

## State & Federal Assessment Laws

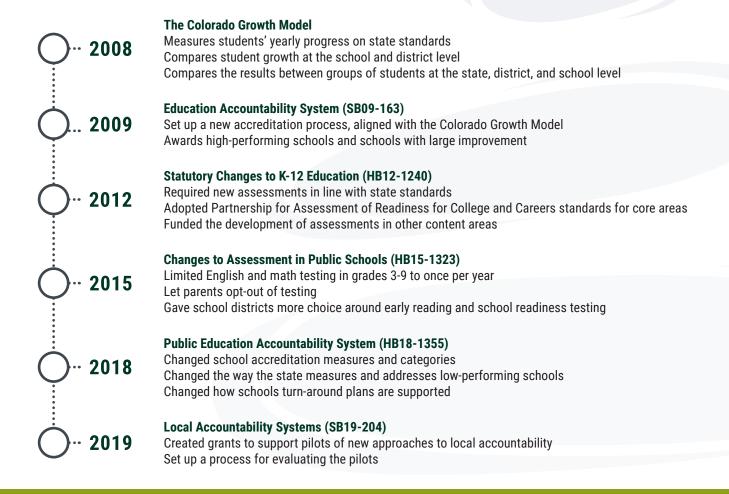
The 2000's brought a movement to set clear academic expectations and to ensure students were ready for 21st century jobs. The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) in 2002 increased the federal government's role in assessment and accountability. The NCLB created stricter student assessment requirements and set state standards for progress.

In Colorado, students are tested in reading, writing, and math in grades three and eight; and in science in grades five, eight, and eleven. School and teacher evaluations are based on student results. Some schools and districts also evaluate factors like student engagement, but there is no standardized reporting process.



**EARLY MILESTONES COLORADO** is an independent organization helping to advance innovative solutions that improve policies and practices in early childhood development. We work with state and local partners to exchange ideas, share resources, and create lasting, positive change for children.

## A POLICY TIMELINE



## **OPPORTUNITIES**

There are no specific barriers for Ideal Learning in state assessment and accountability policy. One challenge to scaling IL programs is the state's narrow testing focus on content knowledge, rather than skills. To scale, teaching in some subject areas may need to be tailored to required assessments. There is growing interest in evaluating essential skills.

0	Proponents of Ideal Learning can support updating assessment tools the align with IL approaches and are focused on what children know and are able to do.
0	The link between IL models and the Colorado Early Learning and Development Guidelines (ELDGs) should be emphasized. The ELDGs include important whole child skills like social-emotional development.
0	Districts using IL models may want to participate in Local Accountability Systems (SB19-204) pilots to explore broader definitions of student progress. (Note: Funding for these pilots has been paused due to budge constraints, but pilot work is proceeding.)