



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 18

March 2005

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS MONITORING

CDE will begin the process of desk monitoring districts with regards to their school Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations in the next few weeks. By comparing CDE's original calculations with districts' final AYP determinations, we have identified districts that changed school AYP determinations from not making AYP, to making AYP. While there are many acceptable reasons why these changes were made, CDE has a responsibility to monitor districts to ensure that the determinations were calculated consistent with Colorado's definition.

If your district has been identified for an AYP desk audit, the AYP respondent and the Title I contact will receive a letter that outlines the documentation that will be needed by CDE to justify data changes.

CDE will conduct this process annually to ensure the validity of school AYP determinations.

If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa Pearson at pearson_a@cde.state.co.us.

Paraprofessionals Statewide Ed Flex Waiver

The Colorado Department of Education recently approved a statewide Ed Flex waiver that may affect the timeline by which paraprofessionals in your district need to be highly qualified. This statewide waiver provides an extension to the requirements of Section 1119(d) of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

EXISTING PARAPROFESSIONALS- Each local educational agency receiving assistance under this part shall ensure that all paraprofessionals hired before the date of enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and working in a program supported with funds under this part shall, not later than 4 years after the date of enactment satisfy the requirements of subsection (c).

The law requires all paraprofessionals supported by Title I funds and hired prior to the enactment of the Act meet the requirements of Highly Qualified by January 8, 2006. **The State has extended this date to June 30, 2006 for those districts that complete and return the assurance form.**

All Title I paraprofessionals hired since the enactment of NLCB must be highly qualified. The term "Title I Paraprofessional" includes paraprofessionals who perform the following activities:

1. provide one-on-one tutoring,
2. assist with classroom management,
3. provide instructional assistance in a computer laboratory,
4. provide support in a library or media center, or
5. provide instructional support services under the direct supervision of a teacher.

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Districts who wish to apply for this Ed Flex statewide waiver for Title I paraprofessionals in their districts must complete the assurance form available at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/download/edflexstatewideHQpara.doc and return it by May 31, 2005. Please mail, fax, or email the assurance to:

Trish Boland
 Colorado Department of Education
 201 E. Colfax Ave, Room 503
 Denver, CO 80203
 Fax # (303) 866-6637
 Email: boland_t@cde.state.co.us

Districts may also apply for additional flexibility within NCLB through a general Ed-Flex waiver. These requests must be received by May 31, 2005. Additional information regarding Ed-Flex waivers and request forms can be found at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/edflexintro.htm

CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL PROGRAMS REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

The Colorado Department of Education will be hosting Consolidated Federal Programs workshops in each region during April. The daylong workshop will begin with a general session that discusses the overall federal programs application process and lessons learned from this past year. The general session will be followed by breakout sessions that discuss the specific requirements of each Title program. Grants Fiscal will also have a breakout session to discuss and answer any questions regarding the electronic budget. The workshop is free and lunch and breakfast will be provided however individuals must register at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/regionalwrkshps.asp.

April 5	Pagosa Springs	Pagosa Lodge 3505 W. Highway 160
April 7	La Junta	Otero Junior College 1802 Colorado Ave.
April 12	Denver	Renaissance Hotel 3801 Quebec St.
April 14	Longmont	Radisson Hotel and Conference Center 1900 Ken Pratt Blvd.
April 19	Grand Junction	Hampton Inn 205 Main St.
April 21	Vail	Vail Marriott 715 W. Lions Head Cir.
April 26	Sterling	Ramada Inn 22140 E. Hwy 6
April 28	Colorado Springs	The Radisson 1645 N. Newport Rd.

YEAR OF MATH SUMMIT

The Colorado State Board of Education has prioritized an analysis of how the state is progressing with regards to students attaining the state content standards. The Board is considering one content area a year, and this first year has been named the "Year of Math."

In response to the Board's request, CDE staff has produced a report on student math achievement in Colorado. The report has been shared with the state board and districts throughout the state. It has been distributed with superintendents and principals, via the "CSAP: from the Source" class through Adams State, in meetings with boards and organizations concerned with educational quality, and in larger presentations with districts.

Currently CDE is refining an analysis of the data to identify schools that are successful in improving their students' achievement relative to the state math standards. CDE will be visiting and writing characterizations of the identified schools that can be shared broadly. At the State Board of Education's May meeting it will present a 10 point recommendation which defines both the nature of effective instruction and the necessary state supports for teachers and schools as they work to improve student math performance.

As a culminating event, the Standards and Assessment conference will be a math summit to share the results of the work done through this spring. The Standards and Assessment conference will be entirely focused on Math and will be held on June 7, 2005 in Keystone, CO. It will precede the CASE middle and high school conferences.

The focus of the math summit will be on developing the math proficiencies of basic skills, understanding math concepts, and problem solving. This will be viewed through the following lenses in more than 28 breakout sessions:

- Getting kids unstuck (interventions in the classroom)
- Building teachers understanding of the content and pedagogy of mathematics
- Creating school structures that support the above.

Keynote speaker, Jim Stigler, author of The Teaching Gap and The Learning Gap, will share his work in a luncheon session. The afternoon will consist of another set of breakout sessions and a final summary session. The evening reception will provide a venue for informal discussions of special interest groups.

Registration information will be available on the CEA and CASE websites in the next month. Information will also be emailed to Title I Contacts and CO- Math. For questions, please contact Jo O'Brien at (303) 866-6852.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January-May

Program Evaluation Training, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
For more information contact Jason E. Glass at
303-866-6701 or glass_j@cde.state.co.us .

March 18th Montrose
April 15th San Luis Valley/Alamosa
May 13th Colorado Springs

March 4th
Comprehensive School Reform (CSR)
Information Workshop and Grant Writing Training
Denver Sheraton West, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
For more information contact Jackie Webb at
webb_j@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6756.

March 30th – April 2nd
National Association for Alternative Certification
15th Annual Conference, Denver
Uniting Theory, Policy and Practice
For more information visit
www.alternativecertification.org.

April 15th – April 16th
Association for the Education of Gifted
Underachieving Students (AEGUS)
2005 Conference
Developing Talent: Finding “Islands of
Competence”
Radisson Hotel Denver Stapleton Plaza
Registration information available at
www.Aegus1.org.

April 29th – May 1st
The Colorado Alliance for Environmental
Education (CAEE) is presenting its
Teaching OUTSIDE the Box Conference
Snow Mountain Ranch, Winter Park
Visit www.caee.org for information or to register.

May 27th – May 29th
Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition
XXV Annual Conference and
XII Annual Youth Institute, Keystone Colorado
For more information call (720) 890-0123 or visit
www.coparentcoalition.org.



Colorado 21st Century
Community Learning Centers

The purpose of the 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) program is to provide academic enrichment activities to students (and their families) after regular school hours. These students attend schools that are low performing and are considered high poverty. These five year grants range from \$50,000-150,000 per year/per site.

The next 21st CCLC grant competition will award approximately \$4 million to eligible applicants. Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) may be the lead applicant for the grant. However, they must be working in partnership with the eligible high poverty and low performing school.

The RFP will be due on April 25, 2005. For more information visit the 21st CCLC website at www.cde.state.co.us/cdecomp/21stGrant.htm or contact Valerie Bass at (303) 866-6791 or by email bass_v@cde.state.co.us.

LEVELS OF USE EVALUATOR TRAINING JUNE 1 – 3, 2005

Many times, we are asked questions about what evaluation method is best for Sliver Grants. Although, we do not mandate the use of one evaluation method above another, we have found that Sliver Grant Coordinators really value the Levels of Use (LoU) Evaluation. Their high esteem for this instrument is largely due to its ability to accurately measure the extent an innovation is being integrated into the culture of the school. Our goal, when using Sliver Grant/Set Aside resources, is to build the capacity of a district to fully implement an innovation and improve outcomes for students with disabilities. The LoU evaluator is able to ascertain if an innovation is being implemented and integrated into the culture of a school with fidelity, congruent with the proposed design.

There is an opportunity for evaluators to access our LoU Evaluator Training. This training is an exciting opportunity to hear from a leader in the field, Dr. Debra Dirksen, on evaluating the implementation level of an innovation. Dr. Dirksen's presentation will provide 3 days of instruction and practical application in preparing evaluators to use the LoU Evaluation. The training will be held in the metro area on June 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2005. Unfortunately, there is limited space. For any questions or to determine if space is available contact Michael Ramirez at (303) 866-6991 or by email at ramirez_m@cde.state.co.us.

Colorado Family Literacy Consortium

The *Colorado Family Literacy Consortium* has scheduled the *National Center for Family Literacy's (NCFL) Foundations in Family Literacy* training in Delta on March 30th, 31st and April 1st.

Times: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
a continental breakfast and lunch will be served each day

Location: Delta-Montrose Technical College
Delta, Colorado

Foundations in Family Literacy, the premier training in NCFL's *imPACT System for Family Professional Development*, provides beginning family-literacy practitioners with the foundation needed to understand the comprehensive family literacy model. This training provides an overview of the four components of family literacy services--Children's Education, Adult Education, Parent Time, and Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time--and the principles and practices of family literacy as well as the research that supports those practices. Though primarily applicable to those new to the field of family literacy, the training is also rewarding for experienced practitioners who want to "renew and review" their knowledge of family literacy, particularly in the area of scientifically based reading research. **Foundations in Family Literacy** provides the background needed for more advanced and in-depth professional development options in the areas of family literacy, children's and adult literacy, and parent involvement.

Training Goals:

- To develop a basic understanding of family literacy knowledge, skills and strategies of the four-component family literacy model.
- To explore and utilize relevant research in the development of family literacy services to support parents and children.
- To understand the research that supports and validates procedures and strategies used in teaching children and adults to read and write.
- To assist parents in supporting the development of their children's language and literacy.
- To understand the principles and strategies important in the development of meaningful parent and child interactions.
- To demonstrate the principles and strategies which make component integration powerful and productive.
- To capture, in action statements, training ideas generated and lessons learned for program development and improvement.

For registration information visit
www.coloradoliteracy.net/trwestcentral.html.



When will the findings from the U.S. Department of Education's monitoring visit be made available?

The USDOE provided some initial findings during the exit interview. We are due to receive a final review document in the middle of March. We plan to make the final findings public in a variety of forums including future Buzz articles. The following are some of the initial findings presented to CDE:

- 1) Issues regarding ELL students and their participation with CSAP and how they are included in making AYP determinations
- 2) An overall concern regarding CDE's monitoring of the district's implementation of NCLB requirements in particular notifications to parents regarding choice options, AYP determinations and the highly qualified status of teachers.

We have had initial conversations to discuss how we plan to address the areas of concerns raised during the monitoring visit. Once a final report has been received we will bring formal groups together to establish an action plan for the State.

NEW Changes to the Teacher Loan Program

Do you teach math, science or special education? Have you taught for five years in a Title I school? If you answered yes to both of these questions, the U.S. Department of Education would like you to know that you may be eligible for new loan forgiveness limits recently signed into law by President Bush.

The Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act authorizes up to \$17,500 in loan forgiveness to eligible highly qualified math, science and special education teachers. This dramatic increase of \$12,500 above the previous loan limits is meant to ease the shortage of teachers in key subject areas. The increased amount of teacher loan forgiveness is available to new borrowers (teachers with no outstanding loan balances prior to Oct. 1, 1998, who borrow eligible loans prior to Oct. 1, 2005).

For information on the program and to find out if you qualify, please call the Department's Federal Student Aid Customer Service hotline at 1-800-433-7327. More information on the loan forgiveness limits is posted at

www.ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/GEN0414.html.

More information on the Department's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative is posted on the Web at:

www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/index.html.



UPDATES

The criteria and nomination forms for the **2005 Distinguished Title I Teacher Award** are now available at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/tia.htm. Teachers may nominate themselves or be nominated by others within the district and community. Two teachers will be honored with this award and receive \$5,000 each. Deadline for receipt of nomination packets is April 15, 2005. For more information, contact Trish Boland at boland_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6998.

The **Request for Proposals (RFP) for State Approved Supplemental Educational Service Providers** for the 2005-2006 school year is now available online. The RFP is due to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) no later than April 4, 2005. We encourage all organizations that offer an effective tutoring program to apply to be a state approved provider. For more information about the Supplemental Educational Services program or for a copy of the RFP visit www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/SuppServices.htm.

School Improvement Grant and School Support Team Reviews

For schools on improvement, there is still an opportunity to receive a School Support Team Review and the Title I School Improvement Grant.

To receive these funds, schools must commit to 1) an external review by one of CDE's School Support Teams; and 2) develop a school improvement plan that incorporates the major areas of need as determined by the School Support Team (SST) review.

The funding for this grant will be disseminated in two parts. An initial \$50,000 will be granted to each school to fund a SST review and any costs associated with the review. A School Improvement Implementation Grant ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 will be awarded to each school in June 2005, after a school improvement plan has been submitted and approved by CDE. If your district has eligible schools and would like more information, contact Laura Hensinger at Hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6675.

Congratulations

to the
Colorado's Blue Ribbon Schools

The No Child Left Behind--Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors elementary and secondary schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at the highest levels. The program recognizes and presents as models elementary and secondary schools that meet one of the following two assessment criteria:

- Schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds and dramatically improve student performance on state assessments; or
- Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent on state assessments.

One-third of the schools submitted by each state for national recognition must have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Colorado Department of Education submits to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) the names of five schools that meet the National Blue Ribbon Schools criteria. The following schools were submitted by the Colorado Department of Education and recognized by United States Department of Education as Blue Ribbon Schools in September 2004:

Dramatically Improving Schools

- Kit Carson Elementary School, Kit Carson School District R-1
- Manassa Elementary School, North Conejos School District RE-1J
- South Elementary School, Adams County School District 27J

High Performing Schools

- D/Evelyn Junior/Senior High School, Jefferson County School District R-1
- Summit Middle Charter School, Boulder Valley School District RE-2

Private Schools (selected by USDE):

- St. John's Lutheran School, Denver

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