



Colorado's Education Leadership Council  
Presentation to CWDC  
September 27, 2018



**COLORADO**  
Education Leadership Council

# ELC Purpose, Activities and Deliverables

## Purpose

Develop a vision and strategic plan to drive improvements to Colorado's educational system, from early childhood to the workforce

## Major Activities

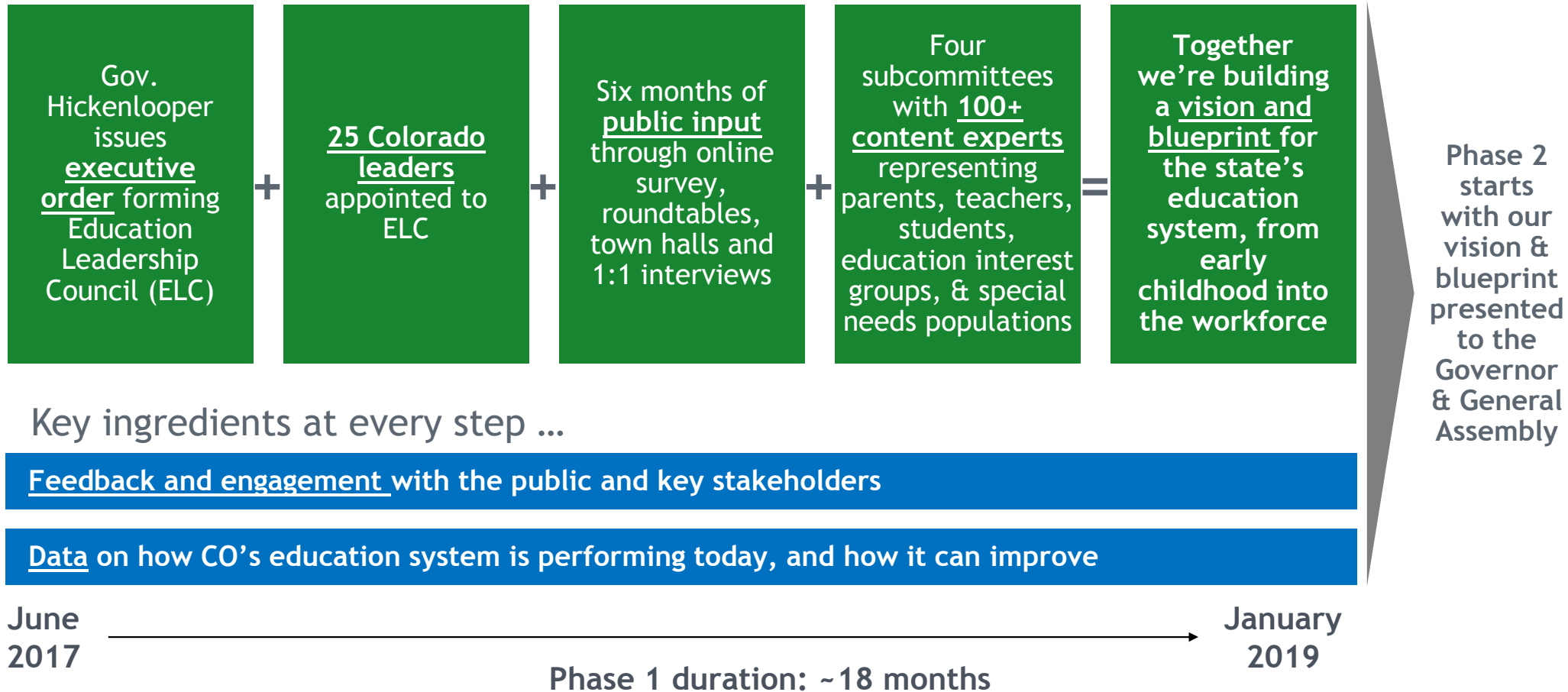
- **Synthesize research** on performance of Colorado's education system
- **Benchmark** the state against high performing states and countries
- **Gather input** from a broad set of stakeholders including parents, students, teachers, education interest groups and others involved in the system
- **Develop a vision** for the education system, and a **strategic plan** for moving the system forward
- **Oversee** ongoing plan implementation

## Primary Deliverable

Report with the vision, goals, and a set of high-impact strategies for consideration by the Governor and General Assembly

# Building the State of Education together

Our formula...



# Principles for our work

- Early childhood to the workforce lens - a unique forum
- Systems thinking approach - no silver bullets
- Balance: bi-partisan, rural and urban...
- Stakeholder focused with data-based solutions
- Long term horizon
- Oriented to system culture change

# We need to answer 5 key questions

1. How is our education system performing today?
2. What collective vision do we share for the future of our students?
3. What are the strengths and opportunities for improvement in today's education system?
4. What strategies should we implement to achieve our vision?
5. How will we put our improvements into action?

# Our four subcommittee focus areas

- Developing responsive systems that produce agile learners who can continually adapt, grow and prosper in a dynamic and interconnected world
- Fostering robust community and family partnerships to ensure all students are ready to learn
- Building industry and cross-sector partnerships to support student learning and transitions from early childhood to career
- Elevating the teaching profession and supporting teachers and leaders so that all students have access to effective instruction

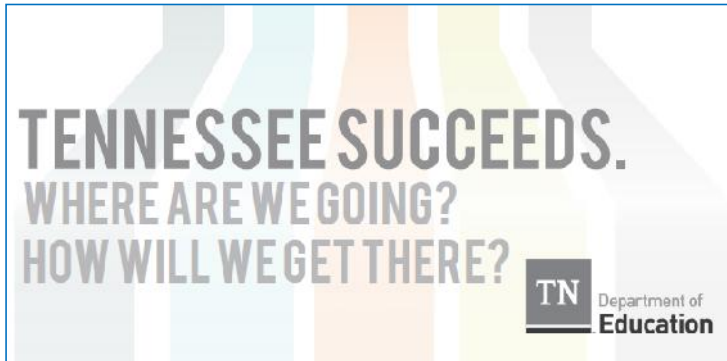


# Answers to the 5 questions will inform our deliverables

ELC deliverables	Key elements	Element definition	Element examples
Vision	Skills	Ability a learner gains during their education	Problem solving, leadership, literacy
	Learning conditions	An external variable in the system or immediate environment that must be present to ensure skill acquisition	Collaborative (learning happens via shared experiences among multiple students), Career-Oriented (success defined by the acquisition of transferable skills, not just degree attainment)
Strategic Plan	Cross-cutting priorities	A high level and important truth about our education system; cuts across all our focus areas	Every child should have access to high-quality education, Locally-based innovation makes Colorado's education system stronger
	Focus Areas	Four overarching areas to advance the academic and career readiness of all students	Developing responsive systems that produce agile learners who can continually adapt, grow and prosper in a dynamic and interconnected world; Fostering robust community and family partnerships to ensure all students are ready to learn
	Principles	A belief about what is required to create a future education system that provides all learners with the best chance at academic and career readiness (specific to each focus area but there may be overlap)	Children enter school (for the first time and each day) mentally and physically healthy, Teachers come to the profession prepared to teach
	Strengths and opportunities	For each principle, the current strengths and opportunities	Principle: Teachers come to profession prepared to teach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strength: new innovative training programs starting</li> <li>• Opportunity: limited ramp up time in classroom</li> </ul>
	Improvement strategies	For each principle, strategies to improve the education system based on consideration of the strengths/ opportunities for that principle, and overarching cross-cutting priorities	Topic: family health literacy Improvement strategy: Prioritize and expand family health literacy training via online resource development and partnerships with libraries

# What might the strategic plan look like?

An illustrative example from Tennessee, circa 2015



*Provides an overall vision and a strategic plan to get there*

## PRIORITY AREA: EARLY FOUNDATIONS & LITERACY

Building skills in early grades to contribute to future success

**Strategy A.** Increase department support and monitoring of programs that serve children from birth to age four to ensure a solid foundation for learning. This strategy focuses department attention on the vast gaps in student readiness that exist before students enter kindergarten. As part of this strategy, you will see:

- Creation of a Tennessee-specific definition of kindergarten readiness with associated metrics
- Greater monitoring, training, and support for family-centered early intervention providers
- An enhanced measurement process to increase pre-K programs understanding and accountability for student readiness
- High-impact professional development for early grade educators and school leaders

**Strategy B.** Measure and ensure a shared definition and usable data for kindergarten readiness and third-grade proficiency. This strategy aims to create statewide consensus around the knowledge and skills that provide the foundation for learning in later grades. As part of this strategy, you will see:

- A Tennessee-specific kindergarten readiness screener used statewide by 2017-18 with explicit readiness benchmarks and metrics in literacy, language, and math
- An Early Literacy Council that defines third-grade reading proficiency and offers examples of best practices from Tennessee districts and schools

## PRIORITY AREA: EARLY FOUNDATIONS & LITERACY

### WHY THIS MATTERS.

Patterns of student performance in elementary school demonstrate clear areas for improvement and underscore the need to prioritize early intervention to ensure all 600,000 students enrolled in grades K-5 are on a path to success.

*Identifies major focus areas (TN’s “priorities”) and uses data on current performance to help determine strengths and opportunities*

*For each focus area, key improvement strategies are developed that can be translated into action*



# We have made significant progress so far...

- 87% of survey respondents at the Oct 2017 Talent Found Sectors Summit believe in the value of our work to create a shared vision for the education system, from early childhood to the workforce
- 40+ organizations statewide provided feedback that formed the basis for our four subcommittee focus areas
- 100+ people engaged in the ELC and subcommittees, representing over 70 organizations across the state
- 6,000+ people accessed State of Education survey, nearly 500 people engaged via roundtables across the state
  - Survey response rate provides ability to test interest of a large number of sub-groups, with a couple critical gaps we're working to address

# ELC 2018 timeline: through Dec 2018

