



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 27

February/March 2006

Consolidated Federal Programs *WORKSHOPS*

The annual Consolidated Federal Programs Application Workshops will take place during the month of April and the beginning weeks of May. These full day workshops will be held in each of the eight CDE regions. The application is changing this year to move us closer to a full electronic grant system. The workshops will provide an overview of the new application and budget as well as provide individual program and grants fiscal breakout sessions. Following are the dates and locations:

Alamosa	April 12 th
La Junta	April 13 th
Longmont	April 17 th
Denver	April 19 th
Colorado Springs	April 21 st
Eagle Area	April 26 th
Montrose	April 27 th
Sterling	May 2 nd

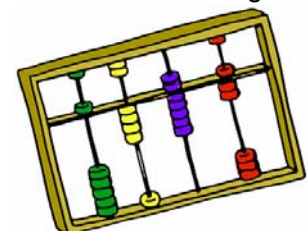
We will be sending registration information within the next few weeks. If you have any questions contact Gina Salazar at (303) 866-6842 or salazar_g@cde.state.co.us.

What Works for Students who Struggle with Mathematics

Colorado schools and school districts have communicated a resounding need for information about successful math interventions for struggling students. As math proficiency is a key goal of the *No Child Left Behind Act*, and the Title I program in particular, the Consolidated Federal Programs Unit at the Colorado Department of Education has embarked on an evaluation of Title I math interventions in Colorado, called *What Works for Students who Struggle with Mathematics, An in-depth analysis of Title I Targeted Assistance Mathematics Programs in Colorado*. We have contracted with an outside evaluator, Glenn Bruckhart to collect specific information from schools. Glenn is a well known leader and expert in math education in Colorado. We feel fortunate that he has agreed to assist us in conducting this study. It is our hope that through this evaluation important information about what's working for struggling students in math can be disseminated throughout the state.

If your district runs a Title I Targeted Assistance math program in a middle or high school, you may be contacted by Glenn in the next few weeks for assistance with this project. We will be asking questions concerning identification of students, the assistance provided, who provides the assistance, evaluation of student progress and professional development. Participation is completely voluntary and separate from any monitoring.

We will keep you updated on our findings over the next few years.



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CELA Update

Districts were recently sent information regarding the new Colorado English Language Assessment (CELA). For this year, the CELA will be the off-the-shelf version of the LAS-Links. CDE will cover the cost of testing materials for the 2006 administration. Although there is already approximately 80% alignment of the test with Colorado's English Language Development standards, CDE will work with the test publisher over the next months to further align the CELA with the standards. A new version of the CELA will be administered during the 2006-2007 school year. A screener version of the new test will also be available for the 2006-2007 school year. CELA administration trainings have been scheduled and are underway at six sites across the state. The testing window for this year's CELA administration will be March 27th through April 28th. All NEP, LEP, and FEP/Monitored 1 students must take the CELA this year. This includes those students whose parents have opted them out of ELA services. Districts will receive the results of this year's CELA administration prior to August 1st.

C-FIRS Update

The C-FIRS Online Reporting System is now available to districts and BOCES. This system allows districts and BOCES to quickly access the status of any desk or onsite review. The online reporting system is available at www.cde.state.co.us/scriptscfpu/cfirs/index.asp. It can also be accessed by going to the NCLB programs website and clicking on the "Monitoring" link. Once on the Online Reporting page, a district will click on "LEA Report System", choose the district, and then enter the pass code. This pass code is the same as that used to enter the consolidated application status check page. The pass code was issued to districts last summer. If a district needs a reminder of this pass code, please contact one of the federal program consultants or administrative assistants.

Once into the LEA Report System, a district will be able to see their compliance status related to the review indicators and have access to any findings, recommendations, or actions needed.

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Currently, the desk reviews for AYP, targeted assistance, and NCLB reporting indicators are being tracked in this system. The desk review determinations for school-level parent involvement policies, School Improvement plans, and comparability will be updated on this system by March 10th. Please contact Trish Boland (boland_t@cde.state.co.us; 303-866-6998) if you have any questions.

Learn and Serve Colorado Planning Grant

The **2005-2006 District/BOCES Planning Grant** is currently available for planning district-level service-learning programs that engage elementary and secondary school students in service-learning activities that foster a renewed culture of academic achievement, citizenship, service, and civic responsibility.

Purpose

The Learn and Serve Colorado Planning grant is intended to develop service-learning in new areas of Colorado. These grants will serve to establish a plan for implementing service-learning district-wide. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be available for LEAs/BOCES that wish to participate in service-learning and meet the needs of their students and the Colorado Department of Education's Accreditation requirements through the use of service-learning. Learn and Serve Colorado is planning on releasing an implementation grant in the spring of 2006. Grantees that have been awarded and meet the goals of the District/BOCES planning grant will be more apt to compete for the implementation grant in the amount of \$20,000.

Eligibility

Colorado LEAs/BOCES that have been funded by Learn and Serve Colorado and/or Service-Learning Colorado within the last 5 years are not eligible for the District/BOCES Planning Grant.

The Request for Proposals is due April 7, 2006 and is available online at www.cde.state.co.us/servicelearning.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Glenwood Springs - February 28-March 3, 2006

Pagosa Springs - April 18-21, 2006

North Metro - May 2-5, 2006

Frisco - May 9-12, 2006

March 2nd

Read Across America Day and Dr Seuss' Birthday

For more information visit

www.nea.org/readacross/index.html



April 1st – 5th

2006 National Migrant Education Conference
Hyatt Regency, Denver

For more information visit www.nasdme.org

April 2nd – 8th

National Library Week

For more information visit

www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/nlw/NLW.htm

April 8th – 12th

National Tutoring Association
14th Annual Conference

Costa Mesa, CA

For more information visit www.ntatutor.org

April 27th – 29th

13th Annual Colorado Service Learning Conference
Holiday Inn, Grand Junction

For more information contact Jesse Martinez at
(303) 866-6897 or by email at

martinez_j@cde.state.co.us

Visit CDE's Calendar for more events.

www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm



- Evidence related to the following indicators were to be submitted to CDE. If your district has not met these requirements, please do so immediately.
 - Comparability Reports (T1A 24.1)
 - NCLB Report Card (T1A7.1 – 7.11)
 - Targeted Assistance (T1A 15.1, 15.9)
 - AYP (T1A 6.1,6.2, 6.3)

- The following indicators are scheduled for a Desk Review during March:
 - Schoolwide Programs
 - T1A 20.10 - District process
 - T1A 20.13 - Intervention schedule and description of assistance

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 March 6, 2006. 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/FedPrograms/improvement/SuppServices.asp



Early Reading First Program Grants

This program supports local efforts to enhance the oral language, cognitive, and early reading skills of preschool-age children, especially those from low-income families, through strategies, materials, and professional development that are grounded in scientifically based reading research.

Eligible applicants for this competition are (a) one or more local educational agencies (LEAs) that are eligible to receive a subgrant under the Reading First program; (b) one or more public or private organizations or agencies (including faith-based organizations) located in a community served by an eligible LEA; or (c) one or more eligible LEAs, applying in collaboration with one or more eligible organizations or agencies. For a list of districts eligible for Reading First visit www.cde.state.co.us/cdecomp/rf_grant.htm

Estimated Available Funds: \$102,087,000

Estimated Range of Awards: \$1.5 - \$4.5 million

Deadline for Pre-Applications: Feb. 20, 2006

Deadline for Full Applications: May 8, 2006

Additional information is available online at:

www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2006-1/011806c.html

HONORING CLASSROOM TEACHERS

The U.S. Department of Education again plans to honor outstanding classroom teachers through the American Stars of Teaching program. The Department's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative is seeking nominations and information about teachers who are improving student achievement, using innovative strategies in the classroom and making a difference in the lives of their students. One teacher will be recognized from each state. To learn more or nominate a teacher to become an American Star of Teaching, please visit the Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative Web site at:

www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/index.html. All nominations must be completed by April 15, 2006. The USDOE received more than 2,000 nominations for the 2005 school year. A list of past years' honorees is available at:

www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/american-stars-teachers.htm



In reviewing the Desk Review document, there appears to be duplication with the information gathered through accreditation reviews. What is the difference between the systems of review?

A desk review is concerned with the expenditures and requirements associated with Federal programs, not state programs. As such, the desk reviews focus on programs that are supported through Title I-A, Title I-D, Title II-A, Title II-D, Title III, Title IV-A, Title V, and Title VI-B.

Accreditation looks at the performance of districts with respect to state indicators. Though similar information may be shared through each process, every attempt is made by the state to reduce the submission of duplicated information.

Did Colorado apply to the USDE to use a growth measure in AYP?

Colorado submitted a proposal to the USDE to be part of the growth pilot for AYP calculations on February 17th, 2006. The full proposal is on the web at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/AYP/index.asp.

Highlights of the proposal include the following:

1. We applied for another "safe harbor" measure using a growth measure. If a school/district does not make a performance target or safe harbor, but makes the growth targets, then they could make AYP. No additional schools will fail to make AYP as a result of this proposal; it can only help a school/district make AYP.
2. The growth measure consists of two targets: a target percent of non-proficient students in the prior year that need to move to proficiency in the current year and a limit percent of proficient students in the prior year that could fall to non-proficient in the current year.
3. Proficiency and non-proficiency are defined as they currently are for performance and safe harbor calculations.
4. Targets are specified for elementary, middle and high, reading and math and based on state averages (the proposed targets are listed in Appendix A of the proposal).
5. If approval is granted by May 15th, this measure will be used in 2005-2006 AYP calculations. If we receive approval after that date, it will be used for 2006-2007 calculations. We may also not receive approval at all (10 states at most will be approved, and 14 applied for this year).

This proposal was developed in conjunction with the AYP Growth Committee with input from the state's longitudinal growth Technical Advisory Committee.



ED-FLEX

As reported in the last issue of *The Buzz*, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999 (Ed-Flex Act) for the state of Colorado will expire on July 26, 2006. Any waivers granted by the state will expire at this time. This includes the waiver for the 5% set aside related to Highly Qualified under Title I-A. There are nine districts in the state that currently used this waiver on their 2005-2006 consolidated application. The ability to waive this requirement will not be available for 2006-2007.

A schoolwide waiver operates somewhat differently. If a school received a waiver to operate as a schoolwide program without the minimum poverty threshold of 40%, this waiver applied to the **initial year of the schoolwide program**. Since a schoolwide program just needs to meet the poverty threshold in its initial year, any school that received a waiver to implement a schoolwide program is no longer operating under that waiver after the initial year of its schoolwide program. Thus, if a school has been granted a schoolwide waiver, it may continue to operate the schoolwide program after the state's Ed-Flex authority expires.

The state has developed a draft proposal to the USDE under Title IX, Part D for flexibility. In this draft proposal, the state has requested that some districts be permitted to waive the 5% Highly Qualified set aside under particular conditions. These conditions include (1) having met the highly qualified targets for Title I teachers, and (2) demonstrating that additional professional development funds exist, either from state or local funds, or through other set asides, to support professional development needs. This proposal will be presented to the NCLB Committee of Practitioners for their review at the March 10th meeting.

Congratulations

to the newest recipients of the
Mathematics and Science Partnerships Grant

Bridging the Gap: Boulder Partnership

Rocky Mountain Math and Science Partnership

The purpose of the Mathematics and Science Partnership Program (MSP) is to increase student achievement in mathematics and science in middle school students in the state by increasing teacher content knowledge and skills in the classroom. These partnerships are formed between science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) faculty from institutions of higher education and high need school districts. The MSP program is a formula grant program given to the states by the United States Department of Education to be distributed on competitive basis.

During the grant process, five proposals were submitted and reviewed. Unfortunately due to limited funding, CDE was only able to fund two partnerships.

Thank you to those who submitted a Mathematics and Science Partnership proposal. We commend you on your efforts to improve the educational opportunities for middle school children and mathematics and science teachers.

2005 Award for Title I Distinguished Teacher

The nomination process will be available in mid-March to identify two (2) teachers in Colorado for the Title I Distinguished Teacher award. This honor carries with it a monetary award of \$5,000. Eligible teachers are those Title I teachers in targeted assistance programs or teachers in schoolwide schools. Nominated teachers must use standardized assessment data to demonstrate their ability to successfully assist students in making progress towards meeting state standards. Look for the nomination forms at

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms>

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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