Kutz & Bethke LLC
363 S. Harlan Street, Suite 104 ■ Lakewood, Colorado 80226
Kristin A. Kutz (1952-2024)
William P. Bethke
Vesna Milojevic
John Bing, Paralegal

SENATE BILL 26-103

AT-RISK PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM & PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY [CODIFIED AT COLO. REV. STAT. § 22-32.5-112]

The statute requires that schools, including charter schools, on or before July 1, 2027, adopt, implement, and post on their school's website an ACCESS policy. The policy is focused on achieving community commitment to equitable school success that directs resources and supports to at-risk students. If the meaning of that statement is clear to you, you are ahead of us.

If a school is participating in a performance, improvement, priority improvement, or turnaround plan in which the plan already directs resources and supports to at-risk students it is not required to implement the ACCESS policy but is required to post its plan on the school's website. This seems like a clearer operational statement of the legislation: either include some direction of resources and supports to at-risk students in your UIPs or prepare to write up a separate "policy" that does so. That incentive to not engage in needless duplication of paperwork is probably the real point here.

The ACCESS policy *may* contain the following information:

- Partnerships with community organizations to increase access to health clinics, legal services, and college opportunities for students and the community;
- Integrated student support and wraparound services informed by the asset and needs assessment outlined in law including, but not limited to, increasing counselors, caseworkers, and other mental health professionals;
- Extended learning time with after-school, tutoring, and other summer programs;
- Strategies to support teacher retention and pay, including professional development opportunities, increasing planning time and opportunities to collaborate;
- Family and community engagement strategies that include linguistic and cultural diversity; and,
- At risk measures.

As the statutory direction is that a plan *may* contain such measures, it also *may not*. Thus, picking or choosing among these, or even listing entirely different strategies should be compliant. And, again, common sense suggests doing this in you UIP.