C.R.S. This system shall adhere to section 22-11-307, C.R.S., including a review of the online school's alignment to the quality standards outlined in section 22-30.7-105(3)(b), C.R.S., and compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, in accordance with section 22-30.7-103(3)(m), C.R.S.

9. Consequences of Continued Low Performance

Schools that perform at a level that results in being required to adopt a Priority Improvement or Turnaround Plan will be subject to restructuring or closure, in accordance with the provisions of section 22-11-210, C.R.S. For purposes of calculating whether a public school has been required to implement a Priority Improvement or Turnaround Plan for a number of years, as described in section 22-11-210(1)(d)(II), C.R.S., the Department will exclude the 2020, 2021 and 2022 school plan type assignments, as required by section 22-11-210(2.6)(a), C.R.S. The Department will treat the 2023 school plan type assignments as if they were consecutive to the 2019 school plan type assignments.

10. Substantial and Good-Faith Compliance with Applicable Statutes, Regulations, and Department Policies and Procedures

The District and the District's public schools will substantially comply with all statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to the District and District's public schools and all Department policies and procedures applicable to the District and District's public schools, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Provisions of article 44 of title 22 concerning budget and financial policies and procedures;
- Provisions of article 45 of title 22 concerning accounting and financial reporting;
- Provisions of section 22-32-109.1, C.R.S., concerning school safety and the Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. 7961;
- Provisions of section 22-7-1013, C.R.S., concerning administration of statewide assessments, including that:
 - The District and District's public schools will not impose negative consequences—including prohibiting school attendance, imposing an unexcused absence, or prohibiting participation in extracurricular activities—on a student or parent if the parent excuses his or her student from participating in a statewide assessment. If a parent excuses his or her student from participating in a statewide assessment, the District and the District's public schools will not prohibit the student from participating in an activity, or receiving any other form of reward the District or District's public schools provide to students for participating in the statewide assessment; and
 - The District and District's public schools will not impose an unreasonable burden or requirement on a student that would discourage the student from

taking a statewide assessment or encourage the student’s parent to excuse the student from taking the statewide assessment.

11. Consequences for Non-Compliance

If the Department has reason to believe that the District is not in substantial compliance with one or more of the statutory or regulatory requirements applicable to the District, the Department shall notify the District that it has ninety (90) days after the date of notice to come into compliance. If, at the end of the ninety-day period, the Department finds the District is not substantially in compliance with the applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, meaning that the District has not yet taken the necessary measures to ensure that it meets the applicable legal requirements as soon as practicable, the District may be subject to the interventions specified in sections 22-11-207 through 22-11-210, C.R.S. If the District has failed to comply with the provisions of article 44 of title 22 or article 45 of title 22, the District does not remedy the noncompliance within ninety (90) days and loss of accreditation is required to protect the interests of the students and parents of students enrolled in the District public schools, the Department may recommend to the State Board that the State Board remove the District’s accreditation.

If the Department determines that the District has substantially failed to meet requirements specified in this accreditation contract and that immediate action is required to protect the interests of the students and parents of students enrolled in the District’s public schools, the Department may lower the District’s accreditation category.

12. Monitoring Compliance with Contract

For purposes of monitoring the District’s compliance with this contract, the Department may require the District to provide information or may conduct site visits as needed.

13. Signatures

Local School Board President

Signed by:
Misha Balleck

7CC032B8C0D2437...
Signature

12/10/2025
Date

District Superintendent

Signed by:
Carrie Stephenson

AC42C52D145A46B...
Signature

11/13/2025
Date

Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Education



Signature

1/5/2026

Date

Colorado State Board of Education Chairman



Signature

1/5/2026

Date