



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 5

January 2004



Happy New Year!!

We hope that your holiday provided the opportunity to relax and enjoy family and friends. We at CDE are amazed at how fast 2003 flew by. At the same time we are excited for what 2004 will bring. As a country we will soon be recognizing the 2nd anniversary of the signing of No Child Left Behind. We have witnessed the challenges in implementing the federal requirement but have also recognized the benefits of accountability, parental choice, use of data and emphasis on proven teaching methods.

Over the past year, the Consolidated Federal Programs Unit (CFPU) has spent a great deal of time rethinking how we provide technical assistance, disseminate information and develop policy. The following is a brief overview of the goals and focus for work that we plan to accomplish in 2004.

Technical Assistance Goals

Accountability Conference

CDE will be hosting the 2nd Annual Accountability Conference on March 3rd and 4th. This conference provides the opportunity to delve into the use of funds, discuss best practices and hear from colleagues in the field who have experienced successes.

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Supplemental Educational Services Request for Proposals Now Available

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2004-2005 List of Approved Supplemental Service Providers is now available online. There will be a training on the completion of the RFP January 23rd from 2-4 p.m. at the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), 1200 Grant Street in Denver.

Schools on 2nd year improvement, corrective action or restructuring are required to offer supplemental services. Supplemental services are free tutoring opportunities for low-income children attending schools on 2nd year improvement, corrective action or restructuring. The cost of services is paid for by the district with the required Title I set aside for supplemental services.

Presently, we have a list of 34 state approved providers. A tutoring provider is any organization with a demonstrated record of effectiveness in increasing the academic achievement of students in reading and/or math and successfully completes the RFP. This is not a competitive grant in that all providers that meet the criteria specified in the rubric will be approved.

Although our list contains many competent providers we are hoping to add more options for the rural areas of Colorado. If you know of an organization that you believe would be a strong provider of supplemental services please encourage them to apply. Or, you may want to consider applying on behalf of your district-run program if there is a possibility that your schools will have to offer supplemental services next year.

The RFP is due March 8th and is available at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/SuppServices.htm. For further information contact Laura Hensinger at Hensinger_1@cde.state.co.us

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Regional Workshops

Beginning in April, CDE will be holding Consolidated Application Workshops in each region. This day long workshop will provide step by step instructions for completing the application. Representatives from each Title will be on hand to answer questions regarding the application. Specific dates will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Parent Involvement Toolkit

See article on page 4.

School Support Teams

According to NCLB, each state must establish a system of support for schools on improvement and corrective action. Part of Colorado's school support system involves the use of school support teams who provide a diagnostic review of all facets of a school's program. CDE will continue to pilot the implementation of school support teams in the spring in preparation for a more comprehensive implementation in fall of 2004.

School Support Resource Website

The Professional Development and School Support website is being developed as a way to continually communicate information, activities, and events to those involved in the continuous school improvement processes. The website will include information about:

- Professional development opportunities
- Colorado's school support process
- Online articles to support school improvement
- Links to other sites that have resources to support improvement
- Parent involvement resources
- Innovative approaches to raising school achievement

Math Workshops

CDE has two initiatives to assist teachers in raising student achievement in mathematics. One is a short term initiative to train teachers in standards based content for K-5 mathematics. The other is a long term initiative to develop trainers who can offer K-5 mathematics training in districts and regions across the state. An additional focus for the coming year will be leadership institutes to assist principals in developing skills to work with teachers on appropriate instructional practices for the implementation of standards based mathematics.

Schoolwide Training

With the creation of new schoolwide programs and the additional requirements laid out in NCLB, we will be developing a simplified template for the development or revision of schoolwide plans. The handbook for guiding schoolwides will also be revised. A series of workshops will be held in late spring to assist those interested in schoolwide planning.

Charter School Grant Program

The Colorado Charter School Grant Program provides startup and implementation funds for new charter schools. Eligible charter schools may include conversions or grassroots startup schools. Up to \$450,000 is available over a three year period; the grants are competitive. There are two tiers for the startup grant competition. Tier One is in October and is for schools that have already received their charter or have submitted a charter application to a school district. Tier Two is for the schools that have just been approved by their school district and will be opening the following autumn.

There will be mandatory grant training for Tier 2 Charter School Startup Grant applicants on Wednesday, January 14, 2004. Only those charter schools that have just recently been approved, or have submitted a charter application to a local school district and are still waiting approval, may apply for Tier 2 Charter School Startup Grant funds. Tier 2 grant applications are due Feb. 23, 2004.

The grant writers training will be 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, January 14th at the Talking Book Library. Registration (required) and directions are on the CDE website at:

www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart/download/T2GWT-reg.pdf. The deadline for registering is Jan. 9, 2004.

The training is free for writers associated with a charter school that will be applying in Tier 2. Others are welcome to attend the training on a space available basis, but must pay \$15 in order to cover refreshments and lunch. For charter schools that had a representative at the August 8, 2003 grant training, attending the Jan 14th training is strongly suggested, but optional. If you do not wish to attend the Jan. 14th training, please email Denise Mund the rationale for that decision.

Every startup grant application in Tier 2 will be assigned a consultant. Consultants are available to read drafts of the application and provide detailed feedback. The consultants will be at the Jan. 14th training and will be providing assistance to writers as they begin their drafts. Using a grant consultant does not in any way imply guaranteed funding.

During the morning portion of the grant writers training, CDE staff and consultants will be providing information on the grant program, financial issues, library plan development, professional development plans and technology plan development. After lunch the grant consultants will be working with writers to begin their grant applications. Grant writers attending the training are encouraged to bring laptops and primary documents for reference such as the charter school application.

Please contact Denise Mund at mund_d@cde.state.co.us for more information.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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January 19th

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
CDE will be closed.

January 23rd

Training for the Supplement Services RFP
Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)
2-4 p.m., 1200 Grant Street, Denver
Contact Laura Hensinger at (303) 866-6675 or
[Hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us) for more information.

February 5th-7th

CCIRA 37th Annual Conference
Visit www.ccira.org for more information.

February 7th-10th

National Title I Conference 2004
Closing the Achievement Gap One Step at a Time
New Orleans, Louisiana
Visit www.aplusevents.com for more information.

February 15th-18th

Beyond School Hours: A National Conference on
Quality Extended-Day Programs.
San Diego, California
Visit www.foundationsinc.org for more information.

February 16th

Presidents' Day
CDE will be closed.

March 3rd and 4th

Single Accountability Conference
Radisson Southeast, Denver

March 8th

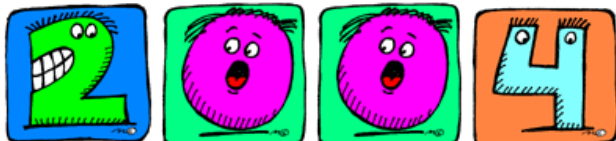
Supplemental Services RFP due to CDE (postmarked by
March 5). Contact Laura Hensinger at
hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us

April 6th - April 9th

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
Annual Meeting in Anaheim, California
Visit www.nctm.org/meetings for more information.

May 2nd - 6th

49th Annual International Reading Association Conf.
Reno-Tahoe, Nevada
Visit www.reading.org for more information.



Communication Goals

The Buzz

Our goal is to disseminate consistent information to the field.

Research You Can Use

The intent of this publication is to provide synopses of information that highlight best practices and strategies for turning around under-performing schools.

Consolidated Federal Programs Handbook

We are in the process of creating a handbook that would provide basic information on the administration of the Title I, II and V grants. The handbook would, among other things, include sample parent involvement policies, school choice and supplemental service letters.

Website Organization

We have heard comments from numerous sources that it is difficult to locate information on the CDE website. In an effort to make information more accessible we plan to reorganize the State and Federal Grants page. This will be an ongoing process that will begin immediately.

Policy Development Goals

Adequate Yearly Progress

Early in 2004, CDE will reconvene the AYP Subcommittee to refine the AYP definition and associated policies and procedures.

District Improvement Plans/Restructuring

Some districts may enter into improvement status in the fall of 2004. We have begun formulating the actions that must be taken by districts on improvement and districts with schools entering the restructuring phase of school improvement. This information will be provided to districts in the spring.

Monitoring

This spring CDE will be launching a pilot of the Consolidated Federal Programs On-Site Monitoring. The on-site visit will be conducted by representatives of each Title program. The goal is to ensure that federal funds are being used appropriately. A copy of the on-site tool will be available for districts.

Neglected or Delinquent

An action plan will be developed to ensure that all eligible students and facilities within each district are being served. A web-page will also be developed to provide districts and facilities with accurate and relevant information regarding this program and guidance concerning emerging issues.

We realize that needs develop over the year and we plan to adjust our goals as appropriate. We appreciate your patience and look forward to working with each of you this year to successfully meet the academic needs of Colorado's students.

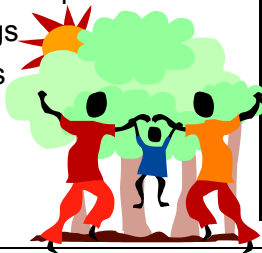
RELEASE OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT TOOLKIT

Over the last few months, most Colorado districts adopted a district Title I parent involvement policy, in compliance with the requirements of NCLB. In a 'just-in-time' response, CDE is sponsoring a series of regional workshops with the Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center to support the implementation of this policy and help build districts' capacity for meaningful parent involvement. These workshops also provide the opportunity to roll out the Parent Involvement Toolkit, a year-long project that was the joint work of many organizations.

The Parent Involvement Toolkit is a one-stop product that provides a variety of information, tools, and guidance. The Toolkit has a review of the research, web-based resources, contact organizations, and a wealth of other helpful items. The Toolkit is available on CDE's website under What's New on the State and Federal Grants page. A hard copy will be provided to workshop participants.

Toolkit Workshops have been scheduled across the state. This series is targeted to district administrators, parent liaisons, DAAC members, board members, and principals. The focus will be on how the Toolkit can assist with the implementation of the district Title I policy, but also cover issues related to school-level work. Please RSVP to Clara Sanchez at 303-866-6777 to hold a space for a workshop. Interested participants can use the FaxBack that was distributed through email in mid-December to register. Some workshops locations have limited seating, and it is important that enough materials are available to those who attend. So, please register! The training will be held from 1-4 p.m. at the following locations except as noted:

January 7 th	Greeley
January 21 st	Wheat Ridge
January 28 th	Akron
February 4 th	Grand Junction, 12-3 p.m.
February 5 th	Glenwood Springs
February 11 th	Colorado Springs
February 18 th	Alamosa
February 19 th	Lamar
February 27 th	Durango



Can a teacher who has a secondary license become highly qualified to teach at the elementary level by taking 24 semester hours?

No. A teacher with a secondary license must take the elementary PLACE/Praxis test or take coursework to obtain an elementary teaching degree to be considered highly qualified at the elementary level.

Is an LEA required to have a policy to ensure comparability?

Yes. A district must have a policy in place to ensure equivalence among 1) schools for teachers, administrators and other staff and 2) schools in the provision of curriculum and instructional materials. Please note the policy does not need to be board approved.

What needs to be submitted to CDE in regards to comparability?

All districts should have submitted the signed assurance document to CDE by December 31, 2003. This includes districts that only have one building per grade span. The assurance document is an acknowledgement that the district is complying with the comparability requirement. All other documents related to comparability should be retained at the district. This information will be requested during an on-site monitoring visit.

Where is The Buzz on CDE's website?

Presently, The Buzz can be accessed from CDE's homepage at www.cde.state.co.us. Each month's issue can also be found on the State and Federal Grants page. From the January issue on, The Buzz will be sent only by email. Please contact Laura Hensinger if you need a copy mailed or faxed to you.

If you have a question that you would like answered please email Laura Hensinger at Hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us



UPDATES

CDE has now received all school AYP determinations from districts. January will be spent compiling the determinations and analyzing where the strengths and weaknesses are for the schools in the state.

Initial district analysis is showing that, after the appeals process, 59% of districts made AYP. 74% made 90% or more of their AYP targets and 16% made between 80% and 90% of their AYP targets. More district level analysis will be completed in January.

More information and a complete list of district determinations will be available on the State and Federal Grants page in the "Colorado No Child Left Behind State Report Card" in mid-January.

The Colorado Department of Education is announcing the release of a publication that will provide clarity and hopefully alleviate the anxiety around the implementation of the "Highly Qualified" teacher provision of No Child Left Behind.

The publication is organized into three major components. First is general information about the "Highly Qualified" teacher requirements and the reporting requirements for schools and districts. The second section of the document contains definitions that describe the terms mentioned in the "Highly Qualified" teacher provision. The last section addresses frequently asked questions. As helpful as we hope the publication will be we do anticipate it to change and enhance as we learn more about this provision. Visit CDE's website under "What's New" on the State and Federal Grants page for a copy of the publication.

CDE is presently accepting nominations for the Title I Distinguished Student Award. Two Title I students for whom the program has made a significant impact will be awarded a \$1,000 gift to the school where Title I services were received. All current or former students who have participated in the Title I program are eligible. The nominee must be nominated by a teacher, school official, community leader minister or employer. Visit CDE's website under "What's New" on the State and Federal Grants page for more information and a nomination form. Nominations are due by February 16, 2004.

Grants Awarded

Congratulations! Four partnerships were awarded the Mathematics and Science Partnership grant.

We received a total of ten Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) grants. Unfortunately only four grants were awarded due to limited funds.

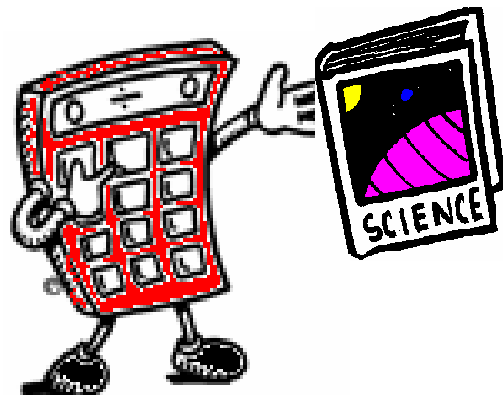
The following are the awarded partnerships:

- ★ Northeast Front Range Mathematics/Science Partnership
- ★ Northern Colorado High Plains Mathematics and Science Partnership
- ★ Colorado School of Mines
- ★ San Juan Board of Cooperative Services

The Mathematics and Science Partnership program is intended to increase the academic achievement of students in mathematics and science by enhancing the content knowledge and teaching skills of classroom teachers. Partnerships between high-need school districts and the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) faculty in institutions of higher education are at the core of these improvement efforts.

The MSP program is a formula grant program to the states, with the size of individual state awards based on student population and poverty rates.

Thanks to all who submitted a Mathematics and Science Partnership proposals. We commend you on your proposed efforts for improving the educational opportunities for middle school children and mathematics and science teachers.



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