



# The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 38

March 2007

## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

Districts/BOCES, it's time to pull those Consolidated Federal Programs Application teams together. Registration is now open for the Consolidated Federal Programs Workshops

The annual Consolidated Federal Programs Workshops provide an overview of the online application and electronic budget, as well as individual program and grants fiscal breakout sessions. This year an additional half day has been added to provide new (or new-to) federal program directors with the step-by-step directions for completion of the online application and electronic budget.

To register for one of the following workshops visit [www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms](http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms).

- March 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Pueblo Conference Center
- March 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Greeley – AIMS Event Center
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Denver Four Points Sheraton
- April 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Pagosa Lodge
- April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup> Vail Marriott

Contact Trish Boland [boland\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:boland_t@cde.state.co.us), (303) 866-6998 or Ryan DeHerrera [deherrera\\_r@cde.state.co.us](mailto:deherrera_r@cde.state.co.us), (303) 866-6765 with any questions.

## Allowable Professional Development Activities

Section 9101 of NCLB provides a definition that applies to the professional development activities that can be supported by federal funds. This definition applies to all programs that comprise the Consolidated Application. Among other things, the definition from Section 9101 (34)(A)(v)(I) and (II) states that professional development activities are those that “are high quality, sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused in order to have a positive and lasting impact on classroom instruction and the teacher's performance in the classroom; and are not 1-day or short-term workshops or conferences.”

Several districts have asked about the use of federal funds to support statewide conferences such as CCIRA. The CCIRA conference, like many conferences, can be considered high quality professional development when it is part of the larger plan for the school/district, and includes activities that provide follow-up and sustainability. What is important, then, is for districts to have a comprehensive professional development plan that demonstrates the need for identified conferences and workshops. However, staff also needs to consider that the content of conference sessions often is not solidified until just prior to the event. In these cases, districts should be sure that the breakouts or keynotes specifically support the identified needs. It may be worthwhile for districts to identify potential workshops and conferences in the professional development plan, and then make the final decisions about the use of federal funds to support these after conference details have been finalized.

For the complete definition of Professional Development under NCLB visit: [www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/index.html). Scroll down to *Title IX, General Provisions* to access the applicable statute.

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## New HOUSSE Provisions Available

In February, two new Colorado HOUSSE (Highly Objective Uniform State Standards of Evaluation) provisions were released for (1) multi-subject special education teachers at the secondary level and (2) multi-subject secondary teachers in rural districts. The intent is to afford teachers in these unique positions more flexibility to meet NCLB's highly qualified requirements. These provisions were created by a broad-based group with representatives from human resources, special education, rural districts, urban districts, BOCES, higher education and various other education organizations.

To take advantage of these HOUSSE provisions, LEAs will be able to submit data on eligible teachers through the online HQ Teacher Plan system which will open this month. In the meantime, copies of the HOUSSE rubrics and a Q&A have been posted on the Consolidated Federal Programs website at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/ia.asp>. The forms on the website are available for informational purposes only or for LEAs to use for internal documentation. Contact Lisa Medler at [medler\\_l@cde.state.co.us](mailto:medler_l@cde.state.co.us) or (303) 866-6993 with any questions.

### Gina Has Left the Building

With mixed emotions, the Consolidated Federal Programs unit announces the departure of Gina Salazar. For the past 8 years, Gina has been an integral part of the success of the Title V grant in Colorado. Her smile and contagious laughter will be greatly missed around the office. We wish her the best in her new position at the Texas Department of Education.

The Title V position has been posted on CDE's website at [www.cde.state.co.us/cdemgmt/HR/jobs.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdemgmt/HR/jobs.htm).

Until this position has been filled feel free to contact Tina Tamayo with any questions at (303) 866-6705; [tamayo\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:tamayo_t@cde.state.co.us).

## Technical Assistance for Schoolwide Programs and Plans

The Consolidated Federal Programs Unit is working with an independent consultant to develop a template for Schoolwide Plans. This schoolwide plan template combines the requirements of schoolwide plans with those often associated with school improvement plans that are required as a result of accreditation. Too often schools that operate schoolwide programs have multiple improvement plans, which can dilute the effect of any of the plans on the work of the school staff.

The template under development builds on the planning process that Denver Public Schools recently provided for all their schools. This process puts the school improvement plan at the heart of the document and treats the any additional schoolwide requirements through addendums. This serves to unify the local requirements with federal requirements and give schools a single plan from which to work.

The School Improvement Plan/Schoolwide template should be ready for use by districts and schools by the end of March. The Consolidated Federal Programs Unit is collaborating with the Regional Services Unit to ensure that the template can meet the needs of both groups.

In addition, the Consolidated Federal Programs Unit entered into a contract with an independent consultant to provide technical assistance to districts and schools that either currently operate schoolwide programs and need help to update the schoolwide plans, or assist with the planning process for schools that wish to move to a schoolwide program. Districts or schools that would like information about this technical assistance or request the assistance of the Schoolwide Consultant can contact Trish Boland at (303) 866-6998, [boland\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:boland_t@cde.state.co.us).

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### *Children's Literacy:*

#### *Spanish Language Resources on the Web*

A new link on CDE's website has a large selection of sites to support teachers, parents and librarians as they work with Spanish-speaking children. The site also includes kindergarten readiness, general resources, reading help, and sites for kids.

[www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/ethnic.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/ethnic.htm)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – April 17<sup>th</sup>

Tools for Schools: Embracing Diverse Communities Workshop

Steamboat Springs	March 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Rifle	March 7 <sup>th</sup>
Durango	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Denver	April 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Greeley	April 17 <sup>th</sup>

Visit [www.CPIRC.org](http://www.CPIRC.org) or call (303) 355-5387 for more information.

May 2 - 4, 2007

Brustein & Manasevit 9<sup>th</sup> National Spring Forum  
Washington, DC

For more information visit [www.bruman.com](http://www.bruman.com).

May 7, 2007

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Colorado Reading Summit  
Further information will be made available on the CDE Calendar of Events at [www.cde.state.co.us/cde\\_readsum/index.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cde_readsum/index.htm).

May 13 – 17, 2007

International Reading Association  
52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention  
Toronto, Ontario

For more information visit [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org).



This is the first redesign of FREE since the site was created in 1998. The design is new, but the goal of FREE remains the same: to make it easier for you to find more than 1500 teaching and learning resources available from the federal government.

The new design, launched last month, has improved navigation and images throughout the site. A new "subject map" identifies more than 100 topics and the number of resources for each.

<http://free.ed.gov>



- NCLB Annual Reports were due to CDE by February 28, 2007. Reports can be emailed to [pearson\\_a@cde.state.co.us](mailto:pearson_a@cde.state.co.us) or mailed to Alyssa Pearson, 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
- Complete the online HQ Teacher Plan system for any teachers not Highly Qualified by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Contact Lisa Medler at [medler\\_l@cde.state.co.us](mailto:medler_l@cde.state.co.us) with any questions.

### Colorado Quiz

#### February's Question:

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

Through the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 the United States acquired a vast area which included what is now most of eastern Colorado. By the Treaty of Hidalgo in 1848, Mexico ceded to the United States most of that part of Colorado not acquired by the Louisiana Purchase. In 1850, the Federal Government purchased Texas' claims in Colorado, and the present boundaries of Colorado were established.

#### March's Question:

*What Colorado state animal is the stuff of legend, standing on high as a symbol of our lofty mountains?*

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](http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/pdssp/index.asp)



The **Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative** is pleased to announce its 2007 Summer Workshop Schedule. Regional workshops will be held in 22 cities across the United States to provide free high-quality professional development opportunities for teachers. Prominent educators will share best practices in all grade levels and content areas. Agendas will be posted during January and February and registration begins on April 8, 2007. This year's co-hosts include the National Park Service, NASA, Microsoft, Siemens, EMC, AMD, Symantec, University of Nevada, Motorola, General Motors, and Target.

A 2006 participant commented on his experience saying, "Fantastic. Outstanding. Every session has been thorough and informative." Another participant said, "Its more than what I expected, there is so much information that I am going back with that I want to just use it right now!" And another still commented, "You just get energized and I am very motivated!"

You will not want to miss an opportunity to attend a Teacher-to-Teacher Workshop this upcoming summer! Check with your district about receiving professional development credit for your participation.

Click here to review a full listing of the 2007 Summer Workshop Schedule:

<https://www.t2tweb.us/Workshops/Schedule.asp>

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## REVISIONS FOR CONSOLIDATED APPLICATIONS

A new process has been developed for submitting revisions to the Consolidated Application after the application has received final approval.

The process will require districts to complete an online document, provide authorized signatures via fax, and receive updates via email.

A sub grantee is permitted to re-budget within the approved direct cost budget to meet unanticipated requirements and may make limited program changes to the approved project. However, certain types of post-award changes in budgets and projects shall require the prior written approval of CDE, as listed in the next column.

1. Revisions reflecting final allocations and final carryover amounts including staff not identified by name, need only be changed in budget.
2. All items under OMB Circular A-87 (see link below) that contain requirements for prior approval of certain types of costs. [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a087/a87\\_2004.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a087/a87_2004.html)
3. All equipment items being requested with a unit cost greater than \$500.
4. All transfer of funds allotted for training allowances (i.e., from direct payments to trainees to other expense categories).
5. Any revision of the scope or objectives of the project (regardless of whether there is an associated budget revision requiring prior approval).
6. Need to extend the period of availability of funds (i.e., carryover issues).
7. Changes in key persons in cases where specified in an application or a grant award.
8. Contracting out or otherwise obtaining the services of a third party to perform activities which are central to the purposes of the award.

Revision submissions must be received on or before **March 31, 2007**. To access the new Consolidated Application Post Award Revision page login to the district/BOCES Consolidated Application. There will be an option to access the Post Award Revision site. On this page provide the necessary information that will assist the Federal Program Consultants with approving the revision request.

After completing the necessary sections of the Post Award Revision Page, "Submit" the document to CDE. All revision requests must be accompanied by an updated budget. Submit revised Consolidated Application Electronic Budgets to [electronic\\_budget@cde.state.co.us](mailto:electronic_budget@cde.state.co.us).

After the request is submitted, a new page that summarizes what you provided, and a signature page will be sent. Print this page and fax to Tina Tamayo at (303) 866-6637. Approval will not be provided until the signed authorization page has been received.

If a response to the revision submission has not been received within 30 days contact Tina Tamayo at (303) 866-6705 or email at [tamayo\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:tamayo_t@cde.state.co.us). Notification of approval or denial will be sent to the email address provided.

# National Title I Distinguished School Closing the Achievement Gap

*continued from previous column*



**Shanner Elementary**

## School Data and Description

Shanner Elementary is a rural, agricultural, K-6 school with enrollment of 167 students located two and half hours east of Pueblo. Of its students approximately 81% qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch, 28% are ELL and only 8% migrant population but an annual mobility rate of 25-30% for most classes.

	Percent Partially Proficient, Proficient or Advanced 2004-2005	Percent Partially Proficient, Proficient or Advanced 2005-2006	Improvement from 2004-2005 to 2005-2006
Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	75%	88.19%	13.9%
Students Ineligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	95.35%	100%	4.65%
Decrease in Gap:			8.54%

## What Worked?

Although each teacher may give a slightly different perspective on Shanner's success, overall it would come down to one encompassing concept, Reading First. Not necessarily the Reading First grant, although the school could not have done without the money and high-quality staff development, but to the concept and commitment to changing the school's processes, staff development and coaching models, the use of data, and the allocation of human resources and budgets to ensure that reading comes first for all kids. The staff believes that nothing will determine a child's future more than being a successful reader.

The foundation of Shanner's commitment is established in the school's schedule. Within this schedule two major instructional components are at the nucleus. The first critical component is our Acceleration

Team. Colorado Reading First and Response to Intervention models call it Intervention Teams. Shanner calls it 'acceleration' because it better defines their objectives in closing the achievement gap and students like the concept of accelerating. The Acceleration Team is made up the Literacy Coach, Special Education Teacher, Title I Teacher, Principal and specifically trained ELL, Library and Title I Paraprofessionals. This team is a focused extension of every K-6 classroom providing three differentiated, instructional models to the classroom teacher. The first program is targeted at tier 2 and 3 students and is done through flooded instruction providing supplemental instruction and diagnostic resources. The second program targets a variety of at risk students at all tiers. It involves supplemental programs that take place outside of the classroom both during and after school in order to extend the time for struggling readers. The third program is targeted at the highest need, tier 3 students and is diagnostic, prescriptive, intensive, alternative core extending the amount of intensive instructional time a student needs.

Shanner staff also believes that core to this commitment is the Professional Development Learning Communities (PD time). The PD teams are grouped into K-1, 2-3 and 4-6. Every day teachers have 45-minutes of PD time together. During this time staff studies student's individual needs. This is done through updating the data-boards on Data Wednesdays, talking about student instructional needs on Differentiation Thursdays or meeting with the Literacy Coach, Acceleration Team Leaders or Principal. Teachers need time to learn, collaborate and problem-solve in order to be successful.

Finally, the Shanner community never forgets one major principle; everything, no matter how tough it is, it is not about us, it is all about kids.

## A Plan for the Future

The Acceleration Team model that was created to help with reading will begin a transition/diversification into a math acceleration team. The hope is that there will be a decrease in the number of students in the reading acceleration program thus allowing a shift in human and financial resources to math intervention. The goal is to have a trained, diversified team with resources to be effective in both reading and math interventions.



*continued in next column*

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](http://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](mailto:hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us)**