

**Wheat Ridge High School
School Accountability Committee, 2013/2014**

Some Basic Principles to Guide Our Work This Year

1. Our work will be based on duties and powers in the state law that created School Accountability Committees. As such, our primary focus will be on how to increase academic achievement growth.
2. We will endeavor to avoid micromanagement; rather, we will act in the manner of effective boards in other sectors, focusing on the strength of the analysis that lies behind the preparation of the School Performance Plan (which must be submitted to the District by December 15, 2013), including the integrated use of experience/intuition and data to identify and prioritize achievement gaps, the quality of the root cause analysis applied to those gaps, and the linkage between the root cause analysis and the initiatives that will be undertaken to address them.
3. Pursuant to the law, we will send a written summary of our recommendations and the logic that underlies them to the district accountability committee and to the school board.
4. We acknowledge the critical difference between physical and social systems. Causal relationships within the former are generally constant, which enables us to use traditional statistics to explain and predict their operation with a high degree of accuracy. In contrast, casual relationships within social systems are complex, frequently non-linear, and constantly evolving. As such, traditional statistical techniques are far less powerful in explaining and predicting their performance. While other statistical techniques (e.g., Bayesian statistics) are more useful when studying the behavior of social systems, the undeniable reality is that understanding their operation and improving their performance is a difficult and far from exact science. We therefore recognize and accept that improving achievement at WRHS will inevitably involve trial and error, and successes and failures. Our goal will be to help the staff of WRHS institutionalize a superior capability for learning, innovation, experimentation, and scaling up successful initiatives, as this is the surest basis for sustained achievement growth.
5. To maximize our effectiveness as a board, we will focus on the implementation of a limited number of critical improvement initiatives, and, where necessary, work with the WRHS principal and staff to identify and overcome obstacles to their speedy and successful execution.
6. Pursuant to the law, we will also work with the principal and staff to increase parent engagement at Wheat Ridge High School.
7. We will always treat each other with respect, and strive to work in a collegial manner with a collective focus on the best interests of Wheat Ridge High School.