



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 29

May 2006

Apply to be a School Support Team Member

The Colorado Department of Education's Consolidated Federal Programs Unit (CFP) is seeking part time independent consultants for our school support teams.

The role of School Support Teams is to provide assistance to schools on improvement in the following areas:

- Review and analysis of all facets of the school's operation, including the design and operation of the instructional program and assistance to the school in developing recommendations for improving student performance in that school;
- Collaboration with school staff and parents in the design and monitoring of a school improvement plan;
- Assistance in the identification of outstanding teachers and principals; and
- Recommendations for additional assistance.

Individuals selected for school support teams should have the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

Minimum Competencies:

- Experience in the K-12 system;
- Knowledge of the Colorado Model Content Standards;
- Knowledge of the Colorado Student Assessment Program;
- Ability to work effectively as a part of a team, particularly the ability to access constructive feedback regarding the quality of one's work;

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School Improvement Process

Understanding the quick turnaround required of districts with schools on Improvement in the fall, CDE wanted to notify districts now of steps that must be taken. A letter was sent to districts identifying which of their schools fell into these categories and detailing the requirements and deadlines. The following chart illustrates the requirements at each level of Improvement.

AYP Status	School Improvement Status	Sanctions
Miss 2 years*	School Improvement–Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Improvement Plan • Public School Choice Transportation
Miss 3 years	School Improvement–Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Improvement Plan • Public School Choice Transportation • Supplemental Services
Miss 4 years	Corrective Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise School Improvement Plan • Public School Choice Transportation • Supplemental Services • District must take at least one of 7 corrective actions
Miss 5 years	Restructuring–Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public School Choice Transportation • Supplemental Services • District must make a plan to restructure the school
Miss 6 years	Restructuring–Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public School Choice Transportation • Supplemental Services • District must implement the Restructuring Plan

* same content area

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Districts/schools can access their Adequate Yearly Progress information at www.cde.state.co.us/ayp. 2005-2006 AYP determinations will be available through the Automated Data Exchange by approximately August 14th.

Public School Choice

Title I schools that do not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area must be identified for School Improvement. In this first year of School Improvement, all students in Title I schools identified for Improvement must be offered Public School Choice – the option of transferring to a higher performing school, with transportation to the school paid by the district. In order to be prepared for offering public school choice, the district's plan should contain the following elements:

- Identification of transfer schools
- Process for notification to parents
- Public School Choice notification document for parents
- Transportation plan and options

Districts must offer Public School Choice to all students in attendance at a school on improvement before the first day of school. Districts with only one school at each grade level are encouraged, to the extent practicable, to work with other districts in the area to establish a cooperative agreement that would allow inter-district choice. Districts that are unable to establish a cooperative agreement must notify parents that their child's school is identified for Improvement and that the child is eligible for choice, but that no choices are currently available. Such notification might also inform parents of the option of Supplemental Services or cyber schools. More information on Title I Public School Choice as well as sample parent notification letters can be found at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/tia_psc.asp.

Supplemental Educational Services

In addition to Public School Choice, districts must offer Supplemental Services to the low-income children attending schools in 2nd Year Improvement, Corrective Action or Restructuring. The providers available in your district will be available at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/SupServices.asp by mid-July. Click on "Search for Approved Provider by District". Only districts with schools in 2nd year improvement or beyond are in the searchable database. Also available on the Supplemental Services webpage is the most recent guidance, a sample parent letter and a contract which can be used between in the district and provider(s).

School Improvement Grant

Schools on Improvement are eligible for the 2006-2007 Title I School Improvement Grant. Funding for grant will be disseminated in two parts. An initial amount of \$50,000 will be granted to each school to be used to fund a School Support Team (SST) review of the school program. Each SST review is estimated to cost no more than \$25,000. The remaining funds will be awarded to the school at the completion of the review and after a detailed budget has been submitted to CDE.

Schools will then be eligible for a School Improvement Implementation Grant ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in June 2007. Prior to the release of funding a school improvement plan that incorporates research-based strategies for improving the major areas of need as identified by the external review must be submitted and approved by CDE. An informational booklet, *Title I School Improvement Grant: A Simple Explanation and How-To*, is available at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/schimp_tia.asp.

For more information or to sign up your school for a School Support Team review contact Laura Hensinger at (303) 866-6675, hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us.

AYP Growth Proposal

The U.S. Department of Education notified CDE that our AYP growth proposal was not sent forward for the peer review. CDE has been in discussion with the USDE concerning the reasons provided for the denial of the proposal. However, we can safely assume that the growth proposal will not be a part of AYP calculations for the 2005-2006 school year. CDE has communicated to the USDE that feedback on the proposal by the peer experts would be extremely beneficial, as we could use that feedback to revise our concept of a growth measure. We will keep the field updated if we get any additional information from the USDE.

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

North Metro - May 2-5, 2006

Frisco - May 9-12, 2006

May 9 – 11th

Consolidated Federal Programs Workshops

La Junta

Colorado Springs

Loveland

May 9th

May 10th

May 11th



For more information and to register online visit

www.cde.state.co.us/scriptscfpu/registration/wrkshpreginfo.asp

May 29th

Colorado Department of Education will be closed for Memorial Day.

June 7th

Annual Standards and Assessment Conference
Keystone, CO

For more information visit

www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm or
contact Lisa May at may_l@cde.state.co.us.

August

The Colorado Family Literacy Consortium has scheduled two *National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL)'s Foundations in Family Literacy* trainings

August 7th - 9th in Delta

www.coloradoliteracy.net/trwestcentral.html

August 1st – 3rd in Colorado Springs

www.coloradoliteracy.net/trpikespeak.html



Visit CDE's Calendar for more events.

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



- The following desk review indicator will be part of the May Desk Review and is due by June 30, 2006.

TIA – 2.1: LEA Plan – Needs Assessment

Evidence demonstrates that the LEA plan was developed in consultation with teachers, principals, administrators (including those in programs served by Title I, Part A), and other appropriate school personnel, and with parents of children in schools served under Title I, Part A.

Evidence: Written process for plan development and meeting minutes or agendas.

- Preliminary NCLB 06-07 Allocations are now available at www.cde.state.co.us/cdefisgrant/NCLB_download.htm

CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL PROGRAMS
APPLICATION WILL BE AVAILABLE MAY 16TH AT
WWW.CDE.STATE.CO.US/FEDPROGRAMS/CONSAPP/INDEX.ASP

Summer Leadership Training

CCSSO and the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum Collaborative (SEC) are sponsoring a summer leadership training conference *July 31 – August 2*. The focus of the conference will be on providing leadership training on *Using Data to Improve Instruction: New Strategies and Tools*. Education leaders in the areas of curriculum/standards, assessment, school improvement, and professional development are invited to participate.

The *Millennium Harvest House in Boulder* will be the conference site. The conference theme was initiated by the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum Collaborative, and the agenda is being developed by CCSSO and the SEC Collaborative with a Conference Planning Committee.

FREE TEACHER WORKSHOP TO BE OFFERED IN COLORADO

Building on the success of previous teacher workshops, the U.S. Department of Education will hold a series of workshops for teachers and principals this summer. The Teacher-to-Teacher Summer Workshops are geared toward K-12 teachers and principals and anyone who works directly with students.

The free workshop for teachers in **Denver** will be held **June 6-7** at the Colorado Convention Center. Some of the nation's best teachers and practitioners will share their strategies for raising student achievement and inform teachers of the latest, successful research-based practices.

Some of the nation's best teachers and practitioners will share their strategies for raising student achievement and inform teachers of the latest, successful research-based practices. For attendees, the registration and the professional development sessions will be free of charge. Lunch and refreshments will be provided during scheduled workshop activities, and participants will be responsible for their own transportation and lodging.

Teachers can register for the workshop by visiting www.t2tweb.us. For more information, call (303) 844-3544.

SOA/SBD Trainings

School of Accountability (SOA) and Student Biographical Data (SBD) trainings are currently occurring around the state. These trainings outline the process that District Assessment Coordinators need to use to clean up any student data coding issues from the CSAP. Accurate data is crucial for making valid Adequate Yearly Progress determinations. Additionally, as was the policy last year, if a district does not participate in the SOA/SBD process, CDE will not accept any AYP appeals from the district, nor will schools be allowed to appeal their AYP determinations to the district. SOA/SBD training information and materials can be found at:

www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/administration.html.

- Willingness to participate in Colorado Department of Education (CDE) training and the willingness to follow CDE's organizational mission and directive;
- Willingness to travel; and
- Ability to commit to work for a full academic year.

Preferred Competencies:

- Experience in data analysis, use of data for decision making, and the development and implementation of school improvement plans;
- Knowledge of comprehensive reform models and strategies;
- Extensive knowledge in one or more of the following areas: school leadership, curriculum, instruction (appropriate interventions for reading and mathematics), classroom management and discipline, schoolwide programs, school reform and improving educational opportunities for low achieving students;
- Knowledge of factors contributing to achievement gaps and knowledge of effective strategies for closing achievement gaps;
- Knowledge of scientifically based research strategies and practice on teaching and learning;
- Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing;
- Experience in allocating resources to support school reform and/or an understanding of the budget allocation process; and
- Ability to use technology, particularly Microsoft Word or Excel.

School support team members will be expected to provide a report of findings for each school with which they are working. School support team members will also be expected to attend meetings with CDE federal programs' staff. Individuals will be paid \$300 a day plus expenses, or arrangements will be made with the individual's employer to cover release time expenses. All contracted work must be approved prior to the beginning of support services.

HOW DO YOU APPLY TO SERVE AS A SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAM MEMBER?

To apply to serve as a School Support Team Member submit an application available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/PDSSP/sch sup.asp>, a letter of interest, a resume and three confidential reference forms. Send materials to:

Desiree Sutter
Consolidated Federal Programs Unit
Colorado Department of Education
1560 Broadway, Suite 1450
Denver, CO 80202-5149
E-mail: sutter_d@cde.state.co.us



ED FLEX EXTENSION

The President recently signed legislation that extends the Educational Flexibility Partnership Act (Ed Flex), which had been slated to sunset this year. This extension means that districts with current Ed Flex waivers may continue to operate with their waivers in the 06-07 school year, as long as the waiver covers that school year. This also means that districts may apply for an Ed Flex waiver to the state. Currently, seven districts have Ed Flex waivers that permit them to waive the 5% Highly Qualified set aside. For more information on the Ed Flex program, visit www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/edflex/edflexintro.asp or contact Trish Boland at (303) 866-6998, boland_t@cde.state.co.us.

Final Regulations on Boy Scouts

The U.S. Department of Education has issued a final regulation interpreting a provision in the *No Child Left Behind Act* that guarantees the Boy Scouts and other "patriotic" youth groups "equal access" to public schools that receive federal funding. The regulation states:

- schools may not deny Boy Scout troops the same use of campus meeting space, bulletin boards, information distribution methods, and recruiting opportunities that they provide to other outside groups;
- schools' usual campus rules, such as a ban on knives, may be applied to Scout troops;
- schools are not required to sponsor Scout troops; and
- schools may charge fees for use of facilities, as long as they treat the Scouts no less favorably than any other group.

For more information visit www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/finrule/2006-1/032406a.html.

Math Study Opportunity

Horizon Research, Inc. (HRI) is looking for schools to participate in a three-year study examining the impact of middle school mathematics curriculum on student achievement. The study provides an opportunity for districts to get data about their mathematics programs, as well as to further the field's knowledge.

All data will be collected using an ID system that maintains student and teacher anonymity. In addition, all reports will maintain district and school anonymity. Participating schools will be asked to:

- Share state mathematics assessments results for students in grades 6, 7, and 8 each year of the study;
- Share demographic data for students;
- Administer a one class period version of the Balanced Assessment in Mathematics to 6th graders in year one, 7th graders in year two, and 8th graders in year three; and
- Administer a questionnaire to 6th grade teachers in year one, 7th grade teachers in year two, and 8th grade teachers in year three.

In return, HRI will:

- Provide school-specific results to each participating school/district; and
- Provide yearly financial incentives to participating districts, schools, and teachers:

For more information, contact Eric Banilower at erb@horizon-research.com. Please include the title and publisher of the mathematics program(s) your schools use in grades 6-8.

NCLB Committee of Practitioners

The NCLB Committee of Practitioners (CoP) has the following vacancies:

- Teacher
- Charter School
- SPED representative
- ELL Advisory Committee Representative
- SW representative
- SE representative

If you are interested in being a member of the CoP or have any recommendations for new members, contact Trish Boland at boland_t@cde.state.co.us or visit www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/tia_cop.asp for a nomination form.

Colorado Department of Education
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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