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State's educational system found lacking

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A first-ever examination of Colorado's educational system by several groups found considerable room for improvement.

The State Accountability Report was released Monday by the [Donnell-Kay Foundation](#), in partnership with the [Colorado Children's Campaign](#), [Piton Foundation](#) and the Center for Educational Policy Analysis at the University of Colorado at Denver.

The report ranked Colorado "average" when it came to the overall academic performance of its students and "unsatisfactory" in addressing the academic achievement gap among minorities.

"Our assessment shows that as a state we are struggling to educate our total student population and failing to meet the needs of low-income and minority students," said Tony Lewis, executive director of the Donnell-Kay Foundation, which works toward improving education in the state.

In comparing Colorado's education system to the nation as a whole, the state ranked 30th in high school graduation rates but 28th when only black students were considered. Colorado ranked No. 23 for college enrollment rates, but No. 48 for minorities and No. 35 for low-income students.

The only areas where Colorado excelled was having the second-highest population of adults with college degrees.

Lewis said that's a reflection of people choosing to move to Colorado rather than a product of the state's educational system.

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