

# Thompson School District sees increases in performance measures

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The Thompson School District jumped nearly 3 percentage points overall in performance frameworks with 14 schools improving by double digits, including the four lowest ranked schools in 2016.

"We're moving," said Margaret Crespo, the district's chief academic officer. "It's all about moving forward. We're so proud of our schools. We can't do it without the teachers and parents."

The Colorado Department of Education released its initial School Performance Frameworks rankings for 2017 on Wednesday with the final designations to be set in December. The rankings from highest to lowest are accredited, performance plan, improvement, priority improvement and turnaround status.

Both schools that were on turnaround status for 2016, Lincoln and Truscott Elementary School, jumped two levels to improvement status. The next lowest schools in 2016, Winona and Namaqua Elementary Schools also jumped two levels from priority improvement to performance plan.

"That speaks volumes about hard work and focusing on the overall student," said Crespo.

All school districts in the state and the schools within those districts are ranked based on test scores and other measures, including growth and participation rates. They are then compared to the state's median growth percentile of 50.

Centennial Elementary marked the largest increase in the Thompson School District, rising from a ranking of 58 in 2016 to 83 in 2017.

The highest ranking school in the district is Big Thompson Elementary School with a ranking of 95.4, a 10.6 percentage point increase over 2016.

Seven schools within the district dropped in ranking by a range of 1.9 percentage points to 20.7 percentage points.

Van Buren Elementary School marked the biggest drop but was still above the median growth percentile at 52.2. Crespo said the biggest reason for the drop was decreasing enrollment at the school, which means that some categories are not counted in the overall ranking because there are too few students.

Only two schools fell into the two lowest categories, turnaround and priority improvement. Both Walt Clark and Conrad Ball Middle Schools dropped double digits and two categories each.

The district will submit a "request to reconsider" for these two schools and will provide the Colorado Department of Education with additional data to support a higher ranking before the ratings are finalized in December, reported Mike Hausmann, the district's public information officer.

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