



# The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

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## Welcome to the Buzz!

The Buzz is a new monthly newsletter produced by the Consolidated Federal Programs Unit. The purpose of the newsletter will be to provide information regarding the implementation of No Child Left Behind in Colorado, upcoming events and highlights from districts.

The first issue has been mailed and emailed to those involved with the consolidated application. All future issues will be sent by email and posted on the CDE website at [www.cde.state.co.us/index\\_funding.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_funding.htm).

If you would like to receive The Buzz monthly and we do not have your email please send a request to the email listed below. Or if email is not a reliable way for you to receive information, we can either fax or send you a hard copy. Our desire is for the newsletter to be a real source of information. We welcome all suggestions and concerns. Please contact Laura Hensinger at (303) 866-6675 or [hensinger\\_l@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us) for any questions related to The Buzz.



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## Practical Parent Policies

**Trish Boland**

CDE Title I Consultant

NCLB requires all districts receiving Title I dollars to adopt a parent involvement policy that meets the fourteen requirements of the law. These requirements include: a description of how parents' capacity for greater involvement will be supported; a description of how parents will be given opportunity for understanding state standards and testing; and involvement with parents in the development and evaluation of the policy.

The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) has developed a sample Parent Involvement policy and a template for districts to use in development of their policy, which can be found at [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/pi.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/pi.htm). Neither of these documents can be adopted without significant personalization by districts, which is very different from how sample policies have been used traditionally.

At **Arriba-Flagler School District** on the eastern plains, Mark Ricken and his staff have put considerable time into developing a district parent involvement policy that meets NCLB requirements. This summertime work has paid off, and not just in having a solid policy to take to the local school board. Parents involved in the process report that they have a broadened view of parent involvement and fresh ideas for more active engagement. One of these activities involves focused outreach to parents, especially to those who have not traditionally been involved.

Adoption of a quality parent involvement policy can provide just the needed push that expands our perspective on how parents and the community can take constructive roles in supporting greater academic success for all of our students.

# Highly Qualified Teachers

## Bush White

CDE Title II Consultant

There has been much discussion across the nation and in Colorado regarding the definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT). We believe that it is important to dissolve some of the mystery around what we consider to be a highly qualified teacher as defined by No Child Left Behind (NCLB Sec.1119 (a)).

The definition of highly qualified teachers only applies to teachers teaching in the core academic subjects. The core academic subjects, as identified by NCLB, are: language arts/reading, math, science, arts (art, drama, vocal and instrumental music), civics/government, economics, history, and foreign language.

The following are the definitions of Highly Qualified Teachers in the State of Colorado.

### Elementary Educator

A qualified elementary educator shall mean an educator who holds a Colorado Initial or Professional Educator's License. In order to be "highly qualified" the teacher must have:

- An Elementary License, or
- A Secondary License, and passing score on the state's elementary education content area test. The test includes content in language arts/literacy, science, mathematics, social studies, humanities, wellness, and physical education.

### Middle School Educator

*Note: Colorado does not offer a Middle School License.*

A qualified middle school educator shall mean an educator who holds a Colorado Initial or Professional Educator License. In order to be "highly qualified" the teacher must have:

- An Elementary License, if the teacher is teaching in a self-contained classroom (teaching all subject areas), or
- An Elementary License, with (a) 24 semester hours in the subject(s) they are teaching, or (b) passing score on the content area test(s) in the subject(s) they are teaching, or
- A Secondary License, with an endorsement(s) in the subject(s) they are teaching, or

- A Secondary License, with (a) 24 semester hours in the subject(s) they are teaching, or (b) passing score on the content area test(s) in the subject(s) they are teaching.

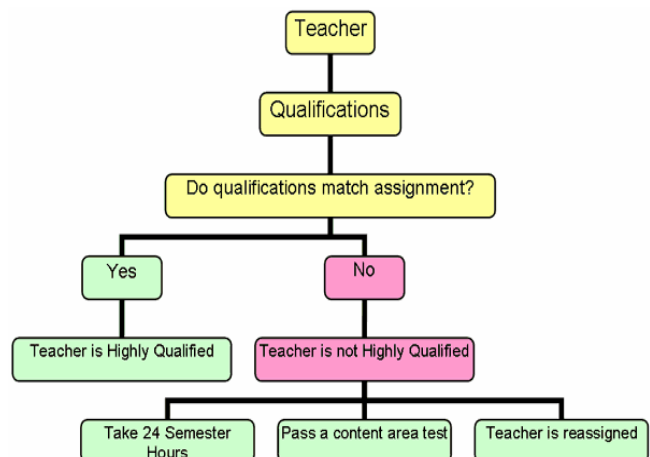
### Secondary Educator

A qualified secondary educator shall mean an educator who holds a Colorado Initial or Professional Educator's License. In order to be "highly qualified" the teacher must have:

- A Secondary License, with an endorsement in the subject(s) they are teaching, or
- A Secondary License, with (a) 24 semester hours in the subject(s) they are teaching, or (b) passing score on the content area test(s) in the subject(s) they are teaching, or
- An Elementary License, with (a) 24 semester hours in the subject(s) they are teaching, or (b) passing score on the content area test(s) in the subject(s) they are teaching.

The 24 semester hours of coursework must be in the content area(s) in which the educator is teaching and may be earned through a combination of professional development activities, college credit and relevant travel (maximum of 6 hours in travel). Certification of this requirement is the responsibility of the educator's employing school district.

If you have any further questions about "highly qualified" teachers, a frequently asked questions document will soon be posted on our website under *What's New* at [www.cde.state.co.us/index\\_funding.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_funding.htm). If you have immediate questions, e-mail Bush White at [white\\_b@cde.state.co.us](mailto:white_b@cde.state.co.us)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Colorado State Board of Education Meeting**

September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., Board Room  
Colorado Department of Education, 201 E. Colfax

### **Title ID, Neglected and Delinquent Meeting**

September 11<sup>th</sup> from 1- 4 p.m.  
Four Points Sheraton  
600 S. Colorado Blvd., Denver

### **Title I Directors' Meeting**

September 12<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Four Points Sheraton,  
600 S. Colorado Blvd., Denver

### **Enhancing English Language in Elementary Classrooms**

September 22-24<sup>th</sup>  
Teacher Training Lyons Conference Room,  
Lyons Hall, Colorado Springs

### **Annual Conference, Colorado Council of Teachers of Mathematics**

September 25-26<sup>th</sup>  
Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO

### **September 30<sup>th</sup>**

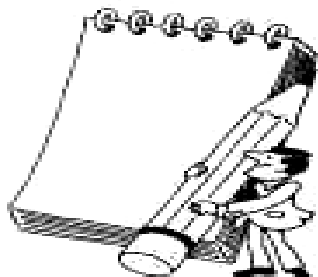
Deadline for CDE to make district AYP  
determinations.

### **October 15<sup>th</sup>**

Deadline for districts to make school AYP  
determinations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE  
AND FUTURE EVENTS,  
PLEASE GO TO:

[WWW.CDE.STATE.CO.US/CDEEDCON/INDEX.HTM](http://WWW.CDE.STATE.CO.US/CDEEDCON/INDEX.HTM)



### **Application for Funding Opportunity related to the Educational Success of Homeless Children and Youth**

At the invitation of the Daniels Fund, CDE is submitting a grant application for a statewide educational initiative to support students who have been identified as homeless. After surveying local funded McKinney programs, a pilot project has been developed related to student assessments, instructional interventions, and supportive on-going communications and relationships with both students and classroom teachers. The goal of the program is to provide Academic Advocate Interns to school districts. They, in turn, provide needed services so that homeless students can perform at grade level.

Partners with CDE in the grant are the Teacher Education Programs in the School for Professional Studies at Regis University, the Center for Research Strategies and 6-15 local school districts (still to be determined). The grant application requires local matching funds. For this Academic Advocate Pilot Project each participating school district will need to commit \$3,200 towards the stipend for the Academic Advocate Intern. Each advocate would work a total of twenty hours a week for 32 weeks. They will be supervised by Regis University and work closely with the district homeless liaison, Title I staff, and the district assessment staff, as well as teachers, to coordinate academic services for homeless students.

Students pursuing their master's degree at Regis University in the School for Professional Studies will be recruited for the paid internships as Academic Advocates to work in school districts. School districts receiving McKinney Vento support have priority, but the advocate positions are open to all school districts in the state. The interns will support the academic success of students who have been identified as homeless through: academic case management; assessing current academic skill level; developing a remedial intervention plan, and accessing the resources to implement and manage the plan. The intern, under the guidance of the school district's assessment personnel and homeless liaison will assess homeless students' current academic skill level against district grade level standards and track the success of any remedial

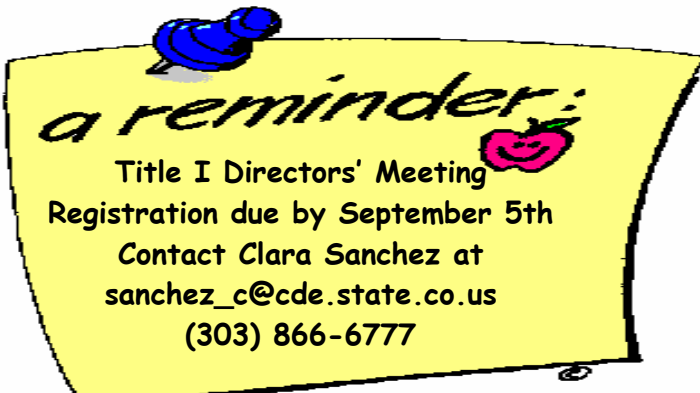
services implemented to assist the student in moving towards proficiency in selected core subjects. In all cases the development of a supportive, individual relationship through meetings between the Academic Advocate and the students is critical. In some situations, the advocate may be providing some of the remedial services. In other situations the intern will access other more appropriate services, yet be in regular contact with students, their parents, and teachers so the on-going remedial support builds upon the skill development of the day-to-day classroom instruction and is supported by parental involvement.

The Center for Research Strategies will work closely with academic advocate interns, and both their university and school district sponsors to capture the success of the program. Interns will complete action research projects at each site. In addition student records for homeless students, including academic success, test results and attendance will be tracked and correlated with qualitative data recorded through home visits and case management notes. Formative evaluation research will be used to make program improvements. A final report will outline the project and what factors contributed to success at each site.

Notification of grant awards is scheduled for December 2003. If funded, the Academic Advocate Pilot Project will start during the second school semester.

If your district is interested in participating in this pilot project please contact:

Margie Milenkiewicz  
State Coordinator for the Education  
of Homeless Children and Youth  
303-866-6930  
Milenkiewicz\_m@cde.state.co.us



# Q&A

## After completing an initial AYP evaluation, we have several schools that will move into 2<sup>nd</sup> year school improvement and will have to offer supplemental services. Where is CDE in having an approved list of supplemental service providers?

We are in the process of finalizing the list of state approved providers. We will be adding approximately 20 providers to our present list of 13. The list is available on our website at [www.cde.state.co.us/index\\_funding.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_funding.htm). We anticipate having a final, published list by the beginning of September. We will also have a sample parent notification letter translated into Spanish available on our website by the end of September.

As noted in the timeline for AYP, districts who determine that a school in 1<sup>st</sup> year school improvement did not make AYP will be required to provide supplemental services will not need to do so until January 2004. Please note, if a school is in its 1<sup>st</sup> year of improvement and made AYP for the 2002-2003 school year, they will not need to offer supplemental services.

CDE will be hosting a networking day for providers and district personnel to provide information about supplemental services. As soon as a specific date is identified, we will inform districts.



## Who makes the District AYP determination?

CDE will be calculating the District AYP determinations and reporting them to Superintendents by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Districts will then have until October 14<sup>th</sup> to appeal the determination. Final determinations will be made by November 14<sup>th</sup>. However, districts are responsible for making individual school AYP determinations for all district schools by October 31<sup>st</sup> and reporting final determinations to CDE by December 31<sup>st</sup>. We will be sending a more detailed calculator and reporting document to districts soon. For more information on AYP deadlines, please go to [www.cde.state.co.us/ayp/timeline.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/ayp/timeline.asp)



## UPDATES

The Colorado Department of Education has recently launched a new **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)** website. At [www.cde.state.co.us/ayp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/ayp), you will find the most current information regarding calculating AYP. We have created an Excel Spreadsheet to do the calculations for you, when the appropriate data is entered. CDE will make District AYP determinations by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Districts must make school AYP determinations by **October 31<sup>st</sup>**. Schools currently on improvement that do not make AYP will need to begin providing supplemental services in January 2004.

Come meet with other district Title I Directors, CDE staff, and representatives from Colorado's Title I Distinguished Schools at the **2003 Title I Directors' Meeting**. The annual meeting will be held September 12<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton, 600 S. Colorado Blvd. in Denver. We will be having a panel discussion of teachers, coaches and administrators from our Title I Distinguished Schools who will share their challenges and achievements. Breakout sessions throughout the day will cover such topics as: AYP, School Choice, New Directors' Orientation, Highly Qualified Teachers and Paraprofessionals, Parent Involvement, and much more. For more information, please call Alyssa Pearson at 303-866-6855 or email at [Winick\\_a@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Winick_a@cde.state.co.us).

Summertime at CDE means that much time is spent reading **Consolidated Federal Programs Applications**. We have started a new process this year where a representative from each Title reads and collaborates with other Title programs and CDE accreditation staff to offer comments to the districts. We are looking forward to getting feedback about this new process from district personnel at the **Title I Directors' Meeting**.

We know that having a final **Parent Policy** may be a concern for some of you. As long as a district can demonstrate that it is moving towards having a board approved policy, final approval can be granted. If you have any questions about the status of your application, check on-line at [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/consapp.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/consapp.htm) or call one of the Title I Consultants.

# Congratulations

## School Improvement Grant Recipients!

### Adams County School District 14

Alsup Elementary	Monaco Elementary
Dupont Elementary	Rose Hill Elementary

### Arapahoe County School District 28

Vaughn Elementary

### Ault-Highland RE-9

Highland Elementary	Highland Middle
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### Denver Public Schools

John Amesse Elementary	Kepner Middle
Baker Middle	Knapp Elementary
Barney Ford Elementary	Lake Middle School
Barnum Elementary	Maria Mitchell Elementary
Barrett Elementary	Morey Middle
Cole Middle	Rishel Middle
College View Elementary	Schenck Elementary
Cowell Elementary	Skinner Middle
Del Pueblo Elementary	Smedley Elementary
Fairmont Elementary	Smith Renaissance
Fairview Elementary	Stedman Elementary
Garden Place Elementary	Swansea Elementary
Gilpin Elementary	Valverde Elementary
Hallett Elementary	Whittier Elementary
Horace Mann Middle	Whitman Elementary

### El Paso County School District 2

Wildflower Elementary

### El Paso County School District 3

Talbot Elementary

### El Paso County School District 11

Ivywild School	Roosevelt Edison Charter
Monroe Elementary	

### El Paso County School District 60

Miami-Yoder Elementary

### Fort Morgan School District 3

Green Acres Elementary	Pioneer Elementary
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### Jefferson County School District

Russell Elementary	Eiber Elementary
Lumberg Elementary	

### Garfield County School District

Carbondale Elementary

### Rocky Ford School District

Liberty Elementary

