



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 48

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR TITLE IIA REALLOCATED GRANT IS NOW AVAILABLE

This competitive grant is aimed at encouraging districts to assess staffing needs and consider innovative approaches to addressing those needs. This includes examining the equitable distribution of experienced, qualified and effective teachers and increasing Colorado's statewide percentage of highly qualified teachers and Title I paraprofessionals to 100%.

A total of \$300,000 is available for re-distribution to LEAs. The maximum amount that an LEA or consortia of districts may request is \$50,000. Partnerships with institutes of higher education, organizations or individuals that have an established reputation for working on these issues are also encouraged. Applications are due to CDE by Monday, February 25th. For a copy of the RFP visit www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/index.asp.



Paul Urioste is Title I Distinguished Principal of the Year

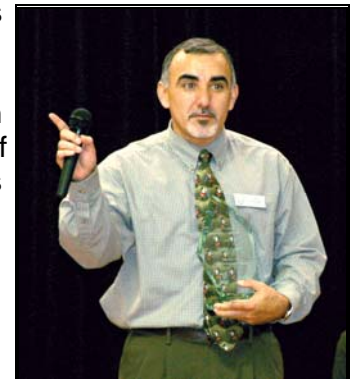
On Monday, January 28th, Billie Martinez Elementary School principal Paul Urioste was recognized by the Colorado Department of Education as the Title I Distinguished Principal of the Year.

This is the inaugural year for this award. In addition to recognition as a distinguished principal, the recipient receives \$5,000 in honor of the achievement.

Patrick Chapman, Director of Consolidated Federal Programs for the Department of Education, said Paul Urioste was the strongest candidate among those nominated.

Chapman cited Urioste for articulating clear performance objectives to the teaching staff, for providing clear expectations to staff, students, and community, and for positive improvements on the entire school's academic performance.

Colorado Commissioner of Education Dwight Jones applauded principal Urioste for the outstanding strides made by Billie Martinez Elementary School, particularly given the high needs student population. "Congratulations to Paul Urioste and the entire staff at Billie Martinez Elementary School," said Commissioner Jones. "It's clear that Principal Urioste's leadership has enabled this school to beat the odds and overcome the challenges that schools in high-poverty neighborhoods often face. We hope other schools will look to Billie Martinez for an outstanding example of how setting clear goals and maintaining good communication can lead to meaningful progress."



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Consolidated Performance Report

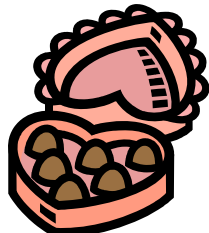
All districts receiving Title I or Title V funds must complete the Consolidated Performance Report for the 2006-2007 school year. This report asks for summary numbers about the students who were served in Title I programs in 2006-2007. Additionally, outcome information is collected for Title V. An email was sent most recently, on January 24th, to Title I and Title V contacts. If your district did not receive the notification or you need assistance with the report, please call (303) 866-6700 or e-mail baca_l@cde.state.co.us. The reports are due to CDE by February 15th (an extended deadline). We need to get the information sent to the US Department of Education.

Thank you for your assistance!

Desk Monitoring Annual Reports to the Public

On January 25th, e-mails concerning the status of the Annual Reports to the Public monitoring were sent to all districts with outstanding issues. Only districts that did not meet the requirements in 2006-2007 were asked to submit reports this year. Of those asked to submit this year, a good number have met all the NCLB reporting requirements. But, there are many districts from whom we have yet to receive a report. If you have not already done so, please send in your Annual Report to the Public as soon as possible. Districts that do not meet all the reporting requirements will need to get the information reported to the public this school year. The sooner that information can be reported to the public, the less confusion there will be around it, as the next round of CSAPs are about to begin. Additionally, there are some districts that are only missing certain reporting requirements. Those need to be reported this year as well.

Submit any outstanding issues to Clara Algiene at algiene_c@cde.state.co.us. If you have any questions about the reporting requirements contact Alyssa Pearson at pearson_a@cde.state.co.us or Russ Masco at masco_r@cde.state.co.us. Thank you for your help in ensuring the reporting of data to your stakeholders.



WANTED

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROVIDERS FOR 2008-2009

The Request for Proposals (RFP) to become a State Approved Supplemental Educational Service Providers for the 2008-2009 school year is now available at

www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/SuppServices.asp.

There was a training on how to complete the RFP at the Colorado Department of Education in the State Board Room on Tuesday, January 29th from 2-4 p.m. Proposals are due to the CDE on or before March 10, 2008.

Supplemental Educational Services (SES) are free tutoring opportunities for low-income children attending schools in 2nd year of school improvement, corrective action or restructuring. The cost of tutoring is paid for by the school district using Title I, Part A funds. A list of schools in Colorado that are presently offering SES as well as schools that may be required to offer tutoring during the 2008-2009 school year is also available at the above link.

This is not a competitive grant in that as many providers can be included on the list of approved providers as meet the criteria of the RFP. Furthermore, approval allows a provider to be placed on a list of approved providers which districts will send to eligible parents. There is no guarantee that if selected to be on the list the organization will serve students. Eligible parents are provided the list at the start of school and choose the provider that best suits their child's needs.

Currently, there are 52 state approved providers. Eligible applicants are organizations with a demonstrated record of effectiveness in increasing the academic achievement of students in reading and/or math. Districts and schools on Improvement may not be SES providers. However, a school that is not on Improvement within a district identified for Improvement may apply to be a provider.

Although Colorado has numerous high quality providers approved in the state, there continues to be a need for greater options for families outside the metro areas. If you know of an organization that would be a strong provider of Supplemental Educational Services please encourage them to apply. For further information contact Laura Hensinger at hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 5th, 13th and 21st
Title I-D Training

February 13 North metro
February 21 Pueblo

For more information contact Kathryn Smukler at
smukler_k@cde.state.co.us

February 18th
President's Day
Colorado Department of Education will be closed.

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

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

April 13th – 16th
National Association of Federal Education
Program Administrators (NAFEPA)
Washington, DC
Register at www.nafepa.org.

April 17th – 18th
2008 ELA Academy
7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Denver
For more information contact Joanna Bruno at
(303) 866-6870, bruno_j@cde.state.co.us.

May 12th
4th Annual Colorado Reading Summit, Denver
Further information will be made available soon.



- Regular HR collection for 2007-08 is now open. The close date will be some time after the Special Education HR collection. The Special Ed HR collection opens Feb 6 and closes March 12. On both collections, remember to enter data quickly and check the 2nd Level Edit Report. This new report lists reasons why core content teachers are not highly qualified. Districts can correct miscoded data before doing a final approval -- in turn, this will limit the number of records that need to be addressed in the online HQ Teacher Plan system. Be sure to take a close look at the district's Title I instructional paraprofessional data. CDE will be following up on any non-HQ Title I paraprofessionals.

Colorado Quiz

January's Question:

Who were the first people to inhabit Colorado?

Approximately 15,000 years ago the first Native Americans appeared in Colorado. The earliest inhabitants were hunters and nomadic foragers on the plains as well as the western plateau. Agricultural settlements began appearing along river valleys in the eastern part of Colorado from approximately 5,000 B.C. as people learned farming techniques from the Mississippi River Native Americans. Perhaps the most highly developed culture before the European migration was the Anasazi who, four centuries before Columbus, lived in multi-story cliff dwellings in canyons in the southwestern corner of Colorado. At the end of the thirteenth century, these Indians abandoned their cliff dwellings and apparently moved southward.

February's Question:

What are Colorado's major industries?

For the answer to February's question read next month's Buzz and/or visit
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/pdssp/ss.asp>.

Now Accepting Applications for Title III Teacher of the Year Awards 2008

The English Language Acquisition Unit (ELAU) at the Colorado Department of Education has established the Title III Teacher of the Year award.

Applications are due March 15th by 5 p.m. The winners of the Title III Teacher of the Year award will be publicly acknowledged and honored during the Second Annual ELA Academy to be held April 17-18, 2008. Winners will receive complimentary admission to either CABA or COTESOL for the 2008 conference, as well as travel, lodging and substitute costs.

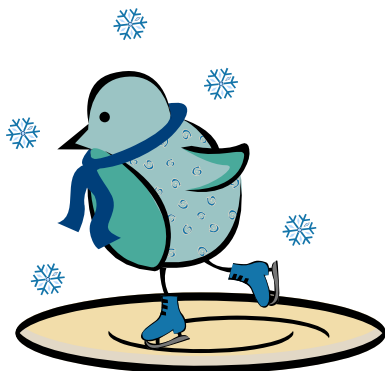
Nomination Guidelines

Colorado Regional Directors, BOCES, District and School Administrators, and Fellow Teachers are eligible to nominate ELA teachers for this award. Each nominating party is limited to one nomination. The selection must be based on evidence of outstanding ESL, Bilingual, or Dual Language instruction and/or coaching.

Qualifications

- Full-time classroom ESL, Bilingual, or Dual language teacher and/or coach in any grade level.
- Be actively engaged in an ELA program at the time of the award.
- Hold or be working towards State Certification or Endorsement in Linguistically Diverse Education (ESL or Bilingual).
- Provide documentation that indicates that the nominee enjoys the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues.
- Exhibit distinguished leadership service to the profession and the community.

For more information contact Joanna Bruno at (303) 866-6870, bruno_j@cde.state.co.us.



Congratulations to the following districts that were recently awarded a Family Literacy Grant. The funding will be used to (1) expand their capacity in the provision of the four components of a family literacy program, or (2) develop one or more of the four components in order to become, or increase the capacity of, a four-component program.

Aurora Public Schools
Pueblo City Schools
Colorado Springs District 11
Gunnison Watershed School District
Monte Vista School District
Center School District
Boulder Valley School District
Centennial/Weld #5 and #1
Denver Public Schools
Roaring Fork RE-1 School District

THOUSANDS OF BACKPACKS FILLED WITH HOPE

With half of the school year remaining, Jeffco Schools has already identified nearly 1,500 students experiencing some form of homelessness.

The staff of the Jeffco Homeless Services Office knows the need is great for homeless children who often lack the most basic survival items like school supplies, hygiene items and food.

Jeffco Schools has partnered with the international relief organization Feed The Children along with the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY), to deliver 1,600 backpacks for Colorado's homeless children.



Las Animas Elementary Honored as the Title I Distinguished School

On November 29, 2007, Las Animas Elementary staff and students were honored as a Title I Distinguished School and awarded \$10,000. The following highlights the work that Las Animas staff attribute to their success with students.

Las Animas Elementary School is located on the southeastern plains of Colorado. The only elementary school in a small rural school district, Las Animas Elementary School has an enrollment of approximately 250 students and employs 22 certified staff. Eighty percent of the students in our K-5 school qualify for free and reduced lunch.

The success at Las Animas Elementary School can be attributed to several factors that have developed over the past four years. Systematic reading, writing and math curriculums have been implemented with fidelity. The staff analyzes weekly assessment data and revises instruction based upon this scrutiny. Common daily preparation time allows staff to communicate and to plan. Instructional strategies that focus on student engagement and instructional rigor have been the focus of professional development. Small group instruction using alternative programs is conducted daily for students who do not achieve success in the regular program. All of these instructional decisions fit within the parameters of our school's focus on structuring an RtI model.

The scope and sequence in our core curriculums provide a common structure among grade levels. The amount of time spent in these three instructional areas was doubled from that spent previously. Pacing maps ensure that these curriculums are on track and will reach completion. During daily grade level team meetings the staff focuses on maintaining fidelity to this timeline, as well as making and implementing instructional decisions.

Progress monitoring is conducted, and then analyzed schoolwide every other week. Students who struggle are progress monitored weekly or bi-monthly as needed. In addition to the data analysis that occurs at the weekly grade level team meeting, monthly data discussions are led by the principal, with all appropriate teachers and the instructional coach present. Group decisions and program

placements are made during these Data Days. Instructional strategies are brainstormed.

Students who need additional instruction or practice are provided opportunities through small group instruction, flooding and/or tutoring after school. Our strategic level students receive no less than forty minutes of additional help. Intensive need students receive at least an hour of additional instruction. They are also placed in programs that use Direct Instruction techniques. Summer School is held for six weeks during our vacation break.

Professional development has become an integral part of the teacher's life at our school. On the average, over one hundred hours of professional instruction has occurred in our three core curriculum areas or in behavior and classroom management. In addition to participating in formal PD, all staff members work informally, on an on-going basis with the instructional coach and with their grade level teams in peer coaching. Administrative Walk-Throughs provide information which individual teachers and the Building Leadership Team use to inform decisions for future professional development needs. We have taken steps to strengthen the motivational and family components of our school system. Accelerated Reader encourages "at home" reading motivation. During the past three years our library circulation has quadrupled due to A.R. Literacy nights and math nights are held each trimester to encourage family involvement.



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