

The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 35

December 2006

COMPARABILITY REPORT

Comparability exists when an LEA uses State and local funds to provide services in participating Title I schools that are "at least comparable" to the services provided in schools that are not receiving Title I funds.

In accordance with the comparability requirement, LEAs must 1) develop procedures that ensure services provided with state and local funds in Title I schools are comparable to those provided in non-Title I schools in the LEA; and 2) implement those procedures annually. Districts with only one building at each grade span do not have to demonstrate comparability; however, they must submit an assurance of their status.

An LEA is only required to document compliance by completing a report for the State every other year. We are presently in a year where documentation **does not** need to be made available to CDE. However, districts must assure each year that there is a process in place to determine comparability. Consolidated Federal Programs is in the process of adding a button to the CFIRS online system to record this assurance. More information will be provided as soon as possible. Contact Russ Masco with any questions (303) 866-6306, masco_r@cde.state.co.us

District Improvement Grant

The Consolidated Federal Programs at the Colorado Department of Education has funds to support districts that have been identified for Title I Program Improvement. The purpose of the funds is to assist districts in addressing the requirements of the Title I Program Improvement Corrective Action phase.

The total amount of grant funds available is \$1,600,000. The plan is to award each recipient a grant in the amount of \$75,000.

All districts that are entering the Title I Program Improvement Corrective Action Phase and have an AYP Performance Level of Fair or Low are eligible to apply for the initial offering of these funds. Any funds remaining will be made available in a second grant for Corrective Action districts with a High or Good AYP performance level.

Should proposals exceed the amount of funds available, priority will be given to those districts whose Program Improvement set aside is not sufficient to fund the grant activities.

Each district must submit a narrative outlining how awarded funds will be used to support the design, implementation and/or evaluation of the district's Corrective Action Plan. All grant funds must be expended by August 31, 2007. No carryover will be allowed.

Awarded funds may be used for the following purposes. All planned activities must be supplemental to the district's current Title I, Part A activities:

- 1) District participation in a Comprehensive Appraisal for District Improvement (CADI) visit to assess the district's level of implementation of the nine standards for district improvement
- 2) Implementation and training for a district self-assessment of the district's level of implementation of the nine standards for district improvement
- 3) Conduct a review of the district by an approved outside consulting group
- 4) Professional development for staff to build capacity to implement the self assessment or CADI visit findings
- 5) Cost of a consultant to assist with the implementation of strategies to target the areas of need within the district
- 6) Other costs associated with the development of an improvement plan

Grant information will be sent electronically to eligible districts on December 6, 2006. Grants received by Monday, December 18, 2006 will be reviewed on Dec. 21st. Grants received by Monday, January 8, 2006 will be reviewed on January 11th. For more information, contact Brad Bylsma at bylsma_b@cde.state.co.us.

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From Analysis to Achievement:

The Title I School Improvement Grant and Colorado's School Support Systems

During the November State Board Meeting, the Consolidated Federal Programs (CFP) unit presented some initial findings from the Colorado's School Support System and the Title I School Improvement Grant.

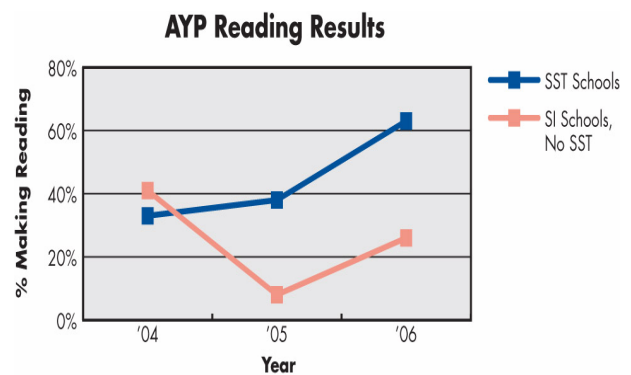
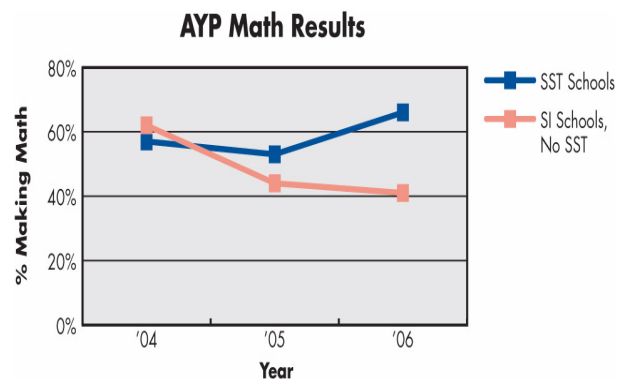
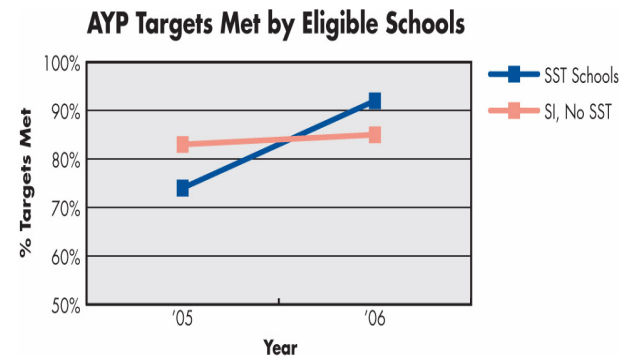
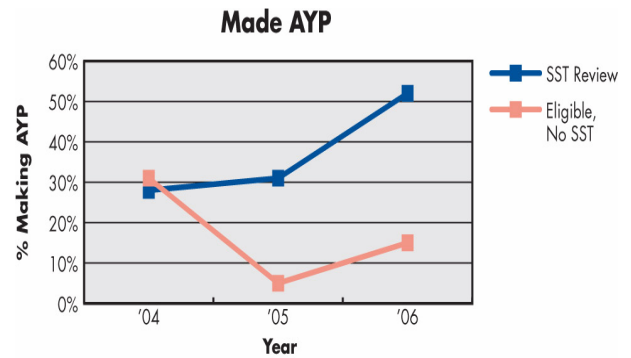
Fall 2006 begins the 4th year of the implementation of the School Support Team (SST) reviews and the Title I School Improvement Grant. The School Support Team process was developed in 2002 as a way to deliver focused technical assistance to Title I Schools on Improvement under No Child Left Behind. The process was piloted with six schools during the 2003–2004 school year. The process is partnered with the Title I School Improvement Grant which provides participating schools with monies that fund the SST review and assist in implementing the SST's recommendations.

A total of 57 schools have received an SST review and grant. During the 2005–2006 school year, 25 schools made AYP. Of those schools, 11 exited improvement and 14 made AYP and need one more year before exiting. Nine schools that were not on Improvement but missed AYP for one year were also reviewed. Eight of the nine made AYP, only one was placed on improvement.

The graphs in the adjacent column compare the Adequate Yearly Progress results for schools that participated in an SST review and grant process and those on improvement that did not participate. As you will notice, the schools that have participated are seeing more improvement, as a group, compared with those that have not participated.

CFP will continue its evaluation of this process. Further results will be communicated as they become available.

For a copy of the detailed report presented to the State Board and a list of the schools that have participated in the process visit www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/schimp_tia.asp



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 25th – 26th

Christmas Holiday

Colorado Department of Education will be closed.

January 3 – 5, 2007

Foundations in Family Literacy Training

Open to those interested in learning more about family literacy.

Delta, CO

For more information contact Karen Carr at (303) 866-6920, carr_k@cde.state.co.us

January 8 – 31, 2007

CSAP Trainings

For specific locations and times visit CDE's Calendar at

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

January 9 – 25, 2007

CSAPA Trainings

For specific locations and times visit CDE's Calendar at

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

January 27 – 30, 2007

Title I 2007 Conference

Long Beach, California

For more information visit www.titlei.org

May 7, 2007

3rd Annual Colorado Reading Summit

Further information will be made available on the CDE Calendar of Events at

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

May 13 – 17, 2007

International Reading Association

52nd Annual Convention

Toronto, Ontario

For more information visit www.reading.org



- Submit any modifications to your district's Consolidated Application and/or budget for final approval. For questions regarding comments for final approval, contact the program consultant listed in the comment log.
- By January 31, 2007, submit a copy of the district's "4 Week Rule" letter to Trish Boland at boland_t@cde.state.co.us. For more information visit www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/nclb/monitoring.asp

School and District Profiles

The 2005-2006 NCLB school and district profiles are now available at

www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/Reports/index.asp. The profiles include a wide variety of data on schools and districts including AYP and Highly Qualified teachers. The profiles also provide a majority of the information necessary for the Annual Report to the Public.

Colorado Quiz

When was the last time you were asked questions about Colorado? Well, The Buzz is starting a new monthly section entitled "Colorado Quiz." This information will provide an enhanced understanding of Colorado and can be used to excite your students.

The answer will be revealed in next month's Buzz as well as on the Professional Development and School Support (PDSSP) website

www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/pdssp/index.asp.

How did Colorado
get its name?



Teacher Incentive Fund

The Teacher Incentive Fund is a U.S. Department of Education initiative designed to financially support programs that develop and implement performance-based teacher and principal compensation systems. The proposed compensation incentives are to be based primarily on student achievement gains at the school and classroom level.

In 2006, the U.S. Department of Education awarded 16 grants, totaling \$42 million, throughout the nation. These recipients have demonstrated an interest in reforming teacher and principal compensation systems so that teachers and principals are rewarded for increases in student achievement and increasing the number of effective teachers teaching hard-to-staff subjects in high-need schools.

Both local school districts and state education departments are eligible to apply for a Teacher Incentive Fund Grant. For more information about the 2006 awards or to apply for 2007 Teacher Incentive Fund Grant visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherincentive/index.html>.

CoMath Resurrected

A few years ago there was a forum that math teachers, coaches, and others interested in math could use to discuss new findings, share information, or find solutions. Then it was gone! Consolidated Federal Programs listened, heard and has reinstated the Colorado Math ListServ otherwise know as CoMATH.

For those working and interested in math, this is an opportunity to share thoughts, techniques, research, or just frustrations to a homogeneous group who share a common bond.

To join the listserve, send a blank email to comath-join@web.cde.state.co.us. Since we live in the age of "spammers" and "phishers" the system will respond by asking for a confirmation. Respondents must type their name and a password as a response within a week by clicking on the return address or by typing it as a URL in the address portion of your internet browser. If a response is not received in a week, the system will drop you from the listserv.

To write to CoMath, type comath@web.cde.state.co.us in the address line of your e-mail.

Thanks to those who developed and previously hosted the CoMath, Dr. Pat Burns, Dr. Dave Zachmann, Tom Hibbs, and Glenn Bruckhart.

Family Literacy 2006-2007

"For this year, our department has prioritized working with school districts to identify schools where school-based Family Literacy programs would seem to be a viable school improvement strategy. We want to help local Title I Directors to connect the dots of services," stated Pat Chapman, Director of Consolidated Programs.

On September 14, 46 participants from across the state gathered to learn more about Family Literacy programming. This session brought together partners from Title I, Title III, Migrant Education, Adult Education and Family Literacy as well as Even Start Coordinators. The session focused on how Family Literacy can support student achievement and how partnerships within the school and the community can assist in providing comprehensive, integrated services based on the federal definition of Family Literacy. According to the Colorado Even Start Follow-up Study, children who participate in Even Start programs are more successful in reading than are a comparison group of children. The study showed that children who had participated in an average of 138 hours of Even Start services were performing above grade level (53%) or at grade level (47%) according to the third grade CSAP scores. In contrast, of the comparison children, less than one-third (28%) were above grade level, 43% were reading at grade level and 28% were reading below grade level (*Colorado Even Start Follow-up Study: Trinidad State Junior College, Center for At-Risk Education, Colorado Department of Education, February 2003*).

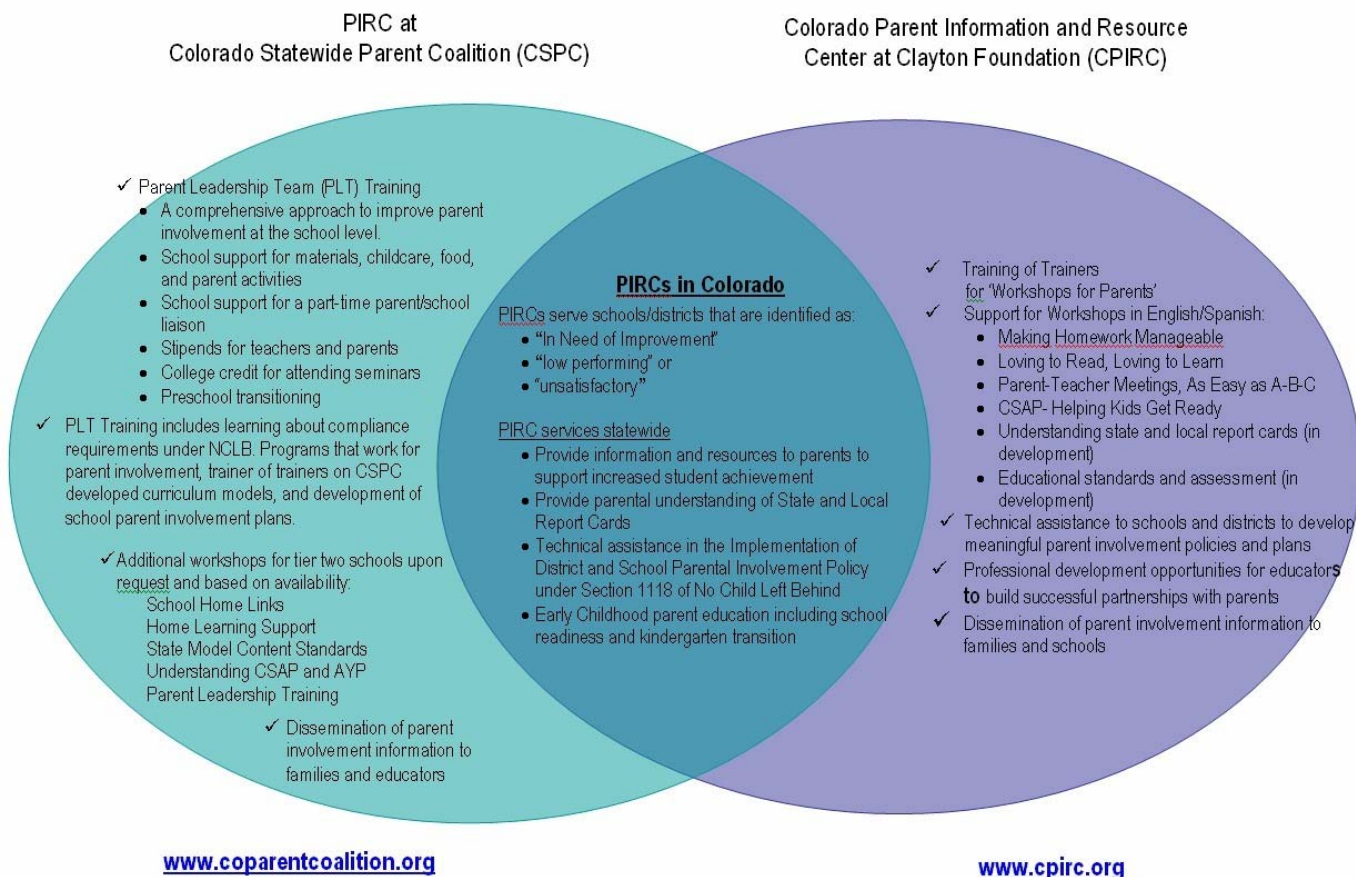
Family Literacy is defined by the federal government as services of sufficient intensity in terms of hours, and of sufficient duration, to make sustainable changes in a family, and that integrate all of the following activities:

- (A) Interactive literacy activities between parents and their children.
- (B) Training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their child.
- (C) Parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency.
- (D) An age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

For more information contact Debbie Butkus, Coordinator of the Colorado Family Literacy Training Center butkudl@d11.org.

TWO PARENT INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTERS (PIRC) AVAILABLE IN COLORADO

The Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center (CPIRC) at The Clayton Foundation and the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition (CSPC) have been awarded PIRC grants from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement to provide services over the next 5 years. Together they will bring in over **\$1,000,000** per year to Colorado to support school and family partnerships for increased student achievement.



Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition

Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition's (CSPC) mission is to provide equitable education to all children in Colorado, to reach out to families and parents that have been traditionally underserved in Colorado schools and to help parents be their children's best advocate. Throughout the years, the CSPC has developed many partnerships including CDE, universities and colleges, school districts, regional training centers, community based organizations and most importantly parents and community members. The CSPC PIRC is a project of the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition. For more information about CSPC contact Patsy Roybal at patsy@coparentcoalition.org, (720) 890-0123] or Richard Garcia at richard@coparentcoalition.org.

Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center at Clayton Foundation

CPIRC's mission is to strengthen partnerships between schools and families, and to put into practice effective parent involvement policies and programs that increase academic achievement for students throughout Colorado. We accomplish our mission through our own work and the work of our partners, which include the Colorado Parent and Child Foundation, Colorado PTA, Families First, and Community Resources, Inc. We offer training and technical assistance to schools/districts and parents at no cost. To contact CPIRC, send an email to thouse@gwclayton.org or call (303) 355-5387.

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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