



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 49

March 2008

2008-2009 Consolidated Application

The 2008-2009 Consolidated Applications Workshops are set for the following dates and locations:

March 25 th	Pueblo Colorado State University 2200 Bonforte Blvd.
March 27 th	Greeley UNC-University Center 2045 10th Ave.
April 1 st	Grand Junction Doubletree 205 Main Street
April 3 rd	Denver Four Points by Sheraton 6363 East Hampden Ave.

Online registration for these workshops will be available in early March. There are tentative plans to videotape the workshop sessions and post these on the CDE website in mid to late April. This will allow the opportunity to revisit information from the various sessions, as well as provide the information to those unable to attend any of the workshops. This project hinges on the department's ability to acquire the appropriate technology.

RECENT USDOE MONITORING VISIT TO COLORADO

In late October of 2007, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) monitored the Colorado Department of Education's Title I program. Although the report is not yet final, a preliminary report includes 31 findings of noncompliance and four recommendations for improvement. A final report is expected by the end of this month. The final report will be posted on the Consolidated Federal Programs web site.

As with the USDE's report that followed the January, 2005 Title I monitoring visit, there was an over-arching finding that CDE's monitoring efforts are insufficient to ensure local compliance with Title I requirements. Noncompliance findings specific to Title I indicators can be grouped into five broad areas of concern as follows:

- How the State makes AYP determinations
- Ensuring that schools identified for Improvement have met the requirements of being so identified, including Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services
- Parent Involvement requirements
- Fiduciary matters, including setasides, maintenance of effort, and comparability
- Miscellaneous findings such as those related to NCLB reporting, the inclusion of private school students, and the hiring of only qualified paraprofessionals

The USDE has communicated corrective actions that must be taken in response to each of the 31 findings. In certain cases, the corrective actions are very specific. For example, CDE will be required to modify how it calculates AYP using 2008 assessment results.

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4th Annual Colorado Reading Summit
Breaking Through the Gap
May 12, 2008
Denver, Colorado
8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The Colorado Reading Summit provides the opportunity for Colorado policymakers and educational leaders to learn about reaching high performance standards and closing achievement gaps in reading and writing.

Highlights:

- Presentations by Colorado schools making gains and closing gaps in reading and writing;
- National research on early and adolescent reading and writing instruction; and
- Examples of effective Response to Intervention implementation.

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Guinevere Eden, an international researcher, is the Director of the Center for the Study of Learning at Georgetown University. In addition to studying the neurobiological representation of reading, Dr. Eden is involved in the Second Language Acquisition Program.

Doug Reeves, one of education's most respected experts in the field of assessments and standards, is the founder of the Leadership and Learning Center. Dr. Reeves specializes in professional development for educational leaders on effective implementation of standards-based and data-driven instruction.

Further information surrounding the conference, including registration, will be made available through the CDE Communications Department and on the website in the upcoming weeks.

Title V-A Funding for 2008-2009

Unfortunately, no new funds have been appropriated for the Title V, Part A program for the 2008-2009 school year. However, the Title V, Part A program legislation has not been eliminated. As part of the 2008-2009 consolidated application, funds may be transferred into Title V-A. The following is a link to the USDE provides guidance on transferability between Title programs <http://www.ed.gov/programs/transferability/finalsummmary04.doc>. Please note, an LEA identified for Program Improvement has a limited amount of funds that can be transferred and a limited amount of flexibility in the use of those funds. An LEA on corrective action is not permitted to transfer funds.

Any Title V, Part A funds remaining from the 2007-2008 school year may be carried over into the new fiscal year. LEAs with remaining Title V, Part A funds may spend these funds through September 30, 2009 and draw funds until December 31, 2009. Additional information concerning the use of funds for Title V, Part A will be discussed during the program breakout session at the Consolidated Federal Program Workshops in March and April.

Supplement vs. Supplant

As districts begin developing plans for the use of NCLB funds in 2008-2009, please be aware of major supplant issues that have been identified in the past:

1. Using federal funds to pay for a position that was previously supported by local and state funds;
2. Using federal funds to pay for materials or activities that are the district's responsibility;
3. Using federal funds to pay for the activities or materials in one school that are paid for with state and local funds in other district schools.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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
Consolidated Application Workshops and Needs
Assessment Workshop (See Buzz articles on
page 1 and 4)

March 25 & 26 - Pueblo Area
March 27 & 28 - North Metro Area
April 1 & 2 - Grand Junction Area
April 3 & 4 - 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
See Buzz article on page 2



- 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.
- Needs assessments for Consolidated Applications in particular Title II, Part A and Title V.
- Register for one of the Consolidated Application Workshops.
- Stay Informed with the activities at the Colorado Department of Education by signing up for the department's e-mail news service. News and announcements will be sent directly to your e-mail inbox, letting you stay on top of all the latest updates around CDE. You'll receive information about events, announcements and activities from the department along with regular updates about the Colorado Board of Education's agenda and decisions. To sign up for this service visit www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html.

Colorado Quiz

February's Question:

What are Colorado's major industries?

The major industries are agriculture (wheat, cattle, sheep), mining (gold and silver), oil, finance and manufacturing.

March's Question:

When did Colorado become a state? Colorado was the _____ state to join the Union. (Complete the sentence.)

For the answer to February's question read next month's Buzz and/or visit

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

E-RATE PARTICIPANTS

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has hired several audit firms to conduct compliance audits around the country. Colorado has had at least two audits over the past 2 months. The audit looks at FRN's disbursed in 2006 – 2007 and can include applications dated back to 2002. If you are contacted by a firm scheduled to audit your E-rate applications, contact DeLilah Collins, state E-rate Coordinator for tips and assistance through the audit process.

Needs Assessment Workshop

In response to the many requests from districts for technical assistance related to developing and using needs assessments, particularly where required for NCLB programs, the Consolidated Federal Programs collaborated with RMC Research through the Southwest Comprehensive Center to develop a needs assessment guidebook and website. This information and training will be the day after each of the scheduled 2008-2009 Consolidated Application trainings. Below is a list of these dates, times, and locations.

March 26 th	Pueblo Colorado State University 2200 Bonforte Blvd.
March 28 th	Greeley Aims Community College 5590 W 11th Street
April 2 nd	Grand Junction Doubletree 205 Main Street
April 4 th	Denver Four Points by Sheraton 6363 East Hampden Ave.

The online Consolidated Application registration will have a place to sign up to attend this training. Please look for this when you register for an application training. You do not need to attend the Needs Assessment training in the same locale as the application workshop. For more information, contact Trish Boland at (303) 866-6998, boland_t@cde.state.co.us.

CHARTER AND PRIVATE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

As communicated in an email in February, the following are changes to the upcoming 2008-2009 consolidated application:

1. For charter and private schools that accept NCLB funds, the district will include each school's plan for use of funds within the relevant narrative section of the 2008-2009 consolidated application. Districts will not be submitting charter/private individual school plans to CDE. A district could have the charter or private school complete a document similar to the narrative section of the consolidated application. In addition, the electronic budget must reflect the activities for charter and private schools as identified in the narrative.
2. Evidence that all charter and private schools have been notified of the opportunity to participate in the NCLB Consolidated Application for 2008-2009 must be submitted to CDE as part of the application submission at the end of June. Two types of evidence are acceptable: (1) authorized signature from the charter or private school representative; (2) copy of the certified mail receipt that was sent to a charter or private school. Two example documents of this opportunity to participate can be found at the following URL: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/consapp/index.asp>.

Please remember that all charter and private schools within a district must be provided the opportunity for meaningful consultation with respect to NCLB funds as required by section 9501(c) "Uniform Provisions" of P.L. 107-110. A brochure that outlines the responsibilities of both the district and charter schools can be found at the following <http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/consapp/index.asp>. A similar brochure for private schools will be available by the end of March.

However, for most of the findings, CDE will be required to demonstrate that it has provided guidance and technical assistance to LEAs pertaining to Title I requirements where deficiencies were found. Moreover, CDE will be required to demonstrate that its monitoring system is sufficient to ensure compliance with certain Title I requirements.

Over the next several months, CDE will be developing guidance and technical assistance plans in response to the USDE's findings. These plans will be communicated to your district or BOCES. In addition, LEAs will be notified of any changes that must be made to AYP calculations and protocols along their potential impact on AYP determinations. Future editions of *The Buzz* will cover specific findings in great detail.

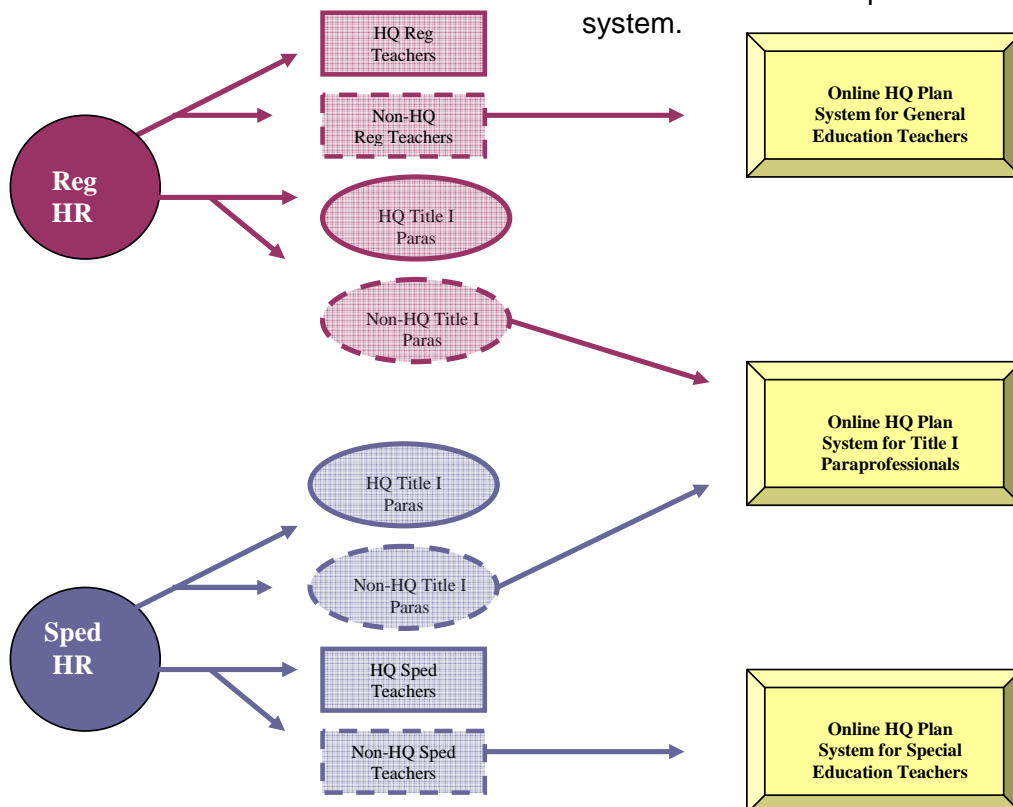
The State's Even Start, Neglected or Delinquent, and Homeless programs were monitored during the USDE's October, 2007 visit as well. Those reports will also be covered in future editions of *The Buzz*.

Highly Qualified Reporting System

The Regular Human Resources (HR) and the Special Education HR collections for 2007-08 are both open. The special education collection will close March 12th; the regular HR collection will close by March 20th. Based on reporting in these collections, the Consolidated Federal Programs unit will expect districts to report on the non-Highly Qualified (HQ) teachers (general education and special education teachers) in the online HQ Teacher Plan systems. These collections will open at the end of March/beginning of April.

Because Colorado has not met the 100% goal for HQ Title I paraprofessionals, the USDE has issued that state with a finding in this area. As a result, CDE will be requiring districts to use the online HQ system to report on how non-HQ paraprofessionals will become HQ. This system will be available in April. Using the same process as for teachers, LEAs will not receive final approval on the Consolidated Application until all Title I instructional paraprofessionals are HQ or at least have an approved plan to become HQ. A training webinar will be offered in March on all of these reporting systems.

Below is a flowchart that illustrates which staff will need to be reported in the appropriate system.



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