



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 43

September 2007

GOOD NEWS *for Schools on Improvement*

Consolidated Federal Programs has completed a total of 74 School Support Team (SST) reviews since its conception in 2003.

The Title I School Improvement Grant will again be offered for the 2007-2008 school year. All schools on Improvement are eligible for the grant; however, due to limited funding, awards will be made on a first come, first served basis.

Funding for the grant is disseminated in two parts. A Year One grant is awarded in the amount of \$50,000 to fund a SST review of the school program. The remaining funds (approximately \$30,000) will be awarded to the school to support a debriefing of the report with school staff, planning and initial implementation of short-term recommendations.

Schools will then receive Year Two grant ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in June 2008 to address the major areas of need as identified by the external review.

For information on the effectiveness of the program click on *Title I School Improvement Grant: from Analysis to Achievement* at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/schimp_tia.asp. Apply now by simply completing an *Intent Form* available at the above web link. For more information contact Laura Hensinger at (303) 866-6675, hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us.

Nominate a Title I Teacher for the 2007 Distinguished Teacher Award!

We need YOU to nominate a distinguished Title I teacher today. The *Colorado Distinguished Title I Teacher Award* annually recognizes teachers from Title I schools who demonstrate outstanding commitment and excellence in teaching. In addition to recognition as distinguished teachers, each of the award recipients will receive **\$5,000** in honor of their achievement. Nominations are due to CDE by November 5, 2007. Applications are available at:

www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/awards/index.asp.

Colorado standards for identifying Title I Distinguished Teachers incorporate what research reveals about excellent teachers. This research recognizes the importance of documenting a high level of academic growth for all students, as well as leadership in the school and community. Therefore the standards focus on evidence of the individual's ability to work:

- *With students*, such as eliciting a high level of academic growth, and determining students' needs and differentiating instruction based on those needs.
- *Within her/his subject area*, such as staying abreast of new information and research within their subject area.
- *With parents and community*, such as effectively communicating with parents and contributing to the school community beyond the classroom.

Contact Lisa Medler (medler_l@cde.state.co.us; 303-866-6993) with additional questions regarding the nomination process.



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COLORADO FEDERAL INTEGRATED REVIEW SYSTEM FOR 2007-2008

The Colorado Federal Integrated Review System (C-FIRS) schedule for 2007-2008 has been developed. This represents both integrated site visits and desk reviews. Of the five districts selected for on-sites in the 2007-2008 school year, two were selected based on an internal risk assessment, and the others were selected through a random selection process. The five districts receiving integrated site reviews are:

Ft. Morgan – Week of November 5th, 2007
Adams 14 – Week of December 10th, 2007
Brighton – Week of January 21st, 2008
San Luis Valley BOCES – Week of April 7, 2008
Delta – Week of May 12th

A desk review schedule will be available at the NCLB Directors Meeting on September 11-12, as well as through an email to all NCLB contacts. The schedule will also be posted on the NCLB Federal Programs website:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/monitoring.asp>

Title I Program Improvement: Corrective Action Phase

Districts Moving Into Corrective Action

There are currently 12 Colorado school districts that may move into the next stage of accountability at the district level regarding Title I Program Improvement, the Corrective Action phase. In accordance with NCLB, districts that fail to make AYP for five years in a row must be identified for Corrective Action.

Consolidated Federal Programs (CFP) has made a concerted effort to respond to feedback from districts to distinguish between districts that missed a small number of targets and those districts which missed a larger number of targets. There will also be a differentiation in how districts will be required to respond based on performance level. The Corrective Action table is available at http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/leaimp_lca.asp.

Preliminary AYP determinations for the 06-07 are now available. Districts can use that data, and Corrective Action table to determine their AYP Performance level. If the district does not intend

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to appeal the AYP determinations, efforts can begin to create the plan that corresponds with the their Performance Level.

Final determinations will be made by the end of September at which time districts will be notified of their final AYP Performance Level and the corresponding plan will need to be developed.

According to NCLB, districts have 90 days after final determinations are made to submit a plan to CDE. Thus Corrective Plans are due to CDE no later than December 29, 2007.

Districts that fall into the “High” or “Good” AYP Performance Level will use the same format to develop their Corrective Action plan as they have in the past for completing their Program Improvement plan. See the Corrective Action table for further details.

Districts that fall into the “Fair” AYP Performance Level will be required to attend an information session regarding the self evaluation process and procedures. Districts will be informed of the date and location of the information session once final determinations are made.

We will be contacting districts that fall into the “Low” category regarding the scheduling of a CADi visit or a similar review by another independent evaluator. Corrective Action Plan due dates for this group will be based on the date of the “evaluation”.

Districts Entering Year 2 of Corrective Action

Those districts that are moving into year two of Corrective Action can continue the work from the approved Corrective Action Plan developed last year. Once final determinations are made a request will be sent out to districts for a progress report. The district may report that they will be continuing with the corrective action plan already in place. Or the district may amend/update the plan to address new identified needs. The assumption is that the plan submitted for the first year of corrective action is still in place unless the district chooses to amend it or if additional AYP targets have been missed and need to be addressed.

Districts moving into a different AYP performance level than in the previous year will be dealt with on a case by case basis depending on interventions already in place from the previous year.

Contact Brad Bylsma at (303) 866-6937, bylsma_b@cde.state.co.us with any questions.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 3rd
Colorado Department of Education
is closed for Labor Day.

September 18th
New Principals' Seminar
Colorado Department of Education, State Board
Room, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
For more information contact Ai Dam at
(303) 866-6678.

October 25th
NCLB Committee of Practitioners
Future meetings will be held January 17th and
April 17th. Meetings are from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Locations and agendas will be shared at a later
date, however, the October meeting will be held at
CDE.

January 31 – February 3, 2008
National Title I Meeting
Nashville, TN
For more information visit
www.nationaltitleiconference.com

March 14, 2008
3rd Annual Colorado Statewide Pre-Collegiate
Conference
Auraria Higher Education Center, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
For more information contact Gully Stanford at
gully.stanford@cic.state.co.us, (720) 264-8563.

April 17th – 18th, 2008
2nd Annual 2008 ELA Academy
Location has yet to be determined.

DIRECTORS MEETING

September 11th and 12th
Sheraton Four Points Hotel
To register visit

www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/nclb/fdmtg.asp



- Schools that are in Year 2 of the School Improvement Grant must have funds spent by September 30, 2007 and requested from CDE by October 15, 2007. No carryover will be allowed. Contact the school's Title I liaison with any questions.
- Submit any modifications to your district's Consolidated Application and/or budget for final approval. Contact the helpline for general questions at (303) 866-4814, consolidatedapplications@cde.state.co.us. For specific program questions for final approval, contact the program consultant listed in the comment log.
- Districts that have schools in 2nd Year of Improvement or beyond must send a letter regarding Supplemental Services to eligible students by October 1st. A signed copy of the letter must also be sent [1560 Broadway, Suite 1450, Denver 80202] or faxed [(303) 866-6637] to CDE by October 5th. Forward questions to Laura Hensinger at (hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us)

Colorado Quiz

August's Question:

What Native American Groups have called Colorado home? Big Game hunters occupied parts of Colorado by 9200 B.C. The Anasazi developed their great cliff dwelling culture from 1 A. D. to 1200 A. D. Many other Name American groups have lived in Colorado including Utes, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Pawnee and the Sioux.

September's Question:

What was the First Permanent European Settlement in Colorado?

For the answer to September's question read next month's Buzz and/or visit the Professional Development and School Support (PDSSP) website at

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

Technological Literacy for 8th Grade Students

Over the last two years, CDE has worked with technology directors and ET-IL coordinators to ensure that the district has plans to meet the NCLB requirement of ensuring that all students are technologically literate by the time they leave the 8th grade. The U.S. Department of Education is requiring each state to report progress toward that goal.

This spring, each district will be required to report the technological literacy of 8th grade students to CDE. This requirement has been issued by the U.S. Department of Education and will be required annually until states are notified otherwise. The collection will likely take place in fall of 2008 based on spring, 2008 results. CDE will provide an online collection process for submission of district data.

Guidelines have been created and disseminated to Technology Directors and District Assessment Coordinators. These guidelines are intended to assist districts through this process and CDE expects districts to make a reasonable effort to address the standards provided so that assessments given, while different, can be focused around the same standards.

Contact your district technology director for additional information regarding your districts progress towards this reporting requirement.

Highly Qualified Teacher Results & Reminders

A big round of applause to teachers and districts on the 2006-07 highly qualified teacher results. Colorado has 98% of core content classroom being taught by highly qualified teachers. Consolidated Federal Programs will continue to take a closer look at the HQ data and share results at the NCLB Director's meeting.

Now turning to the new school year, there are a few things that need to occur annually in relation to the highly qualified issue:

- Principals in Title I schools must sign an attestation stating that they are complying with the HQ rules. This document must be made available at the school and district office to the public, upon request.
- Parents in Title I schools need to be informed of their Right to Know teacher qualifications. This information can be shared through newsletters or events like Back-to-School night.
- If there are any core content teachers in Title I schools for four-weeks or longer, parents need to be notified that their child is being taught by a non-HQ teacher.

For examples and templates visit:

www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/nclb/tia.asp, or contact Lisa Medler at medler_l@cde.state.co.us, (303) 866-6993.

*Did you miss the last Buzz?
Or would you like to read recent
articles written about a
particular topic? Visit
www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms*

[/Buzz/index.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/Buzz/index.asp)



*Send an email to
Hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us to be
on The Buzz mailing list*

Adequate Yearly Progress Update

The ADE AYP system will be open until September 13th for districts to submit revised data based on school appeals. All data in ADE on the 13th at 5 p.m. will be considered final and will not be changed. Please double check your schools' data and determinations before September 13th.

The deadline for district appeals to be submitted to CDE has passed. We are working on processing appeals as quickly (and accurately) as possible. All appeals will be final by September 27th. School and district determinations will be released to the public at the beginning of October.

For questions contact Russ Masco (masco_r@cde.state.co.us, 303-866-6306) or Alyssa Pearson (pearson_a@cde.state.co.us, 303-866-6855).

Constitution Day @ your library®

The United States government mandates that September 17th be observed as Constitution and Citizenship Day to commemorate the September 17, 1787, signing of the U.S. Constitution.

All educational institutions, including institutions of higher education that receive federal funding from the Department of Education are required to hold an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution. The law mandates the general topic and date of the program; however, it gives each institution flexibility to act independently in how it provides the program. Most years Constitution Day will be celebrated on September 17th; however, if September 17th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, Constitution Day may be celebrated during the preceding or following week.

Colorado's libraries are proud to be involved in Constitution Day and perform a major public service. Libraries continue their critical role as the foundation of our democracy, showcasing important resources for all citizens, and demonstrating that libraries are strong supporters of our country's values.

The Colorado State Library has worked closely with the Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) to identify numerous resources and create a Colorado approach to Constitution Day. We hope these prove valuable to librarians, teachers, faculty and the general public, any group creating an exciting commemoration. Some of the materials are bookmarks, lesson plans, links to the Bill of Rights and Constitution, games for youngsters, bibliographies, and lots more.

For free materials to download and copy as well as links to additional items visit

www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/ConstitutionDay/index.html.

CDE hopes you will inform your connections in schools and administration about these resources. There are also copies available of a poster of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor holding books and urging viewers to "READ." To see a sample, visit www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/slpromo.htm. For printed copies, in reasonable quantities, contact Maura McGrath at (303) 866-6900, mcgrath_m@cde.state.co.us

School Improvement Plan/ Title I Schoolwide Plan Trainings

This fall, there will be a series of regional trainings for the School Improvement Plan/Title I Schoolwide Plan template (SIP/SW) developed last spring. This template represents a tool that guides the development of a single plan for schools that are required to have School Improvement plans, as well as operate Title I Schoolwide programs. As you may recall, it became clear in some of the monitoring visits that schools were operating from several plans. The SIP/SW template provides a means to combine the requirements of the district's accreditation of schools with those required for schools that operate Title I schoolwide programs.

Based on feedback at the NCLB Directors Meeting, regional trainings will be located where there is the most interest. Dates and locations will be identified by the end of September, and all Title I contacts and superintendents will be notified.

CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION UPDATE

All submitted 2007-2008 Consolidated Applications have received substantial approval. In addition, it appears that CDE is on schedule to have all applications to final approval by September, 30, 2007. Thanks to all district and school personnel who have been so diligent in getting the requested modifications submitted in a timely fashion.

Tentative dates have been scheduled for next year's Consolidated Application workshops.

- March 25 - Pueblo Area
- March 27 - North Metro Area
- April 1 - Grand Junction Area
- April 3 - South Metro Area

There are also plans to develop a more streamlined version of the Consolidated Application for districts with less than 1000 students. If this is realized, there will be a couple of additional trainings in rural areas for districts to which this applies.

While CDE cannot mandate attendance at the workshops, there is strong sentiment that attendance results in higher quality applications and more timely submission. So mark your calendars!

Colorado Department of Education
Consolidated Federal Programs
1560 Broadway, Suite 1450
Denver, CO 80202-5149



407D3202

HIGH SCHOOL MATH TEACHERS WANTED

A Total of Six Days

Denver & Grand Junction

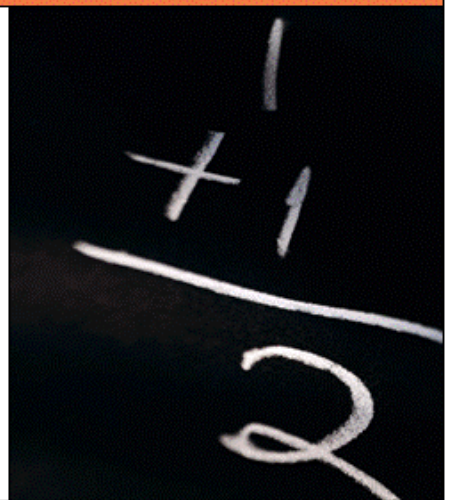
Denver - Adams 12 Training Center
November 1 - 2, January 31 -
February 1 and March 6 - 7

Grand Junction - Emerson Building
October 18 - 19, December 6 - 7
and February 21 - 22

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