



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 32

September 2006

C-FIRS Monitoring 2006-2007

CDE federal program staff spent a great deal of time this summer revising and updating the CFIRS protocol and monitoring indicators. We hope the result is a more complete and clear set of indicators that districts can use to prepare for a site visit or to use as a self-assessment. While the overall content has not changed, some indicators were combined into a single indicator. Other indicators, such as those found formerly as general assurances, have been added to each program area to ease the actual review process.

Eight districts will have integrated (four or more programs) CFIRS site visits this year. Each of these districts has been notified through e-mail and a follow up phone call. This list will be posted on CDE's website shortly. Several additional districts will have monitoring visits by 1-3 programs, and these districts will be notified by the appropriate CDE program consultant. Finally, several districts will have a phone conference with program consultants to determine if a site visit is necessary. Though concerns were raised about these districts through the annual risk assessment process, the districts are small enough that a fully integrated site visit is not warranted. Phone conferences were added to the monitoring protocol to focus the attention in a site visit to

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Supplemental Services

Seven new providers have been added to Colorado's List of Approved Supplemental Services Providers for the 2006-2007 school year. Parents can now choose from a total of 44 providers. District personnel and parents can search for available providers by district and school on the Supplemental Services' website www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/SuppServices.asp. Simply, click on *Search for Approved Provider by District*. Only districts with schools in 2nd year Improvement or beyond are in the searchable database. This information is in both English and Spanish and can be printed and distributed. The website also includes recent guidance (6/13/05), sample parent letters and contracts.

Supplemental Services are tutoring opportunities for eligible students, conducted by an approved provider outside of the school day. Eligible students are those who are enrolled in a school on 2nd year of Improvement, Corrective Action or Restructuring and identified as low-income. These tutoring services are free to parents and paid for with district Title I funds.

Districts with schools in 2nd year Improvement or beyond are responsible for notifying parents of eligible students that these services are available to them. Notification must be in a language understandable to parents, identify the approved provider(s) within the district, and describe their services and qualifications. The letter must also provide procedures and timelines parents must follow to obtain services.

Districts are required to either mail (Attn: Laura Hensinger) or fax (303) 866-6637 a signed copy of the Supplemental Services letter sent by each school on 2nd year of Improvement or beyond by October 2nd.

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those items not observable in a desk review, and to identify the most pressing federal requirements that need review.

The desk review schedule will be posted on the website soon. Taking into consideration the feedback that many Federal program consultants received about the 05-06 reviews, the number of items to be monitored through a desk review has been reduced. However, there will continue to be desk reviews for the LEA report card, Choice/Supplemental Services/highly qualified teacher notifications, and district improvement/corrective action plans. In addition, Title III is conducting a desk review for data that previously was collected through the consolidated application and is needed for USDE reporting purposes.

The updated CFIRS documents will be available on CDE's website by September 12th. Several sessions at the upcoming Directors Meeting will focus on monitoring, so plan to attend these if you would like more explicit information. For any questions contact Trish Boland at boland_t@cde.state.co.us, (303) 866-6998.

FINAL 2006-2007 NCLB ALLOCATIONS

Final 2006-2007 NCLB allocations have been posted on CDE's website at www.cde.state.co.us/cdefisgrant/NCLB_download.htm. The final Per Pupil funding amounts and Neglected and Delinquent allocations have also been posted.

CDE will not be updating data tables with final allocation amounts. Continue to use the preliminary allocation amounts on the data tables for the modifications that have been requested by CDE.

In addition, due to the reporting requirements for the SAR (State Accountability Report) after September 1, 2006, no changes can be made to which schools will be served with Title I, Part A funds.

For districts that need to revise their application and budgets after final approval, revisions will be completed through the "Consolidated Application Post-Award Revisions Form." The form and instructions for this process will be available soon.

For more information contact the Consolidated Application helpline at (303) 866-4814.

On May 15th, a policy letter from Margaret Spellings addressed the concern that there has not been the anticipated increase in the number of students participating in Supplemental Services. Through monitoring conducted by USDOE in 2003-04, only 17 percent of eligible students participated in SES. In Colorado approximately 11 percent of eligible students participated in SES during the 2004-2005 school year.

CDE understands that there are several reasons why parents do not take advantage of tutoring services and there is a plan to further investigate those reasons. However, CDE must ensure that districts are adequately notifying parents. A letter to parents will meet the requirements of the law. However, due to the confusing nature of this choice provision, one mailing may not ensure maximum participation from eligible students. Some strategies that have been used to build understanding and encourage involvement include:

- Host a provider fair in the district, an opportunity for parents to meet providers and determine the best fit for their child
- Discuss the Supplemental Service provision with eligible parents at parent/teacher conferences
- Use parent liaisons to call homes or make home visits to explain free tutoring option
- Work with local parent organizations to get the word out
- Work with providers to disseminate information through public service announcements

After parents have chosen a particular provider and notified the district, it is the responsibility of the district to develop a contract with the provider.

Approved providers will be invited to this year's Fall Directors Meeting on September 13th to set up an information table.

CDE will also begin evaluating the effectiveness of each provider using the information gathered during the 2005-2006 school year. The plan for this work will be discussed at the Supplemental Services session on September 13th.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 4th

Colorado Department of Education is closed for Labor Day.

September 11th – 12th

The Framework of Response to Intervention (RTI) Pueblo (9/11) and Lamar (9/12)

For more information contact Sandi Hansen at (719) 853-6204, hansen_s@cde.state.co.us.

September 12th – 14th

Merging Missions: The Title I/III Annual Fall Directors Meeting

Doubletree, Denver Tech Center

For more information and registration visit www.cde.state.co.us/scriptscfpu/registration/falldirmtginfo.asp.

September 15th – 17th

PeaceJam Youth Conference

University of Denver

For more information visit info@peacejam.org.

September 17th

Constitution Day

For more information see article on page 6.

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.



- Schools with 2005-2006 Title I School Improvement Grant must submit the Year 2 plan to their Title I Liaison. Year 1 funds must be spent by September 30th. Any carryover should be approved by the school's Title I Liaison.
- 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.
- Districts with schools on 2nd Year Improvement or beyond must send Supplemental Service letters to parents no later than October 1st. A copy of the letter must also be forwarded to Laura Hensinger.

2006 Highly Qualified Teachers Workshops

The purpose of the trainings is to (1) inform districts on the monitoring findings regarding Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT), (2) explain HOUSSE provisions for elementary teachers, and (3) develop HQT plans. The trainings will be held from 8 a.m. – noon at the following locations:

September 1 st	Thornton
September 5 th	Grand Junction
September 6 th	Webinar
September 7 th	Durango
September 19 th	Colorado Springs
September 22 nd	Sterling
September 26 th	Steamboat Springs
September 28 th	Greeley
September 29 th	Webinar

For more information and registration visit www.cde.state.co.us/scriptscfpu/registration/HQTwrkshpreinfo.asp.

Title I Program Improvement: Corrective Action Phase

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As many of you know, this year some districts will move into the next stage of accountability regarding Title I Program Improvement, the Corrective Action phase. According to NCLB, districts that fail to make AYP for five years in a row must be identified for Corrective Action.

The Consolidated Federal Programs Unit has made a concerted effort to respond to feedback from districts. Thus, this year, AYP Performance Levels will distinguish between districts that missed a small number of targets and those districts which missed a greater number of targets as well as between districts that have had an increase or decrease in the number of targets met. The district's level of performance will determine how districts are to respond. The Corrective Action Table which follows this article provides further explanation. The table is also available at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/leaim_p_lca.asp.

Preliminary AYP determinations for the 05-06 are now available. Districts can use that data, and the Corrective Action table to determine their AYP Performance Level. Districts that do not intend to appeal AYP determinations can begin to create the plan that corresponds with their Performance Level.

Final Determinations will be made by the end of September. At that time the districts will be notified of their final AYP Performance Level and its requirements.

District Corrective Plans are due to CDE no later December 29, 2006.

Districts that fall into the "High" or "Good" AYP Performance Level will use the same format to develop their Corrective Action plan as they have in the past for their Program Improvement plan. However, districts that fall into the "Good" Performance Level will also be required to enlist an outside consultant in the development of their plan.

Districts that fall into the "Fair" AYP Performance Level will be required to attend a training in October regarding the self-evaluation process and procedures.

Districts that fall into the "Low" category will be contacted regarding scheduling a CADI visit or another independent evaluator. Corrective Action Plan due dates for this group will be based on the date of the "evaluation."

Districts that may be identified for Corrective Action cannot budget set aside funds until AYP determinations have been made final (approximately September 30th). A district may choose to begin developing a plan or hire an outside consultant to begin to meet these requirements. However, the district does this with the understanding that final determinations may or may not find that Corrective Action is warranted. For example, a school district has received approval to

move forward with an outside evaluator. The district contacted CDE prior to engaging the evaluator and can now move ahead with the process. Districts choosing to move ahead with corrective action plans must contact Brad Bylsma (303) 866-6937, bylsma_b@cde.state.co.us to receive prior approval.

TITLE I PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AYP AMENDMENT

In previous years Colorado has used the "Same Subject, Any Grade Span" model, to identify districts for Title I Program Improvement. Districts that missed targets in the same content area for two consecutive years, regardless of grade span, were identified for Program Improvement.

This year the determinations will be made using the "Same Subject, Same Grade Span" model to identify districts for Program Improvement. Only districts that do not meet an AYP target in the same content area *and* grade span for two consecutive years will be identified for Title I Program Improvement. Missing an AYP target includes the other indicator of advanced level of performance at the elementary and middle school levels. For high school, graduation rate would count in both reading and math AYP calculations. For example, a district that missed only math targets at the elementary level one year and math targets at the high school level the next year would not be identified. The district would need to miss elementary math targets for two consecutive years to be identified.

The 2005 AYP determinations will serve as the baseline year for this new method of making District Program Improvement identifications. Districts currently on Improvement would remain on Improvement until such time as they have made the targets that they missed resulting in their identification for Improvement for two consecutive years. Districts will only move forward on the Improvement trajectory if they miss AYP targets in the same content and the same grade span. Thus, a district will only move to Corrective Action this year if they miss the same content and grade span as they did last year. Beginning with 2006, should a district miss new targets in the same content area and grade span for two consecutive years, it would be added to the list of districts identified for Improvement. This amendment is expected to have a limited impact on the number of districts identified for Improvement or removed from the list of Improvement districts. A review of past AYP performance and AYP projections suggest that fewer than 10 school districts would be affected by this change.

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TITLE I PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT: CORRECTIVE ACTION PHASE

AYP Determination	AYP Performance Level	Growth (AYP Two-Year Trend)	Status (% of AYP Targets Made)	CDE Imposed Corrective Action	LEA Corrective Action Alternative
Made AYP	Excellent	Stable or Increasing	100	NA	NA
Did not make AYP	High	Stable or Increasing	95 to 99	CDE will defer 10% of the district's Title I funds until the Program Improvement plan has been updated, amended and strengthened to address the areas in which the district has not made AYP. Plan must be approved by CDE before deferred funds will be released.	<p>A district at the "High", "Good" or "Fair" AYP Performance Level may forgo the CDE Imposed Corrective Action and satisfy requirements by developing a plan for Program Improvement that includes one or more of the following options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institute and fully implement a new curriculum based on State and Local content standards in the areas of reading and math and that include appropriate, scientifically research-based professional development for all relevant staff. 2. Replace personnel who are relevant to the LEA's inability to make AYP. 3. Provide alternative forms of governance for individual schools such as charter or "contract" schools. <p>CDE will defer 10% of the district's Title I funding until an approved plan is in place and will require documentation that the approved corrective actions have been taken.</p> <p>Districts selecting one of these options must contact CDE for prior approval and further instructions.</p>
	Good	Decreasing	95 to 99	CDE will defer 10% of the district's Title I funds until the Program Improvement plan has been updated, amended and strengthened in collaboration with an outside consultant that has demonstrated expertise in the areas in which the district has not made AYP. Plans must be approved by CDE before deferred funds will be released.	
	Good	Increasing	85 to 94		
	Fair	Stable or Decreasing	85 to 94	CDE will defer 10% of the district's Title I funds until the district has conducted a state created self-evaluation or a facilitated self-evaluation using the 9 standards for district improvement and has developed an approved plan based on the findings of the self-evaluation.	
	Fair	Increasing	Below 85		
	Low	Stable or Decreasing	Below 85	<p>CDE will defer 10% of the district's Title I funds. The district will schedule a Comprehensive Appraisal for District Improvement (CADI) visit. Once a plan is developed based on the findings of the CADI visit and approved by CDE, the deferred funds will be released to the district. The CADI visit will be funded with the district's deferred 10%.</p> <p>District may hire CDE-approved independent consultant(s) to perform a systemic assessment which will serve as the foundation for a strategic plan.</p>	



September 17, 2005

On December 8, 2004, President George W. Bush signed a bill which designates every September 17th as Constitution Day. The bill requires all educational institutions that receive federal funding from the Department of Education to hold an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution in order to commemorate the September 17, 1787, signing of the Constitution. However, when September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution & Citizenship Day is held during the preceding or following week. The law mandates the general topic and date of the program; however, the institution has flexibility in how it provides the program.

This year the Colorado Association of Libraries is sponsoring a distribution of free materials to school library media contacts in public schools and to college libraries in academia, as well as public libraries. Packets include a poster of the Bill of Rights, a small flag, a pocket Constitution, lesson plans for various grade levels, and many other resources and links for activities. Supplies are limited. Schools should contact their school's library media contact to discuss ideas and see the kit contents. Many items are downloadable from the Colorado Association of Libraries' web site: <http://cal-webs.org> (click on Constitution Day).

Some additional websites that provide background on the day, curriculum ideas and materials are www.constitutionday.com and www.libertyday.org.

We hope Colorado's schools will find the project helpful to them.

Higher Education Funds for Foster Students

The Colorado Education and Training Voucher Program offers funds to foster youth and former foster youth to enable them to attend colleges, universities, and vocational training institutions. Students may receive up to \$5,000 a year as they pursue higher education. The funds may be used for tuition, books, fees or qualified living expenses. There is no deadline to apply however funds are available on a first come, first served basis.

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Eligibility:

- Youth must have been in foster care at age 16 and older, and in foster care 12 out of the previous 36 months.
- Youth may have been adopted out of foster care, with adoption finalization after their 16th birthday.
- Program participants must be ages 17-21; however, funding may continue until their 23rd birthday if they receive funds before 21.

For more information on this program including an online application, visit www.statevoucher.org and click on Colorado.

GOOD NEWS FOR SCHOOLS ON IMPROVEMENT

The Consolidated Federal Programs Unit has completed a total of 52 School Support Team (SST) reviews. 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 get 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.

TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

Teachers in low-income schools or in certain subject areas may be eligible to receive cancellation of their student loans. For more information on loan forgiveness and its limits visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/teachercancel.jsp?tab=repaying>.

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Concerns!!

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