



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 25

December 2005

NEW

CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL PROGRAMS WEBSITE

Have you been to the new Consolidated Federal Programs website yet? We would love for you to visit! With the new re-design, information is much more accessible. The quickest way to get there is to click on the Colorado No Child Left Behind icon in the middle of the CDE home page. It looks like this:



From there you'll be taken to the Consolidated Federal Programs Home Page, where you can access information on all the different Title programs. Additionally, at the top of the page you will find quick links to the most requested pages, including The Buzz, AYP, the Consolidated Application, and Professional Development and School Support.

We would also like to announce that the **2004-2005 School and District NCLB Profiles** have now been published under the "Reports" heading or directly at

www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/NCLBProfiles0506/index.asp.

continued on page 2

Colorado's Federal Integrated Review System C-FIRS

The Consolidated Federal Programs Unit is beginning its implementation of a monitoring process of Colorado districts that receive federal funds under Title I-A, Title II-A, Title II-D, Title III, Title IV-A, Title V, and Title VI-B.

The Colorado's Federal Integrated Review System (C-FIRS) document includes an introduction and overview of Colorado's federal monitoring, as well as the indicators associated with each program. This document explains the three ways in which monitoring occurs (through continuous monitoring, desk review, and site visits), as well as the kind of follow up from CDE that occurs as a result of submitting evidence of compliance with federal requirements.

The Desk Review Schedule provides a set of program-specific timelines and sources of evidence for carrying out the desk review portion of monitoring. Each desk review indicator is explained more fully in the C-FIRS document. While this schedule provides an overview of the desk review items for 05-06, program consultants will be sending out more information to district program contacts regarding the methods for submitting evidence.

It is our intention in the next few weeks to supply districts with a matrix of how some compliance indicators are reviewed through continuous monitoring and notify the 4-6 districts that will have a site review this year. These 4-6 districts will have a minimum of 60 days to prepare for the onsite visit. More detailed information can be found in the C-FIRS introduction. Finally, personnel in our unit are building an online system for tracking comments and findings of any federal monitoring of districts.

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 | Math and Science Partnerships
- 3 | To Do List
- 4 | FirstGov.gov
- 5 | Distinguished School



This system will be similar to the way in which districts currently check their Consolidated Application status and allow for a quick response to districts.

A series of informational meetings regarding C-FIRS will be held in early January, 2006. More details will soon be available on the CDE Calendar.

The department appreciates your cooperation as the C-FIRS work unfolds. Please direct comments, suggestions, and questions to either Gina Salazar (salazar_g@cde.state.co.us), Trish Boland (boland_t@cde.state.co.us), or program-specific consultants.

New Website continued from page 1

These profiles provide detailed AYP, School or Program Improvement, and Highly Qualified Teacher data for each school and district in the state. This information may be useful in developing your Annual Report to the Public, specifically in terms of meeting the NCLB reporting requirements. More information about these reporting requirements is available at: www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/nclb/reportcard.asp.

If you have any questions or feedback about the new website or the NCLB Profiles, please feel free to contact Alyssa Pearson (pearson_a@cde.state.co.us) or Ryan DeHerrera (deherrera_r@cde.state.co.us).



MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE PARTNERSHIPS

The Request for Proposals for Mathematics and Science Partnerships (MSP) is available at http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/m_sp.asp. The Mathematics and Science Partnerships program provides funding to establish partnerships between institutions of higher education and local school districts. These partnerships are intended to enhance teacher subject-matter knowledge and the quality of teaching in mathematics and science at middle schools. The Colorado Department of Education will award an additional \$250,000 for fiscal year 2005 in Mathematics and Science Partnership funds. CDE will award one to three new partnerships grants for the 2005 – 2006 school year. The awards will range from a minimum of \$90,000 to a maximum of \$200,000 per fiscal year contingent on the availability of funds. Currently Colorado has seven Mathematics and Science Partnerships. These projects have been providing quality professional development for teachers across the state.

To be eligible for this grant opportunity a representative from each applying partnership must attend the MSP training. The training will be on December 2, 2005 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at 1560 Broadway, Suite 1250. For further information contact Bush White at white_b@cde.state.co.us.

Supplemental Educational Services Request for Proposals Available December 19, 2005

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for State Approved Supplemental Educational Service Providers for the 2006-2007 school year will be available on December 19, 2005 at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/SuppServices.asp>. The RFP will be due to the Colorado Department of Education no later than March 6, 2006. There will be a training on the completion of the RFP on January 18th from 2-4 p.m. in the State Board Room at the Colorado Department of Education. More information on the RFP will be in the January issue of The Buzz.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2nd – 12th

Parent Involvement Policy and Plan (PIPP)
Evaluation Workshop

For more information and a registration for visit
CDE's Calendar at
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm>

December 2nd - Wheat Ridge

1:00-4:30, Wheat Ridge Rec Center
4005 Kipling St. (Carnation Room)

December 6th - Colorado Springs

1:00-4:30, Pikes Peak BOCES (Training Room)

December 12th - Glenwood Springs

8:30-Noon, Roaring Fork S/D (Training Room)

December 23rd – 26th

The Colorado Department of Education will be
closed.

January – May

The 8-Step Process: Responding to Struggling
English Language Learners with Exceptional
Needs. For more information on the following
regional conferences visit
www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm.

Greeley - January 10-13, 2006

La Junta - January 17-20, 2006

Glenwood Springs - February 28-March 3, 2006

Pagosa Springs - April 18-21, 2006

North Metro - May 2-5, 2006

Frisco - May 9-12, 2006

January 27th – 31st

National Title I Conference
Dallas, Texas

For more information visit www.titlei.org.



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



- Schools on Improvement interested in participating in the Title I School Improvement Grant should contact Laura Hensinger, hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us or visit http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/schimp_tia.asp for more information.
- Title I School Improvement and Corrective Action plans or revisions to previous plans must be submitted by December 12th to Brad Bylsma at bylsma_b@cde.state.co.us.
- Comparability Worksheets are due December 15th. Send assurance form and completed worksheets to
Laura Hensinger
Office of Special Services
1560 Broadway, Suite 1450
Denver, CO 80202-5149
- Annual Report to the Public including both Accreditation and NCLB requirements must be sent to parents by the end of December.
- Determine districts AYP status. Districts new to Program Improvement must submit a plan addressing the targets missed by January 2, 2006. Contact Brad Bylsma at bylsma_b@cde.state.co.us with any questions.

Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award

The Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award: a \$100,000 cash prize will be awarded next summer to an extraordinary teacher in an underserved community in the US.

Nominees must be currently employed in a K-12 school, public or private, in the U.S. where at least 50 percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Nominations must be submitted by December 31, 2005 at www.kinderaward.org. In the spring of 2006, a Blue Ribbon Panel of distinguished educational leaders will review the finalists and select the winner, who will be announced next summer.

For more information about the award or to register to nominate an excellent teacher, visit www.kinderaward.org.

Resources for Teachers and Students: **FirstGov.gov**

Teachers: Are you looking for information about the White House, Congress, Supreme Court or federal agencies? The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative wants you and your students to know about a federal government Web portal called FirstGov.gov, which has links to all of these resources and more. FirstGov.gov also includes links to state, local, and tribal government web sites - and provides a ready-reference library on many topics. You can jump-start your lesson plans with up-to-the-minute official information from government agencies.

FirstGov.gov is the U.S. Government's Official Web clearinghouse, providing easy access to all the federal government's online information in English and Spanish that you can use in your classroom. You can find government forms, federal grants for your state and school district, information regarding federal education programs, statistics from the Census Bureau and Labor Department and other useful information. You can locate the laws, regulations and court decisions or contact your member of Congress. Your students can access federal libraries, photo archives and discover online resources under many topics. The site also has links to financial aid information, internship opportunities, and federal jobs.

For more information about the Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative Web visit <http://www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative>.

New School Choice Resource

A new resource is available from the U.S. Department of Education on public school choice. A brochure, **School Choice for Student Success**, provides information on the public school choice option under NCLB. The brochure targets parents and answers their questions about what public school choice is and where they can go for more information.

Copies of the brochure are available in English and Spanish through ED Pubs (www.edpubs.org), publication EU 0150H for the English version and EU 0151H for the Spanish version.

The brochure can also be downloaded at <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/choice/schools/success/index.html>.



Question:

Someone's dog goes around the neighborhood every night getting into people's garbage pails and making a mess. Some of the neighborhood kids say they know what the guilty dog looks like, but the culprit strikes at night, so it's hard to see. Each of the four witnesses has one and only one detail right, and each detail is described correctly by only one witness.

Dan says the dog is white, fluffy, wears a red collar, and has a long tail.

Karen says the dog is black, has short hair, wears a red collar, and has a long tail.

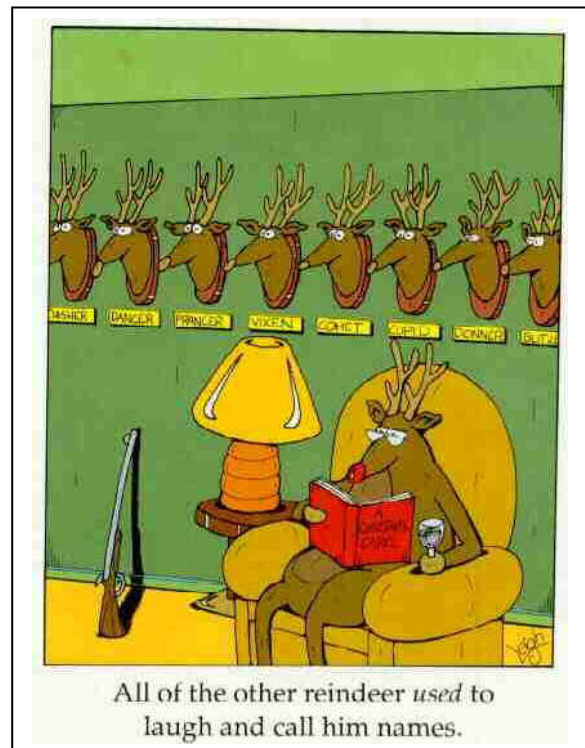
Max says the dog is brown, has long, silky hair, wears a blue collar, and has a long tail.

Emma says the dog is spotted, fluffy, wears a red collar, and has a short tail.

Can you correctly describe the guilty pooch?

Answer:

See page 5 for the answer.





USING NCLB FUNDS TO SUPPORT EXTENDED LEARNING TIME

A new strategy brief created by Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the Finance Project, "Using NCLB Funds to Support Extended Learning Time: Opportunities for Afterschool Programs," describes how six major funding streams included in No Child Left Behind can support extended learning opportunities. In addition, it provides important context for those seeking to access these funding streams, and includes a discussion of strategies, considerations and tips for accessing each source. This publication is available at <http://www.ccsso.org/content/PDFs/UsingNCLBunds.pdf>

FREE BOOKS

Bruce Larkin, the published author of over 400 early children's books including the extremely popular Larkin's Little Readers Series, donates 20,000 books per week to kindergarten through 2nd grade students. Applications for these books must be received by December 31, 2005. There is no charge for these books or for shipping and handling. Individual teachers are encouraged to apply. To apply for these books visit <http://www.wilbooks.com>



Answer from page 4

The dog is white, has short hair, wears a blue collar, and has a short tail.

Distinguished School

Flagler Elementary School is a consolidated school located in the eastern part of Lincoln County and the western part of Kit Carson County including the towns of Arriba and Flagler. The school facilities are located in the town of Flagler, which is 120 miles southeast of Denver along Interstate 70. The school was asked to describe the factors they believe contributed to its success.

We are very fortunate to have a low turnover of staff so we have developed common goals with a strong team approach to meeting the educational needs of our students. The New Zealand Balanced Literacy Model was implemented into our district in 1999-2000 and has been adopted as our literacy curriculum. Recognizing the importance of reading and writing, our administration and staff have set aside a 2 1/2 hour morning literacy block. A developmental individualized phonics program was implemented in 2001-2002 to supplement Balanced Literacy. First and second grade students in need of additional time and support for literacy skills are given supplemental intervention 30 minutes daily. In addition, all second and third graders who are identified "at risk" are encouraged to participate in an after-school tutoring program using a program based on teacher modeling, repeated reading, and progress monitoring. We have found this program to significantly motivate students and accelerate the reading achievement of struggling readers.

One of the greatest strengths of our school is our parents. We are extremely fortunate to have parents that are actively involved in the learning process-whether it be reading daily with their children, attending parent-teacher conferences, or volunteering their time to help out at the school or serve on a committee. We have an active Title I Parent Involvement Committee that is always looking for ways to make our school even stronger. The committee has adopted the theme: "Putting the Pieces Together for Success: Students, Parents, School, and Community". Realizing that we need to work together has helped us achieve our common goal of giving our children the best education we can possibly offer.

Colorado Department of Education
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1560 Broadway, Suite 1450
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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