

## A4PEP Update January 2024

### FairTest Forum

Mark your calendars for **Jan. 21, 1:00-2:30 p.m.**, to join A4PEP for our first forum of 2024, “Testing: It’s Time to Play Fair.” In this forum, you will learn from the experts at [FairTest](#) about more equitable ways to assess the education of all students. Harry Feder, Executive Director of [FairTest](#), and Illana Spiegel, K-12 Consultant (and CU Regent), will be speaking and answering questions. FairTest works to end the misuses and flaws of standardized testing and to ensure that the evaluation of students, teachers, and schools is fair, open, valid, and educationally beneficial. This should be a lively conversation about best practices in educational evaluation. The forum is on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88203550889?pwd=bG4vM1VqUEMxVUVJcS9RM01jYWE5QT09>

### Colorado’s Accountability System

Dr. Paula Noonan has researched and consolidated the information about our state accountability system published by the Colorado Department of Education. Her report demonstrates the inequities, inconsistencies, and unfairness of district performance ratings and compares them with district funding. It reveals that the poorest districts generally receive the least amount of funding and that districts’ performance ratings are a reflection of the socio-economic levels and percentage of minorities in their community. Read more [here](#) about Dr. Noonan’s findings. Watch for notifications about our forum on **Feb. 4, 1:00 p.m.**, which will delve more deeply into the report.

A4PEP has been seeking every avenue to get the word out about the problems with our accountability system. We are monitoring the task force that is charged with analyzing our existing system, [1241: Accountability, Accreditation, Student Performance, and Resource Inequity Task Force | CDE \(state.co.us\)](#) and will keep you posted on their findings and recommendations.

### Start of the 2024 Legislative Session

The 2024 Legislative Session of the Colorado General Assembly has begun! A4PEP will monitor bills and take positions on legislation that address our legislative priorities (see the [home page of our website](#) for a list of those). We’ll be sure to notify you of key legislation. We encourage you to follow what the Legislature is doing at <https://leg.colorado.gov/> and keep in touch with your State Senator and State Representative.

For quick and easy reviewing of all bills, go to [coloradocapitolwatch.com](http://coloradocapitolwatch.com). Scroll down the home page to Most Recent Bills. Click on any bill number and you’ll see all the bills in both chambers. You can sort by subject. Click on Look Up Legislators to see who’s running the shop at the Capitol.