



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2003

AYP Anxiety Alleviation

Alyssa Pearson

CDE Title I Consultant

Worried about how your district is going to calculate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for schools? CDE is offering districts the following three options for making AYP determinations:

1. Districts can make their own determinations, using their own data. Schools appeal determinations to the district.
2. Districts can request CDE's data and make their own determinations. Schools appeal determinations to the district.
3. Districts request that CDE makes their AYP determinations. All determinations are final; there is no appeals process.

An email memo and FaxBack form was sent to Superintendents and Title I Authorized Representatives so that interested parties could notify CDE of their choice. FaxBack forms must be received no later than October 3rd. Once received, requests will be processed as quickly as possible; within three working days for data and by October 26th for CDE school determinations.

Listed below are important AYP dates including two AYP training dates.

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Colorado Has Approved 34 Supplemental Service Providers

Laura Hensinger

CDE Title I Consultant

The Office of Special Services at the Colorado Department of Education has recently completed the application and review process for approving state providers of supplemental services. In this year's process, we approved 23 providers, which will be added to the 11 approved from the 2002-2003 school year. The list of approved providers includes school districts, faith-based organizations, community organizations, private schools, individuals, online providers and other for-profit organizations. A description of the approved providers' programs is available at www.cde.state.co.us/index_funding.htm

Schools who were in their 1st year of school improvement for the 2002-2003 school year and did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) are required by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to offer supplemental services.

Supplemental services are tutoring opportunities for eligible students, conducted by an approved provider outside of the school day. Eligible students are those who are enrolled in a school on 2nd year school improvement and identified as low-income. These tutoring services are free to parents and paid for by the district using Title I funds.

Districts with schools in their 2nd year of school improvement are responsible for notifying parents of eligible students that these services are available to them. The notification must be in a language understandable to parents, identify the approved provider(s) within the district, and describe their services, qualifications, and evidence of effectiveness. The letter must also

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October 14th

Deadline for districts to appeal district AYP determinations to CDE

October 31st

Deadline for districts to make school AYP determinations

November 14th

Deadline for schools to appeal AYP determinations to the district

November 14th

Deadline for CDE to make final determinations of district AYP status

☆☆AYP Data Training☆☆

October 7th

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Basil T. Knight Center
Grand Junction

October 14th

10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Inn at Rio Grande, Alamosa

October 21st

Location and time TBD, Lamar

October 23rd

1-4 p.m., Aims Community College, Greeley

Colorado Reading First News

Lisa Medler

The goal that *all Colorado students will be proficient readers by the end of third grade* is an ambitious one, and the new Colorado Reading First (CRF) program is helping this goal become reality. Twenty-three districts, representing 42 schools, in our state have been awarded CRF funding for a three-year period. Over this past summer, each funded school sent their K-3 staff to a week-long training on implementing the essential components of reading. This meant that over 750 educators from across the state gathered to participate in foundational reading academies with expert literacy trainers. The intent was to deepen teachers' understanding of the reading process and to equip them with the skills necessary to implement scientifically based reading research (SBRR) core programs. Additionally, the training provided assistance to teachers in assessment so that they could understand and use data for instructional purposes. CRF schools are off to a strong start in implementing their programs with an eye to raising student reading achievement in some of our lowest achieving, highest poverty schools.

A PARENT TOOLKIT CREATED TO ASSIST DISTRICTS

Anita Foxworth

CDE Professional Development Consultant

The passage of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) has brought tremendous opportunities and challenges for schools. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE), under the direction of Commissioner William J. Moloney, convened a group of stakeholders composed of representatives of a variety of organizations to assist in the implementation of NCLB. Representatives from the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), the Colorado Education Association (CEA), the Colorado Parent Teacher Association (CPTA) and the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition, have contributed a great deal of time and effort to assist in the important work of making NCLB a realistic blueprint for building the future of Colorado's children.

Representatives of these groups worked with CDE to develop a toolkit to assist schools and districts in implementing the parent involvement requirements of Title I, Part A Section 1118. The toolkit contains the following:

- A user's guide
- Legal requirements
- Research on parent involvement and student achievement
- A definition of meaningful parent/family involvement
- Implementing the Title I parent involvement requirements
- Sample policies
- Questions and answers regarding parent involvement requirements
- A process for planning parent involvement programs
- Strategies for involving families
- Resources

The toolkit will be sent to each district and will be available on the State and Federal Grants Homepage of CDE's website.

In addition, there will be a supplement specifically for parents to inform them of some of the major components of NCLB. Copies of the supplement will be mailed to districts and available on the website in November.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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October 7th

AYP Data Training
12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m., Basil T. Knight Center
Grand Junction
Contact Alyssa Pearson at pearson_a@cde.state.co.us

October 13th

Colorado Public Charter School Startup Grant due to CDE. Contact Denise Mund at mund_d@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6740.

October 14th

AYP Data Training
10a.m.-2 p.m., Inn at Rio Grande, Alamosa
Contact Alyssa Pearson at pearson_a@cde.state.co.us

October 15th

K-5 Math Institute, Colorado Springs
Contact Arti Winston at winston_a@cde.state.co.us

October 15th and 16th

ELAU Leadership Institute Training
8 a.m.-3 p.m., AmeriSuites Hotel, Colorado Springs
Contact Jan Durkin at durkin_j@cde.state.co.us

October 17th and 18th

11th Annual Statewide Paraeducator Conference
7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sheraton Hotel, Colorado Springs
Contact Jeannette Cornier at SPEAC@frie.com

October 21st

AYP Data Training
Time and Location TBD, Lamar
Contact Alyssa Pearson at pearson_a@cde.state.co.us

October 23rd

AYP Data Training
1-4 p.m., Aims Community College
Greeley, CO
Contact Alyssa Pearson at pearson_a@cde.state.co.us

October 28th and 29th

K-5 Math Institute, Grand Junction
Contact Arti Winston at winston_a@cde.state.co.us

November 1st

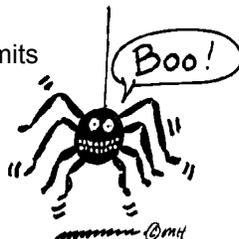
Annual Financial Report for NCLB Consolidated Budget due to Grants Fiscal Department. Contact Debbie Wolfe at wolfe_d@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6724.

November 1st

Colorado Department of Education submits Comparability Reports to districts for completion prior to December 1.

November 12th and 13th

Leading in a Culture of Change:
Becoming a High-Performing School
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Garden of the Gods Club,
Colorado Springs. Visit www.co-case.org to register.



provide procedures and timelines that parents must follow for obtaining services. A sample parent letter is available on CDE's website.

A letter to parents will meet the requirements of the law. However, due to the newness of the law and confusing nature of this choice provision one mailing may not ensure maximum participation from eligible students. Some strategies that have been used in other states to build understanding and encourage involvement include:

- Hosting a provider fair in the district, an opportunity for parents to meet providers and determine the best fit for their child.
- Discuss the supplemental service provision with eligible parents at parent/teacher conferences.
- Conduct parent meetings.
- Use parent liaisons to call homes or make home visits to explain free tutoring option.
- Work with local parent organizations to get the word out.
- Work with providers to disseminate information through public service announcements.

Supplemental Services is a parent choice. It is the parents' responsibility to choose the appropriate provider for their child. However, they may ask the school/district for help in choosing a provider. Once the parent has made a decision, they must contact the appropriate person at the district to establish services for their child.

After parents have chosen a particular provider, it is the responsibility of the district to develop a contract with the provider. Since so few schools were required to offer supplemental services during the 2002-2003 school year there are few samples of working contracts. The NCLB Compliance Insider from June and September 2003 provide some insight into the components of a strong contract.

CDE will be hosting a networking day for district personnel and approved providers on November 12th in Denver. Additional information will be sent to districts at a later date. The day will allow providers and personnel to interact and gain an understanding of the process and roles of each entity involved.

The next opportunity for supplemental service providers to apply to be on the approved list will be January 2004. Information will be available on CDE's website early in the year.

TITLE I TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Colorado Department of Education is proud to announce this year's opportunity to nominate a distinguished educator for the Title I Teacher of the Year Award. Two teachers will be selected as recipients of the award. Each recipient will receive a \$5,000 cash award. A nominee must be:

- A knowledgeable and skilled Title I teacher of literacy/reading/language arts or math in a Targeted Assistance Program **or** a knowledgeable and skilled teacher of literacy/reading/language arts or math in a Title I Schoolwide Program
- Currently a teacher in a Title I Schoolwide or Targeted Assistance Program.
- Considered a highly qualified teacher under NCLB requirements.
- Able to show evidence of successful student academic achievement.

What must be included as a part of the nomination?

1. Nominations must be submitted by a principal or superintendent who is familiar with the accomplishments of the nominated teacher.
2. Nominations must include:
 - ✓ the completed nomination form.
 - ✓ a narrative describing how the nominated teacher has met the criteria listed above (no more than two single-spaced pages).
 - ✓ two additional letters of support from administrator, colleague, student/former student, parent or civic leader.
3. Nomination packets must be received by CDE no later than March 1, 2004. Mailed nomination packets must be postmarked no later than February 26, 2004.

Nomination forms will be located on the CDE website under State and Federal Grants by late November. For additional information please contact Darrell Ryan at ryan_d@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6965.



What are the requirements for paraprofessionals?

A paraprofessional will be considered "highly qualified" if they have met one of the following requirements:

1. completed 2 years of study at an institute of higher education (demonstrating knowledge of and the ability to assist, i.e., instructing in reading, writing and math)
2. obtained an associate's (or higher) degree (demonstrating knowledge of and the ability to assist, i.e., instructing in reading, writing and math)
3. demonstrated, through a national or local academic assessment, required content knowledge of reading, writing, and mathematics, (or, as appropriate, reading, writing and mathematics readiness) and the ability to assist teachers in the classroom instruction of students.

Do all paraprofessionals have to meet the definition of highly qualified paraprofessionals?

Paraprofessionals who are working in a Title I classroom have to meet the highly qualified requirement. However, in a schoolwide school all paraprofessionals who assist in instruction must meet the highly qualified paraprofessional requirement.

How many credit hours are considered equivalent to two years of college?

48 semester hours

What assessments has CDE reviewed for paraprofessionals?

CDE has determined that **ACT Workkeys** and **Parapro** by Educational Testing Services meet the minimum requirements. Please note CDE and Educational Testing Services are in the process of establishing cut scores for its Para Pro Test. Cut scores should be established by mid October.

When do paraprofessionals have to meet the highly qualified requirements?

Paraprofessionals must meet the highly qualified paraprofessional requirement by January 8, 2006.

Can an LEA create its own assessment?

Yes. However, the assessment must be statistically valid and reliable.





UPDATES

Over the past few weeks we have received several inquiries regarding the **Consolidated State Performance Report**, which in the past has been due at the end of September. Unfortunately, we have not received the data requirements from the U.S. Department of Education. Once we receive the data requirements we will post them on CDE's website and send reporting requirements to districts. We will provide ample time for data collection and submission.

The **State Committee of Practitioners (CoP)** is seeking nominations to fill vacancies among the following constituent groups: parent, school board member, private school representative, pupil services, and Title I administrator. This committee serves to advise the State in carrying out its responsibilities under Title I. Nomination forms and additional information about the State CoP can be found on the department's website: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/tia_cop.htm. The committee convenes four times a year, with its next meeting scheduled for November 10th, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Capitol Peak room at the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), 1200 Grant St., Denver. For more information, contact Trish Boland at (303) 866-6998.

The Office of Special Services staff recently reviewed the parent notification documents that districts distributed to meet the **school choice requirements** for schools on improvement or corrective action. This review revealed that many of the notification documents do not meet all of the requirements of the law. Several workshops will be offered to the affected districts in late October and early November to bring these documents into compliance. Example documents will then be available on the CDE website for other districts to examine. In addition, districts with schools that did not make AYP in 2003 will be required to submit to the state a school choice plan in the spring of '04 that includes an appropriate parent notification document. Assistance with these plans will be available to districts in late winter. For more information, contact Trish Boland at (303) 866-6998.

School Information

At the Title I Directors' Meeting held in September, we had the opportunity to publicly congratulate the schools that had been identified as a Title I Distinguished School for the 2002-2003 school year. All eight regions in the State had a school recognized as well as two schools that were recognized nationally as a Title I Distinguished School.

A representative for each distinguished school spoke at the meeting and highlighted the areas in the school's program that they believe is a key to their success. There were several commonalities amongst each of the schools including focused goals, strong leadership, district support and collaboration among the school staff.

Ellen Klug from Truscott Elementary summed it up well with a quote from Tom Altepeter, principal at Truscott Elementary, "We need to stay standards based - not materials based, philosophy based - not programs based, research based - not programs based, data driven - not traditions driven. And we must always be able to answer the question, "How do we know that what we do makes a difference for all of our students?"

National Distinguished Schools

Eads Elementary School, Eads School District
Manassa Elementary School, North Conejos School District

Regional Distinguished Schools

Maddox Elementary, Englewood School District
South Park Elementary, Pueblo 60 School District
Truscott Elementary, Thompson School District
Petz Elementary, Plateau School District
Avon Elementary, Eagle County School District
Chatfield Elementary, Mesa 51 School District
La Jara Elementary, North Conejos School District
Pritchett Elementary, Pritchett School District



Colorado Department of Education
Office of Special Services
201 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203



Did you miss the last Buzz? Visit www.cde.state.co.us/index_funding.htm for a copy.

Concerns!!

Questions??

Comments

Do you want to be on the mailing list?

Contact Laura Hensinger at (303) 866-6675 or hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us