

From: [Sophia Laderman](#)
To:
Subject: SB26-078 Implementation Update: Formalizing the Data Advisory Group (DAG)
Date: Friday, June 12, 2026 11:57:44 AM

Dear DAG Members,

I am writing to share an update on steps the Department is taking to implement SB26-078 and transition the Data Advisory Group (DAG) from an informal group to a formal advisory body.

Designation of Institutional Representatives

We are sending a communication to institutional presidents and chancellors requesting that each institution and system formally designate a DAG representative. Institutions will submit their selection through a form, and may also indicate if they decline to participate, as permitted by the bill. Note that DAG membership is dictated by statute; each institutional campus may have only one representative, and most private institutions are not eligible to be a member. If you are not an official member of DAG, you may still attend all public meetings, and DAG may create bylaws that allow for public comment at various times. Designated representatives are expected to have the authority and expertise to represent their institution across the full scope of DAG responsibilities (institutional research, data governance and use, state reporting, and related policy and technical matters).

Once we have designated representatives for each eligible institution and system (estimated early July), we will send out a scheduling poll to determine the best regular cadence for meetings. We will likely have a mix of working sessions (to complete our regular DAG work) and planning meetings where we work to set up the structure and processes of DAG.

Open Meetings Requirements

As established by its codification in SB26-078, DAG is now a public body subject to Colorado open meetings laws. This applies to formal meetings as well as interactions among DAG members that fall within the scope of DAG work, including informal discussions across institutions or with Department staff involving two or more DAG members. This this means that, regardless of venue or formality, any discussions regarding DAG's work among two or more DAG will need to follow Colorado open meeting laws, including minutes being taken and open to public. DHE is working to determine which entity will provide legal counsel to DAG; this counsel will include open meeting law training.

Please note that Chris Ammons, Director of Data Collection at CDHE, will not be a CDHE DAG representative (he will be administrative staff). This means he is able to freely engage in conversations about day-to-day technical aspects for data collection.

CCHE Advisory Role

The bill also creates a new DAG representative role on the CCHE advisory board. CDHE will follow our existing process used for the other advisors named in statute (the parent and current student advisor). This includes an application and committee selection process. The DAG advisor must be added to CCHE by July 1, 2026. Our normal process to select an advisor can take 3-4 months; we are streamlining it substantially to meet the July 1 deadline.

CDHE will notify current DAG members of the position description and officially open the application process on Monday, June 15. Applications will be accepted until Friday, June 26. A committee will review the applications, make a decision, and notify the successful candidate by Tuesday, June 30. This information will also be posted on our website.

CCHE Data Policy Development

SB26-078 charges the Commission with establishing a set of policies in consultation with DAG, including processes for DAG recommendations, processes for sharing data and reporting, timelines for review, and standards for transparency and validation. We are currently assessing the extent to which we have capacity to implement this section of the bill, which is subject to available appropriations, and will share more on timing and approach as that is determined.

DAG Manager

DHE is finalizing a job posting for a 0.5 FTE DAG Program Manager, who will lead the coordination and operations of DAG. If you know of anyone who would be a good fit for this position, please encourage them to review the state hiring website and apply!

DAG Webpage

We are also developing a [dedicated DAG webpage](#) within the “Data and Research” section of the CDHE website. This page will serve as a central location for public information about DAG, including meeting notices, materials, updates, and resources related to its work as a formal advisory body. Because emails to DAG members regarding DAG work are also subject to open meeting laws, we also anticipate using this website as an alternative means of sharing information with DAG members. Additional information will be forthcoming.

This bill represents a new phase in how we partner to serve our students. While there may be some growing pains, these changes have the potential to provide a positive impact for the state of Colorado.

We will continue to keep you informed as implementation progresses. Please feel free to reach out with questions in the meantime.

Thank you for your partnership,
Sophia

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