



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 41

June 2007

2008 Distinguished Title I Teacher of the Year

Start thinking about your Title I teacher nominations now! Yes, it's the end of the 2006-2007 school year and things are hurried but what a great way to honor one of your many wonderful teachers. The revised 2008 application will be available soon (summer 2007). The selected teacher(s) will receive statewide recognition and a check for \$5,000. We are also considering awarding a Title I Principal/Administrator of the Year. Look for updates in August. For more information on this program and to read about Shelia Perez, the 2007 Title I Distinguished Teacher visit www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/awards/index.asp



AYP TO MEASURE LONGITUDINAL PROGRESS

In February, the Consolidated Federal Programs (CFP) submitted an amendment to the USDE to create an additional safe harbor measure. Last week, CFP was given approval to use a longitudinal safe harbor measure in the 2006-2007 AYP determinations.

The longitudinal safe harbor target will be an additional option for districts/schools/disaggregated groups that do not make performance or regular safe harbor targets, in order to make AYP overall. The target is still a 10% reduction in the percent non-proficient (same as regular safe harbor). But instead of comparing 2006 students in the school to 2007 students in the school, the comparison will be of students in the school for both years. For example, in a K-5 elementary school, the 3rd and 4th graders in 2006 will be compared to those exact student's scores in 4th and 5th grade in 2007. Thus, the measure will be more reflective of the school's actual impact on individual students, as opposed to being influenced by specific cohorts.

This is an exciting new option as it adds more validity and robustness to AYP determinations. However, when last year's AYP data was run with this option, only 7 additional schools would have made AYP. So, a tremendous impact on AYP determinations is not expected. But for those schools it does impact, it will recognize the significant work done with struggling students.

Training dates to discuss the new calculations will be announced later this summer. The AYP Calculator and all supporting materials will be revised to include this new option. All updates will be sent to the district's AYP contact. To re-assign or update the district's contact, complete the "AYP ADE Respondent Form" at: www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/AYP/index.asp For additional questions contact Alyssa Pearson at pearson_a@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6855.

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READ TO ACHIEVE

Request for Proposals

Approximately **\$4.5 million** in **Read to Achieve** grant funding will be available to eligible elementary schools, including charter and Institute Charter schools, and/or groups of eligible schools (consortia) to fund research-based, intensive reading programs during the 2007 - 2008 school year. The new **Request for Proposal (RFP)** and **Eligible Schools List** are now available on the Read to Achieve website at www.cde.state.co.us/cdecomp/r2a.htm. Completed applications are due **Wednesday, June 27th**. Contact Kim Burnham with any questions burnham_k@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6916.

Family Literacy

Request for Proposals

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for FY08 Family Literacy Education Fund grants will be posted on CDE's Adult Education and Family Literacy Web page the week of June 4th. For more information on the grant and a copy of the RFP visit http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_adult.htm and click on "Colorado Family Literacy Education Fund."

SAVE THE DATE
Fall Director's Meeting
Metro Area
September 12th and 13th
Location TBD

OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATORS TEACHING 4TH AND 5TH GRADES

The Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McCREL) is seeking Colorado schools and teachers to participate in a U.S. Department of Education funded study of **Classroom Assessment for Student Learning (CASL)**. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the CASL professional development program for enhancing teacher assessment literacy, improving classroom assessment practices, and raising student achievement.

This program is designed to help teachers:

- Use a variety of strategies to not only measure, but also promote, student learning;
- Accurately assess what students know and don't know;
- Set learning targets and make them clear to students; and
- Involve students in classroom assessment, record-keeping and communication.

The study encompasses two school years (2007-2008 and 2008-2009). In order to participate in the study, teachers must sign up as a team. The teams must meet these criteria:

- All team members must teach students in grades 4 or 5;
- Each team must contain 3-6 members; and
- All team members must teach at the same school.

Participants in the study will receive the following benefits:

- All participating teachers will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win an expense-paid trip to the Assessment Training Institute 2009 summer conference on classroom assessment.
- Teachers will receive a monetary incentive for their participation.
- All teachers training with CASL are eligible to receive up to four hours of graduate-level credit from the University of Colorado at Denver for a \$50 per credit hour fee.
- Schools will receive the CASL materials free of charge or the equivalent retail value of the CASL materials.

For more information contact Mya Martin-Glenn at (303) 632-5503, mcrelresearch@mcrel.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 1st

The Colorado Department of Education welcomes our newest Commissioner, Dwight Jones.

June 16th

Colorado Arts Education Summit
9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Denver School of the Arts
For more information and registration, call (720) 865-4312 or visit www.denvergov.org/artsedsummit.

June 19th – 22nd

Technology in Education (T.I.E.) Conference at Copper Mountain. For more information visit <http://tiecolorado.org/2007/index.cfm>

July 11th – 12th

Summer Institute on Student Progress Monitoring
Nashville, TN
For more information visit www.studentprogress.org.

July 19th – 20th

USDOE Teacher to Teacher Initiative, Estes Park
For more information visit www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/index.html.

July 26th – 27th

Tejas LEE 2007
Summer Conference
San Antonio, Texas

August 1st – 3rd

38th Annual CASE Convention
Breckenridge
For more information visit <http://www.co-case.org>.



- [Acceptance, Relinquishment and Assignment Forms](#) are due June 1, 2007. Sign and fax to Tina Tamayo at (303) 866-6637.
- Districts with schools potentially entering into 1st or 2nd Year Improvement must submit a draft of its School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES) notification to parents to Laura Hensinger hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us by June 30th. For districts with schools that were required to offer choice or SES last year, the letters were reviewed and approved and do not need to be resubmitted.
- The Consolidated Federal Programs Application is due June 30, 2007. The application is available at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/consapp/index.asp.
- Schools with 2006-2007 Title I School Improvement Grant must submit the Year 2 plan to their Title I Liaison on or before August 3rd. Year 1 funds must be spent by September 30th. Any carryover should be approved by the school's Title I Liaison.

Colorado Quiz

May's Question:

Who designed the State flag?

Andrew Carlisle Carson



June's Question:

When did Women get the right to vote in Colorado?

The answer will be revealed in next month's Buzz as well as on the PDSSP website at www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/pdssp/index.asp.

RURAL SECONDARY LITERACY PROJECT

The Colorado Department of Education, through a collaboration of units within CDE, are implementing a Rural Secondary Literacy Project. The project was established to assist rural districts in developing a comprehensive multi-tiered system of literacy supports in middle and high schools that results in increased student achievement. The goal is to develop model examples of successful rural secondary literacy school and/or district sites through the implementation of a technical assistance model with data collection to determine effectiveness. Sites were selected using specific criteria including demonstration of being a rural school district serving less than 2,000 students in grades 6 through 12 or a consortium in which each district or school serves less than 2,000 students in grades 6 through 12 and an established literacy need at the secondary level, including students with disabilities. Twelve sites representing 7 regions in Colorado were selected:

- Wiggins RE-50(J) and Prairie RE11 Consortium
- Eaton RE-2
- Woodlin R-104
- South Conejos RE-1
- Alamosa RE-11J
- Sierra Grande R-30
- Park County Re-2
- Spanish Peaks-Fishers Peak Consortium (Aguilar RE- 6 , Primero RE-2, La Veta RE-2, Hoehne RE-3, Trinidad 1)
- Fremont RE-2
- Pikes Peak Consortium (Big Sandy 100J, Calhan RJ-1, Cripple Creek Victor RE-1, Edison 54JT, Elbert 200, Ellicott 22, Hanover 28, Miami Yoder 60JT, Peyton 23JT)
- Lamar School District RE-2
- De Beque 49 JT

These sites will receive assistance to develop and implement key critical components of a secondary literacy model including 1) the development of instructional leadership teams, 2) professional development on literacy for general and special education staff, 3) implementation of scientific research-based interventions, and 4) systematic progress monitoring of student literacy achievement over the next three years.

Access to Online Databases in Schools Can Increase CSAP Scores

Did you know? Students with the most school-wide access to licensed databases achieve 18-25% higher CSAP reading scores than students with the least access to such databases. Scores may be even higher if the school librarian collaborates with teachers and technology specialists on using these library-based resources with students.

Schools can help students and save money by taking advantage of the reduced statewide price agreements negotiated by the Colorado State Library's AIRS Committee. The cost ranges from \$218 to \$567 per year, per building, based on grade level and population served. Without this statewide cost-saving agreement, schools would pay as much as \$3,000 per year. Subscribing to the print versions of these online resources would cost a library more than \$58,000 per year! And even better, the Colorado State Library is making a special offer to schools that were not subscribers this year. They can subscribe to these databases next year at ½ the list price!

This eight-database package includes resources for students, teachers, and parents, including:

- Over 500 full-text magazines for students
- More than 84,700 biographies, 100,000 primary source documents, and 235,000 photos and maps
- Selected articles from 25 national and 260 regional newspapers
- More than 139,800 articles on current events topics
- Consumer health reference books and articles from health magazines
- A professional collection of articles and reports for teachers and educators
- A direct link on every screen to the [AskColorado](http://www.askcolorado.org) online help service, for 24/7 live assistance from librarians on using the databases

Schools can sign up now for subscriptions running from July 2007-June 2008. Pricing details, an FAQ and descriptions of the databases are available at: www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/committees/airs/ebscodb.html or contact Jay Ford at (303) 751-6277, jford@bcr.org.

2006-07 Highly Qualified Teacher Data Collection Update

Everyday, Colorado inches closer to the 2006-2007 target of 100% highly qualified (HQ) teachers. The online collection of HQ Teacher plans is just about wrapped up. The HQ data will then be finalized during the 2006-2007 HR Collection which reopens during the summer. If districts submit all data as negotiated with the Consolidated Federal Programs (CFP) unit, then our state will reflect 98% of core content teachers as HQ.

Most Current Numbers and Percentages on Highly Qualified Teachers

	Total #	%	Notes
All Core Content Records	40,823	--	--
Confirmed HQ Records	40,159	98.37%	Includes records that used HOUSSE and that need to be revised in 2006-07 HR Collection
Confirmed Non-HQ	516	1.26%	Each record has an individual plan that has been reviewed and approved by the state
In-Progress	148	0.36%	CDE is currently working with districts to get an approved plan

* Preliminary 06-07 data. Data will be finalized until August.

CDE has reviewed each HQ teacher plan and assigned an approval code. The following explains the codes and necessary district action:

2 -- Approved HOUSSE rubric

Pertains to elementary, rural and special education HOUSSE provisions and means that CDE has approved the teacher for HOUSSE. This data will be submitted to ADE for the HR Collection. Districts must reaccept this data in the HR Collection to take advantage of the changes.

3 -- Approved Data Change and District Must Resubmit New Data to the HR Collection

The district submitted a change in the teacher's records (e.g., reassignment, elementary, took an approved test in another state) and CDE has approved this change. The district must change this data in their HR submission by

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Do all paraprofessionals have to meet the definition of highly qualified?

All paraprofessionals in a **Title I schoolwide program**, without regard to whether the position is funded with Federal, State, or local funds must meet the definition of highly qualified. In a **Title I targeted assistance program**, only paraprofessionals funded with Title I, Part A funds must be highly qualified.

The following are Consolidated Application Updates and Reminders:

- Section 15 has a new functionality on the bottom of the page which enables applicants to download a Microsoft Excel version of Core Content Teachers to copy and paste into the Electronic Budget.
- All core content teachers funded with NCLB funds must be considered Highly Qualified. Therefore, applications that contain TBD (to be determined) either in Section 15 or in the Electronic Budget will not be eligible for Final Approval. Additionally, the application will not be eligible for Final Approval if Section 15 and the Electronic Budget do not match for Core Content Teachers.
- Double-check that programs are reflected accurately in Section 1 (i.e., "Accept", "Decline," or "Signover"). Call the Helpline (303) 866-4814 or Tina Tamayo (303) 866-6705, if there are any errors.
- District and Private schools listed in the drop-down boxes of Title I Data Table 6 (Add New) are now sorted by name.
- When logging in, use the mouse to click on the "Submit Button". The enter key does not always work for logging in.
- LEA's can now access last year's application in a printable format. The 2006-2007 printable application can be accessed at www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/consapp. Click on "Online Consolidated Federal Programs Application - 0607 Application Review" link. LEA's can use either the 06-07 or 07-08 entry code.

resetting the 2006-07 submission and resubmitting the district with the approved change(s).

4 -- Approved Teacher Plan, but Not yet Considered Highly Qualified

The district has submitted a plan for the teacher to become HQ. CDE has approved this plan. The district must continue to work with the teacher to ensure that the plan is followed.

5 -- CDE Data Change

CDE's data has changed to make the teacher HQ (e.g., license was approved, teacher passed the PLACE test). This data will be submitted to ADE for the HR Collection by CDE. Districts must reaccept this data in the HR Collection to take advantage of the changes.

8 -- Record No Longer Relevant

Teachers have left the district or have been reassigned to a non-core area. The district must change this data in their HR submission by resetting their 2006-07 submission and resubmitting district with the approved change(s).

9 -- Teacher Plan Not Accepted by CDE

The plan needs additional information before CDE can accept it. The district should resubmit a plan to the online HQ Teacher Plan system.



RESOURCES FOR SUMMER READING

The Colorado State Library has gathered some of the many resources that can help districts/schools quickly and easily reach out to parents and caregivers to encourage children to keep up important literacy skills during the summer.

Activities (for holidays and vacations) Parents and Children Can Do Together

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

Communication & Technology for Kids

A handout summarizing the idea of "information literacy" as it applies to little ones. It lists public libraries with free telephone stories, five interesting Internet sites for preschoolers and primary grades to learn how to use a computer while practicing reading and writing.

www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/download/pdf/CSL_%20SitesOnKids.pdf

Free Resources for Early Childhood Literacy

Most of these are Internet sites. The emphasis is on "how-to" along with easy activities for parents, caregivers, preschools, and other groups. Materials can be printed. A number are in Spanish!

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

Prevent Summer Setback

A handout for teachers or parents on helping students to read all year long.

www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/SummerReading/Downloads/pdf/preventsummersetback_english07.pdf

Spanish version:

www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/SummerReading/Downloads/pdf/preventsummersetback_spanish07.pdf

Spanish Language Resources on the Web-Children's Literacy:

Support for teachers, parents and librarians. It is in Spanish and is a good way to introduce the Internet.

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

Summer Literacy Activities

Links to several quick and succinct resources.

www.kidsliteracycolorado.douglascountylibraries.org/summer.htm

For more information contact the Colorado State Library at (303) 866-6900;

www.cde.state.co.us/index_library.htm.

Colorado Department of Education
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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