



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 31

August 2006

Consolidated Application Updates

The deadline for submitting the Consolidated Application has now passed and many districts have successfully completed the first ever online Consolidated Federal Programs application. To date we have received 78 complete applications and have scheduled them for review. There are still several districts that have submitted a portion of the application but are missing one or more elements such as, the budget, signature pages, or have not done a final submission of the online application. Remember that complete applications must be submitted no later than **August 21, 2006**. No applications will be accepted after this date and it will be assumed that the district is declining its funds. At that time we request that districts who did not submit an application, submit **Section I** of the [Acceptances, Relinquishments, Assignments and Certifications for NCLB Consolidated Program Funds](#) of the application, signed and dated by the board, showing that district funds are being declined.

Once applications have been received, they will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis. When an application receives substantial approval the district's Authorized Representative and Application Coordinator will receive an e-mail stating that substantial approval has been granted and the comment log can be viewed via the online

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Title II, Part A HOUSSE Provision

In January 2006, the U.S. Department of Education monitored Colorado's compliance with the Title II, Part A portion of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). One of the purposes of the monitoring visit was to review Colorado's progress in meeting NCLB's highly qualified teacher (HQT) requirements. From the visit, it was determined that Colorado's procedure for determining the HQT status of veteran elementary school teachers was not consistent with the requirements of NCLB. Colorado was considering veteran teachers to be highly qualified if they held a full state certification and a degree in elementary education. The law requires that all elementary teachers demonstrate content knowledge by taking an approved elementary content test or successfully meeting the requirements of the state's Highly Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE). At the time of the monitoring visit, Colorado had not developed a HOUSSE provision. Colorado has since developed a HOUSSE option for veteran elementary teachers who were licensed prior to 1994 or were trained in other states and came to Colorado after 1994.

Colorado's HOUSSE provision was developed using a 100 point system. The point system takes into account length of time a teacher has been teaching, undergraduate and graduate coursework and professional development activities.

The HOUSSE provision has now been applied to all teachers teaching in elementary programs who have not taken an elementary content test. While most veteran elementary teachers were found to be highly qualified based on Colorado's HOUSSE provision, there were some teachers

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Merging Missions The Title I and Title III Annual Fall Directors Meeting

Title I and Title III will jointly host their respective annual fall Directors Meeting on September 13th - September 14th. This jointly sponsored meeting will allow the programs to address areas of overlap under NCLB, such as English Language Learners, Accountability, and Parent Involvement. A *New Directors* session will be held for both Title I and Title III programs on September 12th from noon to 4:00 p.m.

The "Merging Missions" meeting will be held at the Hotel DTC (to become a Doubletree in September) in the Denver Tech Center. More information will be forthcoming regarding breakout sessions, keynote speakers, etc. by mid-August. An agenda overview is posted at www.cde.state.co.us/scriptscfpu/registration/falldirmtginfo.asp.

In addition, approved Supplemental Educational Service (SES) Providers will be invited to this year's meeting to set up an information table. They will also be included in the SES session.

For more information, contact Trish Boland boland_t@cde.state.co.us or Clara Algiene algiene_c@cde.state.co.us.

Adequate Yearly Progress Trainings

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results will be available to districts approximately by August 14th. To learn more about AYP, register for one of the following workshops.

July 28th – Thornton, 9 a.m. to Noon
Adams 12 Training Center, 1500 E 128th Ave.

August 7th – Grand Junction, 9 a.m. to Noon
Basil T. Knight Building, 2523 Patterson

August 8th – Webinar, 9 a.m. to Noon
Details will be sent once registered.

August 9th – Pueblo, 9 a.m. to Noon
Pueblo Library (large room), 100 E. Abriendo

August 10th – Webinar, 9 a.m. to Noon
Details will be sent once registered.

To register, email Clara Algiene at algiene_c@cde.state.co.us, with the date, location and/or webinar that you would like to attend. Attendees must register in order to attend.

who still do not meet NCLB's highly qualified teacher (HQT) requirements.

CDE has identified the teachers that are not highly qualified and is providing that information to each district. As an addendum to the Consolidated Federal Programs application, each district must provide CDE an individualized plan for each teacher identified as not highly qualified. CDE will review and approve each plan. Until the teacher plans have been approved, CDE will not release Title II, Part A funds to the district. Once the district's plan for each teacher has been approved and all other conditions have been met for Title II, Part A, CDE will release Title II, Part A funds.

The USDOE also requested a plan be developed and submitted to identify how the HQT goal will be met in the 2006-2007 school year and beyond. This plan was submitted on July 5, 2006.

For more information on Colorado's HOUSSE provision visit www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/tia_monitor.asp.

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approval system. The system requires the same password used to enter the application.

After substantial approval has been granted, the application will be unlocked for districts to make modifications as directed in the comment log. The district will have 30 days to submit modifications. All program modifications must be submitted at one time because the application will be locked again for CDE to review the modifications. CDE will then review the modifications and return either a final approval or additional modification requests within 30 days. The sooner we receive the **complete** modifications, the sooner the whole process can be completed.

For questions regarding the process, contact Gina Salazar (303) 866-6842, salazar_g@cde.state.co.us or the Consolidated Application Help Line at (303) 866-4814.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July/August

CELA Post Test Workshops, 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

July 31st DoubleTree Hotel, Denver

August 8th Marriot Hotel, Pueblo

August 10th Ramada Inn & Suites
Glenwood Springs

For more information contact the ELAU unit at
CDE (303) 866-6963.

August

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

August 1st – 3rd in Colorado Springs
www.coloradoliteracy.net/trpikespeak.html

August 7th - 9th in Delta
www.coloradoliteracy.net/trwestcentral.html

September 4th

Colorado Department of Education
is closed for Labor Day.

September 15th – 17th

PeaceJam Youth Conference
University of Denver

For more information visit info@peacejam.org.

September 17th

Constitution Day

For more information visit constitutionday@cs.com.

September 19th

New Principal's Seminar
CDE, State Board Room

For more information contact Ai Dam at (303) 866-
6678, dam_a@cde.state.co.us.

September 22nd – 23rd

State Autism Conference
Red Lion Inn, Denver

For more information contact Melinda Graham at
(303) 866-6707, graham_m@cde.state.co.us.



- Districts with schools on Improvement must submit to CDE either by mail [Attn: Laura Hensinger, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1450, Denver 80202] or fax [(303) 866-6637] a signed copy of each school's Public Choice letter by August 31st.
- A complete list of eligible providers for each school district required to offer Supplemental Educational Services (SES) will be available in both English and Spanish on Sept. 1st at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/SuppServices.asp. Districts need to send letters to parents by October 1st.
- Schools with a 2005-2006 Title I School Improvement Grant must submit the Year 2 plan to their Title I Liaison on or before August 4th. Year 1 funds must be spent by September 30th. Any carryover must be approved by the school's Title I Liaison.

Title I Program Improvement: *Corrective Action Phase*

This year some districts will move to the next stage of Title I Program Improvement, the Corrective Action phase. Pursuant to NCLB, districts that fail to make AYP for five years in a row must be identified for Corrective Action.

In response to feedback from districts, a concerted effort was made to distinguish between districts and the number of targets missed. There is also a differentiation in required district actions depending on their level of performance.

Preliminary AYP determinations for the 2005-2006 school year will be available in the middle of August. Districts can use that data to determine their AYP Performance level. If the district does not intend to appeal the AYP determinations, efforts can begin at that time to create the plan that corresponds with their Performance Level.

Districts that failed to make AYP for the last four school years are at risk of being identified for Corrective Action. These districts should have received documents that explain in further detail how a district can determine their AYP Performance Level and what will be required of them.

For questions regarding the Corrective Action Phase of Program Improvement contact Brad Bylsma (303) 866-6937; bylsma_b@cde.state.co.us.

\$790 MILLION IN NEW GRANTS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS AVAILABLE JULY 1, 2006

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced the upcoming availability of, and the state-by-state requirements for, Academic Competitiveness Grants and the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grants. Starting July 1, qualified Pell Grant-eligible students can begin applying for these new grants that provide \$790 million in funding for the 2006-07 academic year and \$4.5 billion over the next five years. These grants provide further incentive for students to take more challenging courses in high school and to pursue college majors that are in high demand in the global economy, such as science, math, technology, engineering and critical foreign languages.

Nationwide, it is estimated that approximately 500,000 students will qualify to receive Academic Competitiveness and SMART Grants. The Academic Competitiveness grants will provide college students who completed a rigorous course of study in high school with additional funds of up to \$750 during their freshman year and up to \$1,300 during their sophomore year; this is in addition to Pell Grant funds students are already receiving. For SMART Grants, third- and fourth-year Pell Grant-eligible students who meet the requirements, major in designated science, technology, math or critical foreign languages and maintain a 3.0 GPA will automatically receive up to an additional \$4,000 during the 2006-07 school year. A complete list of eligible majors is available at www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov.

Students who have never applied for federal student aid should visit www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov or call 1-800-4FEDAID (or 1-800-433-3243) for more information on eligibility and application information for both of these grant programs, as well as all other federal student aid programs. Students who have previously applied for federal student aid and who may be eligible for the Academic Competitiveness Grant will receive a notification from the Federal Student Aid office, either by e-mail or regular mail with application instructions. The Federal Student Aid office will begin sending these notifications on July 1.

For a fact sheet on the Academic Competitiveness and SMART Grants visit www.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/competitiveness/ac-smart2.html.

Students may determine their eligibility for Academic Competitiveness Grants or SMART Grants, at <http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov>.



When must a school inform a child's parents that their child's teacher is not "Highly Qualified"?

As discussed in the Title II, Part A article on page 1, the USDOE monitored CDE's compliance with the implementation of Title II, Part A. In particular, they examined Colorado's progress in adequately communicating the requirements of the Parent's Right-To-Know. To clarify this reporting requirement, each school that receives Title I funding must notify all parents that their child has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified in the core academic area being taught. This requirement is for all applicable parents in a Title I school regardless of the type of Title I program (Schoolwide/Targeted Assistance) the school administers [Section 1111(h)(6)].

A sample parent letter is available at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/tia.asp, click on *Sample Parent Notification Letter Regarding Teachers Who Are Not Highly Qualified*.

For more information regarding this requirement contact Bush White at white_b@cde.state.co.us, (303) 866-6901.



Do you have a question for the Buzz?

**Forward any questions to
Laura Hensinger at
hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us.**



Free Online Resources for Teachers from the Library of Congress

More than 10 million digitized historical artifacts are available on the Library of Congress' web site <http://www.loc.gov> ranging from ancient manuscripts to Civil War maps, from classic blues recordings to Coca-Cola commercials, from Dust Bowl photographs to Thomas Edison's first films. These unique primary sources are the raw materials of history, and bring students into close personal contact with the people, places, and events of our nation's past. K-12 classroom teachers are provided with tools to bring these collections to life on the Library's Teachers page at www.loc.gov/teachers.

Over 70 original lesson plans, all created and field-tested by master teachers provide easy ways to integrate primary sources into the curriculum. Interactive activities, historical and cultural timelines, and online feature presentations bring the expertise of the Library's curatorial experts to bear on key historical issues and provide accessible introductions to major periods in our nation's growth. Meanwhile, the Library offers in-person workshops, videoconferencing, and other professional development opportunities to help teachers build their skills and discover new ways to bring the power of primary sources to their students.

All the materials on the Library of Congress' Teachers page are free to all, with no subscription or login required, and new materials are added on a regular basis.

The Colorado connection to teachers using the Library of Congress site is located at <http://aamcolorado.mscd.edu/011006newsletterL.htm>.

Phone-a-Story



The Mayor's Office for Education and Children along with the Denver Public Library, have created a story line for children, pre-school through middle school. Listeners can choose a story for their age or grade level. Stories are also available in Spanish and change every week. To hear a story any time, day or night call (720) 865-8500.

Charter School Handbook

The Schools of Choice Unit at CDE recently updated the "Charter School Handbook: A Guide for Starting and Operating a Charter School" www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart/download/CSHandbk.pdf. There are new chapters on authorizer relations, governing board responsibilities, establishing business operations, student academic achievement, and faculty.

The handbook complements the charter school electronic guidebook of best practice documents available at www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart/guidebook/index.htm. Some of the documents included in the e-guidebook are Parent/Student Handbooks, governing board policies, parent/student contracts, at-will employment contracts, board training materials, employee handbooks and charter school applications.

For more information contact the Schools of Choice Unit at (303) 866-6771.

Good News for Schools on Improvement

The Office of Special Services has completed 52 School Support Team (SST) reviews over the last three years. The visits have provided schools on Improvement the focus, guidance and support they need to move forward.

The Title I School Improvement Grant will again be offered for the 2006-2007 school year. All schools on improvement are eligible for the grant; however, due to limited funding, awards will be made on a first come, first served basis.

Funding for the grant is disseminated in two parts. An initial amount of \$50,000 is granted to fund a SST review of the school program. The remaining funds (approximately \$25,000) will be awarded to the school to support a debriefing of the report with school staff, planning and initial implementation of short-term recommendations.

Schools will then receive an additional grant ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in June 2007 to address the major areas of need as identified by the external review.

The grant process can be started by simply completing an *Intent Form* available at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/schimp_tia.asp.

For more information contact Laura Hensinger at (303) 866-6675, hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us.

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