

More schools graduate students in 2017

By Andrea Tritschler
Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 1:33 pm

More high school students graduated and showed workforce readiness in School District 27J in 2017 than in 2016, according school and district accountability ratings from the Colorado Department of Education.

The school district's graduation rate and post-secondary workforce readiness measures moved up almost 2 percentage points to 86.2 percent in 2017 from 84.8 percent in 2016

In addition, Brantner and North elementary schools and Stuart Middle School moved up in the state's ranking system – to “performance” from “improvement,” said Chris Fiedler, School District 27J superintendent.

“North Elementary earned the highest growth score in the district with 51.8 points in growth,” Fiedler said.

Based on the students' academic results, schools are assigned one of four ratings: “turnaround,” “priority improvement,” “improvement” and “performance”.

Students must improve their educational successes in three key areas - academic achievement, academic growth (year-to-year student academic progress compared to peers with similar achievement results) and post-secondary and workforce readiness.

State officials weigh academic progress most heavily of the three, according to a press statement from the Colorado Department of Education.

Other schools saw top ratings. Thirteen 27J schools (including three of the district's five charter schools) received the “performance” rating – the highest among the four ratings.

Three district schools moved up from either the “improvement” rating or the “priority improvement” rating.

Northeast Elementary was the only school that moved down to “turnaround” status from “priority Improvement”.

As part of the state's annual performance ratings, school districts also can receive one of five accreditation ratings: "accredited with distinction," "accredited," "accredited with improvement plan," "priority improvement," or "turnaround".

School District 27J will maintain its status of "accredited with improvement plan," according to the statement. The district narrowly missed moving up to the status of accredited by only 4.4 points, despite having the lowest funding per pupil in the Denver-metro area and no resource upgrades in 13 years, according to school district officials.

"We are proud of all our schools that were able to move up in ratings thanks to strong academic growth," Fiedler said. "We will continue to work hard and strive for all schools to reach 'performance.'"