



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 22

September 2005

WELCOME

The Office of Special Services would like to introduce our newest Title I Senior Consultant, Russ Masco. Russ came to the Consolidated Federal Programs Unit from the Unit of Student Assessment at CDE where he was an Assessment Data Management Consultant. Prior to joining CDE, Russ worked for 10 years as an educator in southwestern Colorado. His first teaching experience was at the high school in his hometown of Pagosa Springs. Following his time in Pagosa Springs, Russ was a middle school teacher in Cortez. Russ can be reached by phone at (303) 866-6306 or by email at masco_r@cde.state.co.us.

This month commemorates the 2nd anniversary of The Buzz. We hope to continue providing up-to-date information to you in a quality fashion. For those of you who are new to federal programs at the district level, we welcome you. The Buzz is a monthly newsletter which provides information about a variety of "hot topics". The September issue will be printed and mailed to district personnel each year. All other issues will be sent by email and are available on our website at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/buzz.htm. If you would like to be placed on the mailing list or have an idea for an article please contact Laura Hensinger at hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us.

Ed Flex Waivers

In keeping with the purpose of Colorado's Ed Flex Program, there will be another opportunity for districts to submit a request for an Ed Flex Waiver. This opportunity may be appropriate in situations where a district would like more flexibility with the Highly Qualified set aside or any other aspect of the law. The deadline for applications applied to school year 2005-2006 is October 31, 2005.

Exclusions to flexibility include:

- Maintenance of effort
- Comparability of services
- Equitable participation of students and staff in private schools
- Parental participation and involvement
- Distribution of funds to state or local education agencies
- Section 1111 and 1116 of NCLB.
- Serving eligible school attendance areas in rank order under section 1113(a)(3) of the ESEA
- The selection of a school attendance area or school under subsections (a) and (b) of section 1113 of the ESEA, except that a state education agency may grant a waiver to allow a school attendance area or school to participate in activities under Part A of Title I of such Act if the percentage of children from low-income families in the attendance area of such school or who attend such school is not less than 10 percentage points below the lowest percentage of such children for any school attendance area or school of the local education agency that meets the requirements of subsections (a) and (b)
- Supplement, not supplant
- Applicable civil rights requirements

continued on page 2



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 15% Carryover Waiver |
| 3 | To Do List |
| 4 | Student October Trainings |
| 5 | September 17 th , Constitution Day |

Deadline Nearing for Title I 15% Carryover Waiver

Districts carrying more than 15% into 05-06 will need to submit a waiver to CDE. The waiver request should include the amount of carryover, the specific reason(s) for the carryover, and how the district will ensure that this situation does not arise in the future. Districts will need to submit the waiver request to CDE between August 15, 2005, and September 15, 2005. CDE will review these waiver requests on a case by case basis and respond to districts by September 30, 2005. If these districts indeed have an excess of 15% after September 30, 2005 and the waiver is approved, then it will be in effect for the upcoming school year. Remember that 04-05 funds can be expended through September 30, 2005, and a 15% carryover waiver can only be used once every three years.



Districts gained access to district and school AYP data on August 12th through the Automated Data Exchange (ADE). While district appeals were due to CDE by August 26th, districts may still process school appeals through September 12th. School appeals must be in alignment with the guidelines set forth by CDE. For a copy of these guidelines email Alyssa Pearson. All data and determination changes that result from the school appeal need to be entered into ADE by the time the system closes- September 12th at 5:00 p.m. The data and determinations reported in ADE at that time will be final and made public. No changes may be made after this date.

School AYP determinations will be released to the public approximately September 14th. CDE is working with the Colorado School Public Relations Association (COSPROA) for district input on the press release. Districts may release school results prior to this date, if they desire.

CDE will be processing district AYP appeals through the month of September. Districts will be notified of their appeal status by September 30th. A release of district AYP determinations will occur soon after.

For questions regarding this process contact Alyssa Pearson at pearson_a@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6855.

- Family Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (section 444 of GEPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Act (PPRA)
- Undermining of the underlying purposes of the statutory requirements of the program for which a waiver is being sought
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements

Applications can be found at

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

For questions contact Trish Boland, (303) 866-6998 or boland_t@cde.state.co.us.

Mathematics Institutes

The Professional Development and School Support program in the Office of Special Services is offering Mathematics Institutes for both K-5 and 5-8 educators during the 2005-2006 school year. The interactive professional opportunity focuses on the Colorado Model Content Standards, with each session highlighting one of the mathematics content standards. Participants will engage in discussions regarding best practices in the classroom and the content and concepts underlying each standard. All sessions will include a "Bridging to Practice" component to assist teachers in further developing their own classroom practices and effectiveness.

Course Prerequisites

1. Only training partners (two from a school) will be accepted for the training.
2. Priority will be given to those schools that did not make AYP.
3. CDE Professional Development and Adams State College credit is available to those completing all 6 sessions.
4. Participants will be expected to complete the requirements for "Bridging to Practice" and reporting classroom effectiveness.

For information about dates and registration visit www.cde.state.co.us/pdssp/calendar/cal.htm.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 5th

Colorado Department of Education will be closed on Labor Day.

September 9th

ELA State and Federal Programs Training
The training will provide information on ELPA, Title III, Migrant Education and the new Colorado English Language Assessment. The last free training will be from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in Durango. For more information contact Morgan Cox at morgan_c@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6784.

September 20th

New Principals' Seminar
Colorado Department of Education
State Board Room
For more information contact Ai Dam at dam_a@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6678.

September 27th

Gifted Education State Directors' Meeting
Radisson Hotel/Denver Southeast, Aurora
For more information contact Kathy Thurman at thurman_k@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6414.

September 29th – October 1st

CABE Conference 2005: Rethinking the 'Gap' through Language and Learning
Hyatt Regency Downtown, Denver
For more information or to register online visit www.cobilingual.org.

January 27th – 31st

National Title I Conference
Dallas, TX
For more information visit www.titlei.org.



Visit CDE's Calendar for more events
www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm.



- Ensure that each Title I school has a parent plan and has distributed its Parent Compact to parents.
- Schools on Improvement interested in participating in the School Improvement Grant should contact Laura Hensinger, hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us.
- Letters notifying parents about Supplemental Services must be sent by October 1st. A copy of that letter should be faxed [(303) 866-6637] or mailed to Laura Hensinger.
- Determine districts AYP status. Districts new to Program Improvement must submit a plan addressing the targets missed by January 2, 2006. Districts presently on Program Improvement must revise their plan only if there were new targets missed or if their plans have changed. Revised plans are due November 15th. Contact Brad Bylsma at bylsma_b@cde.state.co.us with any questions.

PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS

Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conferences are designed to offer support, information and education to parents and professionals. PEP promotes the partnerships that are essential in supporting and including children with disabilities and their families in all aspects of the school community.

These conferences are available to persons who have a child with a disability- ages birth to twenty-one. Administrators, principals, teachers, medical and other service providers interested in the Parent-Professional Partnership are also invited to participate in a PEP Conference. The following are the conference dates and locations

November 3-5, 2005	Glenwood Springs
February 23- 25, 2006	Estes Park
April 6-8, 2006	Pueblo

For more information visit
www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp.

2005-2006 Student October Training



What is Student October?

October 2005 will be the sixth time districts will submit data electronically through the Student October Automated Data Exchange Project. The Student October reporting systems collects counts of pupils enrolled in public, nonpublic, and home schooled programs to be used for accountability measures and funding purposes. The importance of communication between individuals in the district responsible for generating the data entered into the different fields cannot be overemphasized.

Who Should Attend?

Individuals responsible for generating the Student October File, Special Education Information, RITS, Migrant Student Counts, Student Assessments, ELA contacts and those who work along side them. Each district should ensure that individuals with responsibilities that involve student data attend training sessions and communicate during the collection period.

The following are the dates and locations for the workshops.

September 7 th	Ft. Morgan
September 8 th	La Junta
September 9 th	Trinidad
September 12 th	Littleton
September 14 th	Aurora
September 16 th	Boulder
September 20 th	Ouray
September 21 st	Glenwood Springs
September 22 nd	Steamboat Springs
September 27 th	Colorado Springs

For more information contact Reina Wright 303-866-6840, wright_r@cde.state.co.us or to register online visit www.cde.state.co.us/scripts/StuOctWorkshop/start.asp.



Our district received the Comment Log for the Consolidated Application. What are our next steps?

Modifications to the Consolidated Application need to be submitted within 30 days of receiving the comment log. A complete application including all program modifications should be sent electronically to consolidatedrevisions@cde.state.co.us. Send modifications for the electronic budget to Electronic_budget_05fy06@cde.state.co.us. If you have questions regarding comments in the log, contact the CDE staff listed for that particular Title.

What are the Parent's Right-To-Know requirements under NCLB?

At the beginning of each school year, an LEA that accepts Title I, Part A funding must notify parents of students in Title I schools that they can request information regarding their child's teacher, including, at a minimum: (1) whether the teacher has met the State requirements for licensure and certification for the grade levels and subject-matters in which the teacher provides instruction; (2) whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; (3) the college major and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and (4) whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

In addition, each Schoolwide Title I school must provide all parents "timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified" [Section 1111(h)(6)]. Title I Targeted Assistance schools only need to notify the parents of the students taught by the Title I teacher. This interpretation is from the most recent guidance regarding parent notification provided by the Department of Education.



September 17, 2005

President George W. Bush signed a bill on December 8th, 2004 (public law 108-447) which designates every September 17th as Constitution Day. As part of this designation, each educational institution that receives Federal funds shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 for the students served by the educational institution.

The following are some websites that provides background on the day, curriculum ideas and materials.

- www.constitutionday.com
- <http://www.libertyday.com>

JEFFCO's Homeless Services Program

The following is an article developed by the Title X program at Jefferson County Public Schools to illustrate the overlap between Title X and Title I.

JEFFCO Public Schools Title X McKinney-Vento Program is administered by the School Medicaid and Homeless Services Program. The key components of the JEFFCO Public Schools Homeless Services Program include 1) close working relationships with all school district personnel, 2) strong school and community partnerships to offer resources and coordinated services, and 3) comprehensive data collection and evaluation for continual program improvement. Case managers provide one-on-one assistance to homeless families to ensure immediate student enrollment, school transportation, access to educational services and referral to a coordinated network of service providers.

The JEFFCO Public Schools Homeless Services Program has two educational liaisons, an AmeriCorps Volunteer and a grant position under Title X McKinney-Vento. They cover the district to educate, identify and problem solve with school sites on the academic status of children in homeless situations. Another role is to support collaboration between Title I and the Homeless Services Program by being housed at the district's Title I office.

continued in next column

Goals of the program include building awareness in school sites to include 1) identifying students experiencing homelessness, 2) providing timely educational assessments and 3) ensuring homeless students in both Title I and non-Title I schools have full access to necessary and appropriate supplemental services.

In JEFFCO, there are 21 Title I schools out of 150 schools. Furthermore, there are more students identified in homeless situations in non-Title I than in Title I schools in JEFFCO. Educational Liaisons visit non-Title I schools and leave a student data collection (SDC) for students identified in a homeless situation to be completed by teachers

The following are some of the statistics gathered from the SDC for November 2004 to February 2005 (the percentages are based on the 168 Students Data Collection [SDC] sheets returned:

203	Total School Visits
329	For a Total of Students
256	SDC Forms left
168 / 66%	SDC Forms returned
64 / 38%	Students the school stated had academic concerns
28 / 22%	Below Math Level
30 / 17%	Below Reading Level
58 / 34%	Below Grade Level
53 / 31%	At Grade Level

These statistics show that not all students in homeless situations in non-Title I schools are under achieving. In fact, using the above figures, out of 168 students, 31% were on grade level while 34% were below grade level. For the 38% of students that the schools had academic concerns on, the Educational Liaisons followed up with school sites to problems solve how to ensure that supplemental services were being offered. The program's goal is to have "all" school sites identify their own homeless students, assess their academic concerns, and finally serve any supplemental educational needs they have at the school site as required under the McKinney-Vento Law.

Colorado Department of Education
Office of Special Services
1560 Broadway, Suite 1450
Denver, CO 80202-5149



Did you miss the last Buzz? Visit www.cde.state.co.us 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