



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 39

April 2007

EDUCATION NEWS PARENTS CAN USE

Education News Parents Can Use focuses on schools, learning and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. On the third Tuesday of each month during the school year, *Education News* airs live via satellite, offering parents and anyone else with an interest in education vital information about getting involved in children's learning.

The April broadcast (to air April 17, 8 - 9 p.m. ET) will look at how public charter schools and choice options can help to raise student performance. April's show will spotlight innovative options--such as charter schools, free tutoring programs, public school choice and private school scholarships for students in low performing schools--and discuss how these alternatives can empower parents to ensure that their children have access to a high-quality education, regardless of their race, income or zip code. In addition, the April broadcast will feature high-performing charter schools and district-wide school choice programs from across the country.

To learn about viewing options, including webcasts, visit the www.ed.gov/news/av/video/edtv/index.html or call toll-free, 1-800-USA-LEARN.

Accountability for Highly Qualified Teachers in 2006-2007

The end of the 2006-07 school year is fast approaching as is the deadline for having 100% of teachers highly qualified. This requirement has implications for LEA's use of 2007-08 federal funds and the importance of accurate reporting. The following is a summary of LEA requirements:

Online HQ Teacher Plan System

- The Consolidated Federal Programs unit has downloaded all records from the 2006-07 HR Data Collection where the core content teacher is not highly qualified. LEAs must submit a plan for each of these teachers through the online Highly Qualified Teacher system. All records need to have an approved plan by the time the system closes on April 30, 2007.
- HQ data must be finalized in the HR system (to reopen in summer 2007). LEAs will need to reload any new data, such records approved for HOUSSE, recoded data, or valid licenses backdated prior to December 1, 2006.

Consolidated Application and HQ Teachers

There are new HQ Requirements in the 2007-08 Consolidated Application including:

- Applications will not be given Final Approval until all non-Highly Qualified classrooms have an approved plan through the online HQ Teacher Plan system.
- Districts will need to verify that all core content area teachers hired with NCLB funds are Highly Qualified (Table 15 in the Consolidated Application).
- HQ teachers that were included in the 2006 HR Collection and will be teaching the same content area in 2007-08 can be easily imported into the Consolidated Application.

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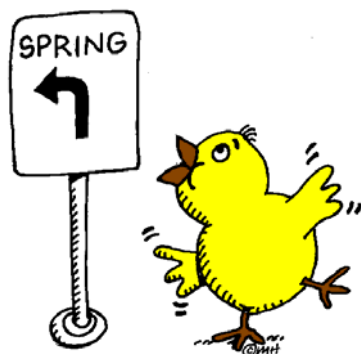
Parent and Youth Leadership Institute Keystone Resort, May 25-27, 2007

The Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition's (CSPC) Annual Family Conference has been put on hold for one year and in its place CSPC will be sponsoring a Parent and Youth Leadership Institute. The Leadership Institute is designed to equip a select group of parent and youth leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to assist their school's parent engagement efforts. This invitation has also been extended to pre-school and Head Start programs. CSPC is planning for a total of 250 parent participants and up to 100 youth leaders. The training will concentrate on educational issues including NCLB parent involvement requirements, Adequate Yearly Progress, school governance, activities to help parent leaders with outreach strategies, etc.

Registration fees cover all conference costs including workshops, lodging for two nights and meals for the 2½ day institute as well as all of the other institute activities. Please note that there will be no child care provided at the Institute. As parents are recruited to attend the Institute, please inform them that they should not bring children that require adult supervision. CSPC is encouraging parents who have middle or high school youth to bring them along so that they can participate in the Youth Leadership Institute.

The Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition will also be contacting families who have participated in past conferences to encourage them to contact their school principal or special program director/coordinator for a sponsorship to the conference. Title I and Title III funds may be used to sponsor parents to attend the Institute.

CSPC requests registration be submitted by April 15th. For more information on registration and costs visit www.coparentcoalition.org.



- Core content area teachers who are new to the district or are new to their content area will require a data submission to show that these teachers are HQ in their assignment.

In planning for the 2007-08 Consolidated Application, districts should consider:

- The number of HQ teachers. Title I HQ set aside and the Title IIA funds should be focused on bringing all teachers to HQ status.
- Any inequities in placement of non-Highly Qualified teachers throughout the district. For example, Title I schools should not have lower percentages of Highly Qualified or experienced teachers than other schools. Districts should analyze their data based on poverty rates of schools, minority population, ELL population, content areas, etc.

HQ Equity Analysis

As a part of a required HQT report to the USDE, CDE analyzed the 2005-06 state Highly Qualified classroom data to identify any inequities in distribution of Highly Qualified classrooms statewide. The analysis is enabling CDE to direct state level funds and activities in support of the 100% Highly Qualified goal. Some of the gaps we found were:

| | Elem. | Middle | High | Overall |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Classrooms | 92.11% | 91.61% | 95.03% | 92.62% |
| Title I Schools | 91.58% | 88.54% | 90.57% | 91.14% |
| High Impact ELL | 88.20% | 87.20% | 90.10% | 88.20% |
| High Poverty Schools (58.06% FRL) | 89.63% | 90.33% | 91.93% | 89.94% |
| High Minority Schools | 89.59% | 91.34% | 93.84% | 90.58% |
| Schools on Improvement | 86.80% | 89.33% | 91.75% | 87.88% |
| Math Classes | NA | 88.51% | 94.55% | 90.97% |
| Science Classes | NA | 94.92% | 97.09% | 95.77% |
| NW Region | 89.91% | 87.32% | 93.06% | 89.94% |

For complete data and Colorado's HQ State Equity Plan visit www.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/hqtplans/index.html#co.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2nd – April 17th

Tools for Schools: Embracing Diverse Communities Workshop.

The following is the remaining date.

Greeley April 17th

Visit www.CPIRC.org or call (303) 355-5387 for more information.

April 2nd – May 1st

Consolidated Federal Programs Workshops

To register for one of the remaining workshops visit www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms.

April 24th – 25th Pagosa Lodge

April 30th – May 1st Vail Marriott

April 15 – 21st

National Library Week

For more information visit

www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/download/pdf/LibraryWeek07.pdf.

May 2nd – 4th

Brustein & Manasevit 9th National Spring Forum
Washington, DC

For more information visit www.bruman.com.

May 7th

3rd Annual Colorado Reading Summit

For more information visit

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

May 13th – 17th

International Reading Association

52nd Annual Convention

Toronto, Ontario

For more information visit www.reading.org.

June 24th – 27th

Rocky Mountain Institute: Raising the Bar:
Narrowing the Gap for All, Some, and Few!

For more information visit

www.bettereducator.com

July 26th – 27th

Tejas LEE 2007
Summer Conference
San Antonio, Texas



- NCLB Annual Reports were due to CDE by February 28, 2007. For more information contact Alyssa Pearson at pearson_a@cde.state.co.us.
- Complete the online HQ Teacher Plan system for any teachers not Highly Qualified by April 30th. For more information contact Lisa Medler at medler_l@cde.state.co.us.
- Acceptance, Relinquishment and Assignment Forms* <http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/ConApp/download/certform0708.doc> are due June 1, 2007. Sign and fax to Tina Tamayo at (303) 866-6637.
- The Consolidated Federal Programs Application is due June 30, 2007. The application will be available online by May 4th. Frequently asked questions from the workshops will be highlighted in the May issue of The Buzz.

Colorado Quiz

March's Question:

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

The Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep is found only in the Rockies, usually above timberline in rugged areas. The herd that shows off its sure-footedness on the cliffs above Georgetown is perhaps the best known, but there are also herds near Durango, outside Grand Junction, just west of Colorado Springs and in the Poudre Canyon, west of Fort Collins.

April's Question:

What do the colors in the State flag symbolize?

The answer will be revealed in next month's Buzz as well as on the Professional Development and School Support (PDSSP) website <http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/PDSSP/index.asp>.

ELA Directors Academy:
Preparing ELLs to Succeed in the 21st Century
May 18, 2007

The English Language Acquisition Unit (ELAU) requests your participation in the Inaugural ELA Academy to ensure that all limited English proficient students are achieving academic success.

Who should attend?

ELA Directors
ELA Coordinators

Attend sessions on:

- ❖ Title III
- ❖ Migrant Education/Binational Programs
- ❖ Parent Involvement
- ❖ CELA/ELD standards
- ❖ CFIRS monitoring/School-wide plans
- ❖ ELL School Plans
- ❖ Newcomer Programs
- ❖ ELLs and CSAP
- ❖ Identification, placement, programming, and re-designation of ELLs
- ❖ ELL Accommodations
- ❖ ELLs and literacy skills

Featured Speakers:

Dr. Jamal Abedi, Professor of Education
University of California

Dr. Kathy Escamilla, Professor of Education
University of Colorado Boulder

Lynda Franco, Independent Consultant

The Academy will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver. For more information visit www.cde.state.co.us/cde_english/download/Events/ELA%20academy%20flyer%20save%20the%20date.pdf.

TEACHER TO TEACHER INITIATIVE



The Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative was designed by teachers for teachers in order to provide technical support, professional development opportunities, and recognition for teachers of all content areas and grade levels.

As part of this initiative, there are teacher workshops which offer educators a free opportunity to participate in high-quality professional development

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designed to provide classroom support, technical assistance, and the increased collaboration needed to ensure academic success for all students. Specific workshop locations are available at www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/index.html.

There will be a workshop in Estes Park on July 19th and 20th. Registration opens on April 8th.

**Leveraging Literacy:
Increasing Your Return on Investment**



Monday, May 7, 2007

We would like to extend an invitation to you to attend the third annual Colorado Reading Summit "Leveraging Literacy: Increasing Your Return on Investment". On May 7, 2007, Colorado educators and district leaders will come together to listen and discuss how to maximize their reading dollars while improving student reading achievement.

Several Colorado and National schools and districts have demonstrated extraordinary student reading achievement using their state and federal resources more efficiently. Please come and meet these educators and reading leaders.

This year, **all** educators are welcome to this full-day Reading Summit where sessions will highlight:

- Reading Power Standards
- Professional Development in Literacy
- Reading Assessments
- Language Arts Materials and Instruction

Please note, Title I funds may be used for this conference if it aligns with the school or district's professional development plan.

For more information on the Summit or to register visit www.cde.state.co.us/cde_readsum/index.htm.



E-RATE

In recent months, Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has received additional guidance from the Federal Communication Commission regarding the administration of the E-rate program. The FCC has acknowledged the difficulty applicants have had navigating through this program and have begun looking into simplification.

Below is a summary of the new orders issued by the FCC along with a link to the entire order. Adams 14 obviously affects Colorado. However, the other orders listed below affect E-rate as a program, thus all districts in Colorado.

Adams County School District 14

In this Order, the FCC grants requests of 66 schools and libraries, collectively for review of decisions by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) denying applications for discounted services under the schools and libraries universal service mechanism (also known as the E-rate program) on the grounds that they violated the Commission's requirement that a legally binding agreement be in place when the FCC Form 471 application is submitted. The FCC also grant six appeals from applicants whose funding commitments were reduced on the grounds that an existing contract expired without the applicant posting a new FCC Form 470 for services to be provided for the remainder of the funding year. To ensure that the underlying applications are resolved expeditiously, the FCC directs USAC to complete its review of each application listed in Appendices A and B and issue an award or denial based upon a complete review and analysis no later than 90 days from the release of this Order.

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-35A1.doc

Brownsville Independent School District

In this Order, the FCC grants appeals by 32 schools and libraries collectively, of decisions by

the USAC that reduced or denied them funding from the schools and libraries E-rate program. Specifically, the FCC waives, in part, the technology plan rules and remands the underlying applications to USAC for further consideration consistent with this Order. To ensure that the remanded applications are resolved expeditiously, the FCC directs USAC to complete its review of each application listed in the Appendix, and issue an award or a denial based on a complete review and analysis, no later than 90 calendar days from release of this Order. In addition, beginning with applications for Funding Year 2007, the FCC directs USAC to enhance its outreach efforts as described herein to better inform applicants of the technology plan requirements and to provide applicants with a 15-day opportunity to provide correct technology plan documentation.

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-37A1.doc

Alpaugh Unified School District

In this Order, the FCC grants 78 appeals of decisions by the USAC reducing or denying funding from the schools and E-rate program on the grounds that applicants failed to respond to USAC's requests for information within the specified time frame. As explained below, in each case the FCC finds good cause to grant the appeals and remand the underlying applications associated with these appeals to USAC for further action consistent with this Order. To ensure that the underlying applications are resolved expeditiously, the FCC directs USAC to complete its review of each application listed in the Appendix and issue an award or denial based upon a complete review and analysis no later than 120 days from the release of this Order. In addition, the FCC directs USAC to develop outreach procedures designed to better inform applicants of the additional information that may be needed and to provide applicants with a 15-day opportunity to respond to such request.

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-36A1.doc

For additional information, contact DeLilah Collins collins_d@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6850.

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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