



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 10

June 2004

TOP TEN

Ways to Have Your Consolidated Federal Programs Application Approved in a Timely Fashion

It is our hope that the regional workshops for the Consolidated Federal Programs Application provided district personnel with the information necessary to successfully complete the application. In reflecting on the regional workshops and the components of an ideal application we identified ten ways to ensure that an application is approved in a timely fashion.

10. Incorporate Title V and Title VIB into Goal Plans as appropriate and clearly identify how those funds will be spent. This information should then match the budget pages.
9. BOCES should submit separate tables for each district. However, only one Goal Plan which indicates the BOCES' plan for the use of funds needs to be submitted.
8. Do not leave any tables blank. Put a 0 or N/A if you do not have anything to report on a particular table.

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PIKES PEAK EVEN START

Demonstration and Training Site

Beginning with the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the Colorado Department of Education will provide training in the area of family literacy, as part of the services of Pikes Peak Even Start in Colorado Springs. Training will be available for parents, staff members of Even Start and other family literacy programs, adult education instructors, early childhood educators, staff members in elementary school buildings, school district administrators, and school board members.

To support and enhance quality family literacy programming throughout the state, Pikes Peak Even Start is developing an urban demonstration and training site in El Paso County. A training coordinator at the center will facilitate the development of training materials, coordinate publicity of training opportunities, and provide technical assistance as needed. Support will be available by phone and through the Pikes Peak Even Start website, and will be provided during on-site visits to programs and schools throughout the state as well as to parents and staff visiting the Pikes Peak Even Start program. On-site observations will enable visitors to learn firsthand about quality family literacy programming and to view active collaborations funded through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Department of Human Services, Colorado Preschool Program, Early Head Start, Even Start, Early Head Start, Head Start, Parents as Teachers, and Title I, Part A.

The Background of Even Start

The purpose of Even Start is to help break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and low literacy by providing a unified family literacy program for low-income families. Even Start has three related goals:

- to help parents improve their literacy skills,
- to help parents become full partners in educating their children, and
- to assist children in reaching their full potential as learners.

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7. Use the most up-to-date allocation figure when submitting your application. Allocations can be found on our website at www.cde.state.co.us/cdefisgrant/Allocations.htm
6. Each aspect of the goal plan should directly support the needs identified. Furthermore, the information provided in the Goal Plans should address the questions listed in the application (pages 6-13).
5. Consult with all charter and private schools as appropriate.
4. Write performance objectives using the S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Research-Based and Time-Phased)
3. There should be a clear alignment between the budget and Goal Plans.
2. Submit all documents (Goal Plans, data tables, electronic budget and any signed pages) by June 30th. Applications will not be reviewed until all parts have been received. Remember, all applications must be submitted electronically to consolidatedapplications@cde.state.co.us. If unable to submit the application by e-mail, mail a copy of the application saved to a PC-formatted disk or CD-ROM to:
 Tina Tamayo
 Office of Special Services
 Colorado Department of Education
 201 East Colfax Avenue
 Denver, CO 80203

 Fax or mail the signed "Agreement, Certification and Relinquishments" pages and all other pages that include signatures to the attention of Tina Tamayo, (303) 866 - 6637 (fax).
1. And the #1 way to ensure that your application will be approved in a timely manner is to call your Title Consultant with any questions you may have prior to submission. Contact information for each Title representative can be found on page 5 of the Consolidated Federal Programs Instructions.

All application materials are available on our website at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/consapp_063004.htm

An analysis of 1997 population surveys conducted by the United States Census Bureau indicated that over four million families were eligible for Even Start services, when the age of children in the household and the educational attainment of the parents were considered. Almost two million of these families were living in poverty (U.S. Department of Education, *No Child Left Behind: A Desktop Reference*, 2002).

Even Start is funded through the U.S. Department of Education under the NCLB. Even Start, which is Part B, Subpart 3 of Title I, is a small program compared to all other Title I services. In Colorado, funding for Even Start is approximately 3% of the state's allocation for Title I. Funds are allocated to state departments of education and distributed to local programs through competitive grants.

Colorado Even Start Programs

The Colorado Literacy Research Initiative estimates that over 100,000 Colorado children live with a parent who does not have a high school education. In addition, using census data the Pew Hispanic Center estimates that over 85,000 Latino immigrants live in Colorado. Immigrants from Spanish-speaking countries often move to the state with a need to learn English. Many of these families are also eligible for Even Start.

The most common type of Even Start program in Colorado is a center-based program in which services are provided in a location, such as a school, where families come to participate. A typical session includes instruction time for parents in adult basic education, General Education Development (GED) exam preparation, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, or job-skills training. Parents also participate in parenting education and support activities. During adult education, the children are involved in an early childhood education (ECE) component. Early childhood options range from children learning and interacting in a preschool setting to 'homework help' for children in the primary grades. At some point during the session, children and parents come together for literacy activities in a component referred to as Parent and Child Together (PACT) time. This often takes place in the early childhood room with activities initiated by the children. Sessions are usually held several times a week.

Many of the Colorado Even Start staff make regular home visits to provide individualized literacy activities that address the unique needs of each family. Home visits are conducted in conjunction with center-based programs and are typically scheduled once a month.

The Colorado State Legislature passed the Colorado Basic Literacy Act in 1996. According to the requirements of this act, Individual Literacy Plans (ILPs) must be formulated jointly by parents, teachers, and administrators for children in the primary grades (K-3) who are not reading at grade level. Even Start

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 1st – 14th

AYP Trainings from 1- 3:30 p.m.

To register contact Clara Algiene by email at

algiene_c@cde.state.co.us

June 1 st Lamar	June 7 th Montrose
June 2 nd Akron	June 8 th Durango
June 3 rd Greeley	June 9 th Pueblo
June 4 th Steamboat Springs	June 14 th Denver

June 11th – 12th

13th Annual Standards and Assessments Conf.
Copper Mountain Resort

For more information contact Nancy Weiss at (303) 832-1000 or by email at nweiss@casb.org

June 15th

Supplemental Services Networking Day
Adams City Middle School, 9-2 p.m.

For more information contact Clara Algiene at algiene_c@cde.state.co.us

June 16th – 18th

2004 National Charter Schools Conference
Miami Beach, FL

June 30th

Consolidated Federal Programs Application due
Application materials available at

www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/consapp_063004.htm

July 13th – 16th

National Forum on Education Policy
Sponsored by the Education Commission of States
Orlando, FL

Register online at www.ecs.org/NationalForum2004



personnel across the state are assisting school districts with the development of ILPs. Even Start programs become part of the resources delineated in an action plan.

In the past year, Even Start programs in the state served 427 families. Participants included 442 adults, 129 infants, 152 toddlers, 228 preschool children, and 158 children in the primary grades (K-3). English Language Learners comprised 60% of the adults served. For 2004-2005, 13 Colorado Even Start programs will operate sites in Aurora, Avondale, Boulder, Center, Colorado Springs, Cortez, Denver, Durango, Glenwood Springs, Greeley, Lafayette, Lamar, Leadville, Monte Vista, Rifle, Trinidad, Waverly, and Windsor.

Pikes Peak Even Start Programs

Pikes Peak Even Start currently consists of 5 fully implemented sites, with a sixth location scheduled to open in January 2005. Over the past eight years, the program has served 546 families including 783 children six weeks of age through 2nd grade and 573 adults in ESL, Basic Skills, and GED services. Sites, partnerships, and services are located at:

- Hunt Elementary School (El Paso 11)
- Lorraine Community Center
- Pike Elementary School (El Paso 11)
- Stratmoor Hills Elementary School (Harrison 2)
- Stratton Meadows Elementary School (Harrison 2)

Community and School District Support

Through its programming over the past years, Pikes Peak Even Start has gained a substantial number of advocates within El Paso County, who consider family literacy as a viable means of supporting and engaging parents. Citing a model collaboration with its partners, Vic Meyers, Superintendent of Harrison School District 2, says, *"There is a high need for Family Literacy programs that serve low-income families with children prenatal through age seven in El Paso County School Districts 2, 8, and 11. There are many benefits of a model combining adult education with licensed early childhood education and monthly home visits. The Even Start Family Literacy program provides increased self-sufficiency and empowerment of families, enabling them to nurture the development of their children in the context of their culture and community. Family Literacy prepares preschool children to enter kindergarten ready to learn, and helps school-age children meet state standards as articulated through the Colorado Basic Literacy Act and NCLB. We believe that this program plays an integral role in the ultimate success of our students."*

Community Partnership for Child Development (CPCD), a long time supporter and partner in family literacy programming in El Paso County, provides comprehensive child and family development services

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for over 1,400 children and their families. Services include the Colorado Preschool Program, Early Childhood Development Program, Early Head Start, and Head Start, as well as other family support programs. CPCD will be the lead agency and grantee for Pikes Peak Even Start. Noreen Landis-Tyson, CPCD's President talks about the synergy of Even Start which enables parents to become stronger: *"Through Even Start parents are able to further their education by obtaining their GED or increasing their English language fluency, leading to economic independence and self-sufficiency. The program also enhances children's social, emotional, and cognitive development. At the same time, Even Start strengthens the attachment between parent and child by supporting the parent as their child's first and most influential teacher."*

Although Fountain School District 8 will be a new partner in the Pikes Peak Even Start collaborative, both Colorado Springs District 11 and Harrison School District 2 have been supporting the provision of Even Start programming for the past eight years. The two districts will invest a combined total of \$170,000 of their Title I, Part A allocations for Even Start services during 2004-2005. Mary Gromko, Director of Title I Services in Colorado Springs School District 11 refers to the Even Start collaborative as achieving excellent performance outcomes for families: *"Even Start has become an integral part of our Title schoolwide plans and initiatives. Funding from both Even Start and district Title I funds make these programs possible."* In discussing Even Start's assistance with teens and adults obtaining their GED and increasing their proficiency in English, Jan Johnston, Title I Supervisor in Harrison School District 2, explains that *"The children of these GED and ELL students also benefit from the services provided by the staff. The preparation of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers for entering kindergarten has been identified as a high-needs area in our district. The Even Start program is helping to address those needs."*

In fact, the community support and advocacy for continued funding of the Pikes Peak Even Start program is so great that according to Larry Sargent, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction in Harrison School District 2, *"A district building will be remodeled to accommodate both early childhood services including toddlers and preschool children and space for adult GED and ESL programs in the same facility. Bilingual resources will be in the same center, and it is our intent to create a family friendly environment where a variety of services can be coordinated."*

Additional Information and Resources

For more information on Even Start and family literacy visit the Colorado Even Start website at www.cde.state.co.us/cdecare/evenstart.htm and the Colorado Family Literacy Consortium website at www.coloradoliteracy.net



Where can I find more information on the requirements of School Improvement and District Program Improvement?

CDE is developing a handbook to be available this summer that will address the requirements of School Improvement and District Program Improvement. We will also be hosting a series of regional trainings regarding these topics in October after Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations have been finalized.

Districts who have failed to make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area will be required to submit an improvement plan that addresses the areas which kept the district from making AYP. The plan will be due to CDE three months after the district has been notified of its status. As was mentioned in our regional workshops in April and at the Accountability Conference in March, part of the District Improvement Plan must discuss how the district plans to spend 10% of its Title I allocation on professional development to assist the district in its efforts to make AYP. We encourage districts that didn't make AYP last year to set the 10% aside when designing budgets for the 2004-05 fiscal year. The set aside can be reallocated should the district make AYP.

A detailed description of the activities and issues surrounding School Improvement and District Program Improvement will be mailed to districts in June. For more information on this topic contact Brad Bylsma at (303) 866-6937 or by email at bylsma_b@cde.state.co.us.

SAVE THE DATE

**Title I Director's Meeting
Sheraton Denver West
September 22, 2004
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**



UPDATES

There continues to be confusion regarding the allocation of Title I funds to eligible private school students. In a hope to clarify the issue prior to the completion of the Consolidated Application we would like to run through the information one more time. There are two issues when it comes to private schools 1) the allocation of funds and 2) identifying eligible students. The allocation for private school students is based on the number of low-income private school students who reside in participating Title I public school attendance areas. The private school's allocation is calculated by multiplying the per pupil amount allocated to the public school by the number of low-income children who reside in a Title I attendance area attending a particular private school. Examples of how a district can collect poverty data on private school children can be found in Section B of the Non-Regulatory Guidance.

Funds follow the low-income student who generated them to his or her private school but the student who actually receives services may be someone else entirely. To be eligible for Title I services, a private school child must reside in a participating public school attendance area and must be failing to meet standards. However, certain children may be eligible based on their status for example, homeless children and children who in the preceding two years had participated in Head Start, Even Start, Early Reading First, a Title I preschool program, or a Title I, Part C (migrant) program. For more information on private schools visit www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/psguidance.doc

The Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) data is now on the web. Districts may access this information on our HR ADE system. After signing on using both your district and individual passwords, go to the main menu and choose "download or view reports". To print a report set margins at .4" and font to New Courier (8 point).

Some of the current data is incorrect and districts will have the opportunity to resubmit HR data from June 1 – 25. If the data is not approved by June 25th, SAR mockups will have "No data reported" for the staff fields. Updated HQT data reports will be posted by June 30. If errors are still found in the report, districts may resubmit information until August 6. The following are some common problems which have been identified with the data:

1. Social Security Number for staff member is incorrect.
2. Teaching subject area may be incorrectly reported.

Distinguished Schools

The third school to be highlighted in The Buzz's Distinguished School series is Pagosa Springs Intermediate School which was selected as the Distinguished Title I School for the Southwest Region.

Pagosa Springs Intermediate School in Archuleta School District 50 JT is located in the San Juan River Valley at the base of Wolf Creek Pass. The Intermediate School, serving 5th and 6th grades, has a population of 250 students. The majority of our students are of Anglo or Hispanic descent. In addition to our 10 regular classrooms, we also have a Title I classroom for 5th and 6th grades as well as our Resource classroom for the physically and mentally challenged.

Our typical school day begins with ½ hour of DEAR (Drop Everything And Read). Staff and students alike spend time reading silently. Our school uses the Accelerated Reader Program to enhance reading practice. As a result, the wide varieties of books in our library have been coded making it easier for students to choose reading material at their individual levels. Lists of AR books are available in our school, the school library which we share with our Junior High, and in our local public library. We include our parents by asking them to sign nightly reading logs the students are responsible for keeping. Students are encouraged to reach goals they have set for themselves through an incentive program involving our principal. He'll do just about anything to get them reading, even kiss a pig or dye his hair pink!

Teachers utilize Model Content Standards, Grade Level Expectations, and CSAP Release items when making instructional decisions. More importantly, they use their personal knowledge and years of experience to determine what works best for their students. Team meetings, bi-weekly progress reports and regular contact with parents are a few ways the lines of communication stay open between school, home, and community. This year, PSIS will be focusing on Professional Learning Communities through district wide trainings with Dr. Richard DuFour.

Our staff provides a well balanced mix of core academics, a strong art and music performance program and a caring, focused environment where we feel we are following our mission statement: Doing what's best for kids.



Colorado Department of Education
Office of Special Services
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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