



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 37

February 2007

FAMILY LITERACY SUCCESS

There are many school districts across Colorado which are successfully implementing Family Literacy programs through collaborations within their community. One district that has created a strong program is Delta County School District 50J. Delta County had an excellent early education and parent involvement program in place with its Backpack and BELA Preschool Programs which were created and funded by Title I and district dollars. Family Literacy was brought to the community in 2003 through a Migrant Education Even Start grant. This programming was a natural extension of the district's emphasis on family-oriented education. When the Even Start request for proposal was released in the spring of 2005, the district, especially the Title I Director and Superintendent, saw an opportunity to move from agency coordination of services to true community collaboration in meeting family education needs. The Delta County Adult Literacy Program, which is funded through federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) dollars, and the Department of Health and Human Services, with its expressed desire as well as funding to strengthen family services, provided the perfect partnership to expand into the five component model of Family Literacy services.

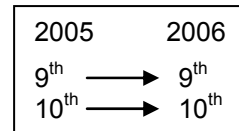
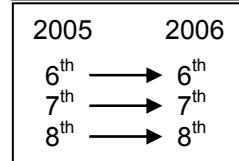
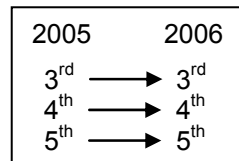
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AYP LONGITUDINAL PROPOSAL

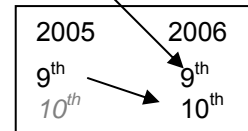
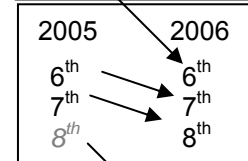
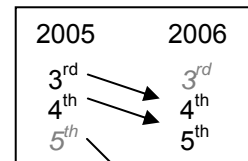
Consolidated Federal Programs (CFP) is applying to the USDOE to amend Colorado's NCLB accountability plan to include an additional method for calculating Safe Harbor. Currently, Safe Harbor is a way for districts/schools/subgroups to make AYP if they do not meet the performance targets. Safe Harbor requires a **10% reduction in the percent of non-proficient** from the prior year to the current year. This calculation is made on a cohort model, specifically, a comparison is made between the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders in one year and the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders in the next year. While all AYP performance calculations look only at students who have been continuously enrolled for a year, Safe Harbor measures can be greatly impacted by the 3rd graders coming in and the 5th graders that left.

CFP is proposing an additional methodology for calculating Safe Harbor that would use longitudinal data. It would compare only the scores of the students in the district/school/subgroup in the previous year to the current year scores. The following tables illustrate the difference between the two methodologies.

Current Safe Harbor



Proposed Longitudinal Safe Harbor



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Mathematics and Science Partnership Request for Proposals Update

The Consolidated Federal Programs unit at CDE has decided not to host a MSP competition for the 2006-2007 school year. Instead, CDE will be accepting proposals for the 2007-2008 Mathematics and Science Partnership Awards. This will allow grantees a full three years of grant funds.

The requirements for the 2007-2008 RFP are the same as those in the 2006-2007 RFP which was sent out previously. The only change is the dates. The deadline for submitting applications has also been extended to Monday, April 9, 2007. The updated RFP is available online at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/msp.asp. For more information contact Mariah Aldinger at (303) 866-6250, aldinger_m@cde.state.co.us

ET-IL Technology Plans

CDE has received over 90% of the required technology plans for compliance with the Title IID Consolidated Application process and E-rate. If your district has not received notification of approval or a request for additional information contact DeLilah Collins at collins_d@cde.state.co.us.

E-rate

Congratulations Colorado E-rate applicants! Colorado has been awarded \$18,507,609 in rebates through the E-rate program. This program is designed to discount the cost of telecommunication services, Internet access, and internal connection purchases. For more information contact DeLilah Collins at collins_d@cde.state.co.us.

8th Grade Technologically Literacy Reporting Requirement

CDE has learned that the USDOE will require each state to report the status of their 8th grade students becoming technologically literate. The USDOE is in the process of determining the information it will collect and as more information becomes available, districts will be notified.

Susan Flores, Director of Title I, states, "As a district we strive to do what's best for kids. The partnership we have formed between these local agencies and our school district has allowed us to serve the entire family. In addition to being what's best for kids, this is also what's best for families."

Title I support evolved from cooperation with other agencies to a well-defined partnership in its collaboration of services and resources, including funding with the Delta Adult Literacy Program and the Delta County Department of Health and Human Services. The district has implemented the Family Literacy program as an integral part of Title I services. This is evident by its financial support of four of the primary components of Family Literacy: parent education and involvement, early childhood education, interactive parent and child literacy activities and home visitation. The fifth component, adult education, is provided by the Delta County Adult Literacy Program, the Delta Department of Health and Human Services and by the district's Opportunity School for alternative high school students.

Delta is also a recent recipient of a Family Literacy Education Fund grant through CDE. This community is to be commended for its commitment to the students and their families that reside within the boundaries of their district. Hard work, dedication and creativity have been combined to create an effective and comprehensive system of services that supports healthy families as well as student achievement.

If you are interested in implementing Family Literacy in your district, contact Debbie Butkus from the Colorado Family Literacy Training Center at butkudl@d11.org.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 28, 2007

Primary Source Documents Workshop from the National Archive, Denver Federal Center, 1-3 p.m. A free workshop targeted to elementary and secondary school librarians to expose them to the educational resources available from the National Archives and Records Administration. For more information contact lori.cox-paul@nara.gov, (303) 407-5747.

March 2, 2007

Building Academic Background Knowledge Workshop, Fort Collins
To register, visit www.co-case.org or call Leisa at (303) 762-8762 x100.

May 2 - 4, 2007

Brustein & Manasevit 9th National Spring Forum
Washington, DC
For more information visit www.bruman.com.

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.

Consolidated Federal Program Application Workshops are coming!

Pueblo	Week of March 19 th
Greeley	Week of March 26 th
Denver	Week of April 2 nd
Pagosa Springs	Week of April 23 rd
Vail	Week of April 30 th

Specific dates and venues will be announced soon. The workshops will be a day and a half long.

Day 1: New Director's Meeting
from 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Day 2: General Session with breakouts
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



- NCLB Annual Reports are due to CDE by February 28, 2007. Reports can be emailed pearson_a@cde.state.co.us or mailed to Alyssa Pearson at 1560 Broadway, Suite 1450, Denver, CO 80202. In addition to the report include:
 - how the report was distributed to the public
 - a contact person to notify once the report has been reviewed

Thank you to the 27 districts who have already submitted their reports!

Resource for Black History Month

AfriClassical.com now offers more than 100 audio samples, from spirituals to symphonies; brief biographies of 52 Composers and Musicians of African Descent; and a Black History Quiz with 52 questions in three parts.

Colorado Quiz

January's Question:

Before Colorado became a state, what was it called?

Colorado was originally part of the Nebraska, Utah, Kansas, and New Mexico territories. In 1859 a provisional territorial government was formed, called the Territory of Jefferson. In 1861 Congress created the Territory of Colorado.

February's Question:

**How did the United States
acquire the land where
Colorado is today?**

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



Parent Involvement Conferences

The Colorado Department of Education in conjunction with Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center (CPIRC) will host six one-day conferences around the state for educators and school personnel during the months of February and March. The conferences, entitled *Tools for Schools: Embracing Diverse Communities*, will provide information and strategies for developing strong parental involvement in our schools.

CPIRC's presentation will include hands-on activities designed to provide an opportunity for schools to start a process for developing or refining their current school parent involvement plans that align with the requirements of the law. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to hear and question CDE experts who will present important information on Title I, Part C and Title III mandates regarding parental involvement in schools.

Dates and locations will be announced soon on the CPIRC website. Visit www.CPIRC.org or call (303) 355-5387 for more information.

2007 American Stars of Teaching

The Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative of the U.S. Department of Education is pleased to announce the start of the 2007 American Stars of Teaching nomination process. The American Stars of Teaching program is designed to honor exemplary classroom teachers who are using innovative teaching strategies to improve student achievement and positively shape their school environment.

Every day America's teachers extend themselves beyond their classroom doors to meet the needs of all children in their school community. Don't miss this opportunity to honor a teacher that has made an impact on their students, as well as their school community, by investing in the lives of those they teach and sharing success with whom they work.

Nominations for the 2007 American Stars of Teaching are currently being accepted at www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/index.html.

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The nomination process will conclude on April 1st at which time a committee of teachers at the Department will review the details of each candidate and select the recipients of the 2007 American Stars of Teaching honor.

One teacher from each state and the District of Columbia will be selected as representatives of the many teachers who are making a difference in the lives of students. Officials from the U.S. Department of Education will announce the American Stars by visiting the recipients in the fall of 2007.

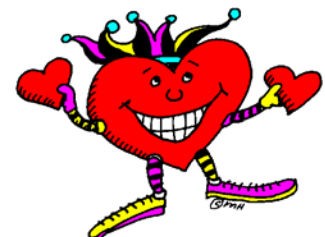
AYP Longitudinal Proposal-continued from page 1

When Safe Harbor calculations are examined longitudinally, the following information was found:

- More districts/schools/subgroups make cohort 10% reduction than longitudinal 10% reduction
- Longitudinal calculations out perform cohort, statewide, only for
 - School level, Reading, Asian
 - District level, Reading, Asian
 - District level, Reading, English Language Learners
- In 2005-2006, if the longitudinal option had existed, no additional schools or districts would have made AYP overall. Individual targets may have been impacted, but not the final determination.

Although the longitudinal 10% reduction may not have an immediate impact on the schools' or districts' ability to make AYP, CDE believes its impact will increase as AYP performance targets rise and that it is important to incorporate longitudinal measures into Colorado's accountability system when assessing school and district progress.

Amendments are due to the USDOE on February 15th. CDE has not received any information about when approval notification will be sent. Additional information will be sent as it becomes available.



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National Title I Distinguished School Academic Achievement

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Sunnyside Elementary School in Durango 9-R

School Data and Description

Sunnyside Elementary has exceeded the 2013-2014 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goal with 100% proficiency in reading and in math. Additionally, based on 2006 CSAP data, 87.27% of all students are proficient or advanced in reading and 78.18% are proficient or advanced in math. The school's poverty rate is 39.66%.

What Worked?

Sunnyside Elementary is a small rural school nine miles south of Durango. A "family environment" is provided with strong ties to the community and parents. Each year, families work together with teachers to create success plans for their children.

Sunnyside serves 132 students, preschool through fifth grade. Preschool and kindergarten are full-day programs. The school offers a developmentally appropriate curriculum, based on the Colorado State Standards, to all students in preschool through fifth grades.

There are several reasons Sunnyside continues to move forward. First, the academic program consists of a balanced approach to how students learn information. For example, the reading program consists of research-based instruction. Reading components include Core Reading (small flexible achievement groups), Guided Reading (small groups which apply skills and strategies) and Shared Reading (small groups or whole classroom with direct teacher instruction). Also incorporated are Silent Sustained Reading (daily independent practice), K-5 small and whole group phonics instruction, Read Naturally, and buddy reading.

In writing, Sunnyside teachers utilize instructional strategies and skills from Step Up To Writing, 6-Traits Writing, along with techniques and strategies from the Colorado Writing Project.

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Sunnyside uses small Core Writing groups in grades four and five, Daily Language Instruction (DLI) K-5, and incorporates writing in all subject areas.

Math concepts and standards are taught and reinforced using the Everyday Math Program. Students also practice "facts" on a daily basis and math activities are integrated in a variety of subject areas.

The future plan is to continue to support programs such as Professional Learning Communities (PLC) and (RTI). PLC allows the school to bring collective teaching skills and experiences together to meet the needs of each student. RTI has also helped the school achieve success by focusing specific interventions on individual student needs.

Outstanding programs, committed parents and community, and dedicated, skilled teachers and staff allow Sunnyside to meet the needs of every child to improve their overall academic achievement. Sunnyside is a school that takes the ordinary and turns it into the extraordinary!

Victor Figueroa, Principal
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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