



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 44

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SPACES AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAM VISIT

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 a 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.

Title I Schools Show Gains Based on 2006-2007 Adequate Yearly Progress

Twelve Title I schools showed significant academic improvement and were removed from the Title I School Improvement list, based on 2006 and 2007 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations.

- Fulton Elementary and Sixth Avenue Elementary, Aurora (Adams-Arapahoe School District 28)
- Schmitt Elementary, Denver Public Schools
- Wilson Elementary, Colorado Springs Dist. 11
- Gunnison Elementary, Gunnison School Dist.
- Aguilar Elementary, Aguilar School District
- Pomona Elementary, Montrose School District
- Youth and Family Academy Charter, Middle School, Pueblo School District 60
- Haskin Elementary, Center School District
- Billie Martinez Elementary, Greeley-Evans School District 6
- Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, elementary and high schools

Five of those schools—Gunnison, Aguilar, Pomona, Haskin and Billie Martinez elementary schools—received a Title I School Improvement Grant, which includes a School Support Team visit and \$150,000 over two years. The School Support Team visit is a part of the state's system of school support and provides an in-depth analysis of the school based on nine "best practice" standards.

"We have seen a tremendous amount of focus, hard work and collaboration from teachers, principals and staff to turn around these schools on our improvement list," said Patrick Chapman, Director of Consolidated Federal Programs. "We can see the direct correlation between improved processes and improved results. We celebrate their accomplishments with enthusiasm."

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Nominations Welcomed to Honor Accomplished Title I Teachers

Each year the Colorado Department of Education recognizes teachers from Title I schools who demonstrate outstanding commitment and excellence in teaching. In addition to recognition as distinguished teachers, each of the two award recipients will receive \$5,000 in honor of their achievement. Nominations are due to CDE by Monday, November 5th. Applications are available at:

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

Title I, which is part of *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*, supports school and district programs to improve the learning of children. The U.S. Department of Education provides Title I funds to states to give to school districts based on the number of children from low-income families in each district.

Title I provides approximately 150,000 students in 608 schools with \$121 million in additional funding to assist Colorado's struggling students. To determine if a school receives Title I funding, visit the NCLB Federal Programs page on the CDE Web site at

www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/Reports/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 award criteria focus on evidence of the individual teacher'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.

Nominate a distinguished Title I teacher today!

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Tanya Price, 303-866-6397, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHER TRAININGS

Offices within CDE have collaborated to develop trainings on the highly qualified teacher rules, how the rules interact with laws (e.g., licensing, special education) and HR data collections.

LICENSING 101

Licensing 101 is a basic review of the licensing, Special Education personnel qualifications, TTEs and SEEs and NCLB highly qualified rules. The training will be from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. To register, contact Barb Allen (allen_b@cde.state.co.us; 303-866-6898).

October 2 nd	Grand Junction
October 9 th	Weld Count District 6 (Greeley)
October 11 th	Academy School District 20
October 16 th	Douglas County School District

HR AND SPECIAL EDUCATION HR DATA COLLECTION TRAININGS

This training will include information on how to submit files to ADE, NCLB highly qualified rules and specific coding instructions for both data collections. Registration will be done online. The training will be from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. An email will alert districts as soon as the registration is available.

November 13 th	Greeley
November 16 th	Northglenn
November 27 th	Pueblo
November 30 th	Grand Junction

Comparability Update

In an effort to improve the state's Title I comparability determinations, Consolidated Federal Programs is developing a new system which will ensure the accuracy and ease of determining comparability. Comparability is only a requirement for districts with more than 1,000 students or one school per grade span.

This new process will be completed online for the 07-08 school year but in future years comparability will be included in the ADE Human Resource collection. Additional information and trainings will provided as soon as possible. In the meantime, be sure to identify teachers funded with Title I with the grant/project funding source code of 4010 in the upcoming 2007-2008 ADE HR collection.

For comparability questions contact Ryan DeHerrera at deherrera_r@cde.state.co.us or Russ Masco at masco_r@cde.state.co.us. For questions regarding ADE HR collection contact Annette Severson at severson_a@cde.state.co.us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 15 – 26th

AMAOS Regional Trainings

Colorado Springs – October 15th

Cortez/Durango – October 17th

Fort Collins – October 19th

Denver – October 26th (AM and PM Sessions)

For more information contact the English Language Acquisition Unit at (303) 866-6963.

October 18th and November 27th

SIP/SW Part II - Extends the use of the SIP/SW template to discuss instructional models, evaluation, and in-depth planning.

Montrose (10/18) and Pikes Peaks BOCES (11/27) from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Online registration is available at

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/scripts/SIPSWTrainingRegistration.asp>.

October 30th and November 13th

SIP/SW Part I - Overview of SIP/SW template

Pike Peaks BOCES (10/30) and Otero Junior College (11/13) from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/scripts/SIPSWTrainingRegistration.asp>

January 31 – February 3, 2008

National Title I Meeting, Nashville, TN

For more information visit

www.nationaltitleconference.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.

March – April 2008

Tentative dates for next year's Consolidated Application workshops. Additional information will be sent as soon as it is available.

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



- 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 to CDE at 1560 Broadway, Suite 1450, Denver 80202 or faxed to (303) 866-6637 by October 5, 2007. Forward questions to Laura Hensinger at hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us.
- Amendments to districts' Corrective Action plan are due by November 15, 2007. Districts developing new plans must have them to CDE by January 7, 2008. Contact Brad Bylsma at bylsma_b@cde.state.co.us with any questions.
- All principals at Title I schools must have a signed principal attestation on file at the school. Forward a signed copy of the written annual attestation to Tina Tamayo at 1560 Broadway, Suite 1450, Denver 80202 or fax to (303) 866-6637 by November 16, 2007. For a sample principal attestation visit www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/tia.asp.

Colorado Quiz

September's Question:

What was the First Permanent European Settlement in Colorado?

The earliest permanent **European settlements** were planted in the San Luis Valley. San Luis, on the Culebra River, was settled in 1851, followed in the next few years by San Pedro, San Acacio, and Guadalupe.

October's Question:

What is Colorado's state nickname? Hint: A popular novelist named a book after the name.

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/ss.asp.

E-rate

E-Rate is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and provides discounts to assist most schools and libraries in the United States in obtaining affordable telecommunications and Internet access.

The Schools and Libraries Program supports connectivity - the conduit or pipeline for communications using telecommunications services and/or the Internet. Funding is requested under four categories of service: telecommunications services, Internet access, internal connections, and basic maintenance of internal connections. Discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population served and range from 20% to 90% of the costs of eligible services. Eligible schools, school districts and libraries may apply individually or as part of a consortium.

Applicants must provide additional resources including end-user equipment (e.g., computers, telephones, etc.), software, professional development, and the other elements that are necessary to utilize the connectivity funded by the Schools and Libraries Program.

Training for the 11th Year of E-rate will begin at the end of October. Locations, times, and exact dates are still pending and will be emailed and posted to the Ed Tech website soon.

SAVE THESE DATES

October 25 – 26
November 15 – 16
November 29 – 30
December 13 – 14

Visit www.cde.state.co.us/edtech/index.htm for updates!

Coming in November
Nomination Forms for the
***Title I Distinguished
Principal Award***

New Release from the U.S. Department of Education ***Giving Parents Options***

The Department of Education recently released their latest resource to help districts and states with Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services. This resource, ***Giving Parents Options: Strategies for Informing Parents and Implementing Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services Under No Child Left Behind***, provides concrete ideas to improve parent notification and implementation of these two choice options under the law.

Copies are available at www.ed.gov/admins/comm/choice/options/index.html or can be ordered for free at www.edpubs.org (order number ED003762P).

The USDOE encourages those who work with these programs to share this resource with educators, parent and community groups, and other educators with an interest in providing high-quality public school choice and SES options to families.

A press release on ***Giving Parents Options*** is available at: <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2007/09/09202007.html>.

Stay in touch with the



The new Communications Office at CDE is open for business. Please pass the word about how to stay in tune with the latest information about the department.

- News, updates and announcements
- Board of Education agendas and meeting reports

To sign up for CDE news briefs visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html> and fill out the brief e-mail subscription form at the bottom of the page. Follow the verification step and you will be set to receive information from CDE on a timely basis.

In all, 75 percent of Colorado schools made their AYP targets in 2007. That overall percentage was unchanged from 2006.

The federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) requires school districts to make determinations of Adequate Yearly Progress in reading and math for all schools in the district. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) sets the guidelines and targets for determining AYP within the parameters set by the law. CDE uses the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP), Lectura (a Spanish-language test given to qualifying students), CSAPA (for students with a significant cognitive disability) and graduation rate data to provide districts with AYP calculations for all schools.

Additionally, CDE calculates AYP for all districts in the state. Fifty-seven percent of districts in Colorado made AYP compared to 60 percent in 2005-2006. Ninety percent of districts made at least 90 percent of their targets.

With approval from the USDE last spring, CDE obtained permission to allow districts and schools to make AYP with an additional methodology. An additional safe harbor measure, called Matched Safe Harbor, was added. The measure looks at how the exact same students in a school do from one year to the next (as opposed to regular safe harbor which compares the students in the school in 2006 to the students in the school in 2007. If the school or district doesn't make the performance target or regular safe harbor, they can make AYP by showing a 10% reduction in the percent non-proficient of the same students from 2006 to 2007. Seventeen schools and two district levels were able to make AYP by using the Matched Safe Harbor calculations.

NCLB School Improvement

Only if a school receives Title I funds (federal funds for supplemental education in reading and/or math) are consequences attached to AYP determinations.

A Title I school that does not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area (reading or math) is placed on first year School Improvement, requiring the school to create a school improvement plan. The district must also provide transportation for children whose parents wish to transfer them to a higher performing school in the district.

For each additional year of remaining on the School Improvement list, additional steps are added

that bring resources to the school or provide parents with more alternatives. These steps are only in place at Title I schools (those that receive federal funding based on their demographics).

In addition to the 12 Title I schools removed from the School Improvement list this year, 17 Title I schools on the School Improvement list made AYP this year. If those schools make AYP next year, the schools will be removed from School Improvement status.

Following is the current number of schools on the School Improvement list:

- 31 schools have missed AYP targets for two years, meaning they are on Year 1 of School Improvement Status. They are required to have a school improvement plan and offer public school choice with transportation provided.
- 26 schools have missed AYP targets for three years, meaning they are on Year 2 of School Improvement Status. These schools must also provide supplemental tutoring services.
- 25 schools have missed AYP targets for four years, meaning they are on Corrective Action. These schools must revise their school improvement plan, provide transportation to other public school choices, offer supplemental tutoring, and the district must take one of seven corrective steps.
- 13 schools have missed their AYP targets for five years in a row, meaning that they are listed as "Restructuring, Planning." The district must also develop a plan to restructure the school.
- 27 schools have missed their AYP targets for six years or more and are listed as "Restructuring, Implementation." These schools must implement the restructuring plan.

For more information about how AYP is calculated and for a complete list of all school and district AYP determinations, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ayp/index.asp>.

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