



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 52

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USDE Announces Proposed Regulations for Title I, A.

On April 23rd, the US Department of Education proposed new regulations for Title I, Part A of NCLB. Several of the proposed regulations will have a significant impact on the current implementation of the law. Comments on the proposed regulations are being accepted until June 23rd. The proposed regulations, summaries and directions for submitting comments are posted at www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/reg/proposal/index.html.

CDE will be submitting comments, but districts and BOCES are welcomed and encouraged to submit comments as well.

In general, the proposed regulations concern the following areas:

1. Graduation Rate calculations and use in AYP Determinations - for the most part, CDE is on track or has already implemented these proposed regulations.
2. Growth Models - The regulations allow for the continued use of growth models, per the pilot project. Now that CDE has a concrete way to measure growth, we plan to submit a proposal at the end of the summer or early fall.

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Colorado Teachers Improve Math Instruction Through PBS TeacherLine® and Support from CDE

With the help of PBS TeacherLine and the Colorado Department of Education, Colorado teachers are improving math education while meeting NCLB “highly qualified” teacher requirements, gaining graduate credits and increasing their salaries. PBS TeacherLine (www.pbs.org/teacherline) is the leading provider of online facilitated professional development courses for pre K-12 educators in math, science, reading and language arts, instructional strategies, and instructional technology.

To provide more professional development opportunities for teachers and paraprofessionals, and to assist them in achieving highly qualified status, the Colorado Department of Education teamed up with PBS TeacherLine to offer online courses to educators in the state. In support of teachers’ continuing education, the department started the Tuition Reimbursement Program to provide financial assistance to educators upon successful completion of PBS TeacherLine courses. The Department reimburses teachers \$100 per course to offset the cost of enrollment. In addition, teachers can receive Colorado Department of Education recertification credit and earn graduate credit from Adams State College.

According to the 2008 “Foundations for Success: The Final Report of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel,” teachers need to have a solid grasp of mathematics and how students develop mathematical knowledge and skills. Additionally, the Panel recommends that elementary and middle school teacher training in math be strengthened as a means to improve teachers’ effectiveness in the classroom.

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New Staff Members

Nazanin Mohajeri-Nelson has a doctorate degree in social psychology with a developmental emphasis. With over 11 years of legal experience and over 4 years of program planning, implementation, and evaluation experience, Nazanin will be spearheading the evaluation of various NCLB program components. She will also be assisting with the administration and monitoring of Title IIB (Math and Science Partnership) and Title IID (Enhancing Education through Technology) programs, as well as helping to bridge Titles I, Part A and Title III.

Cheryl Miller joins CDE with experience in the State Judicial Department, the non-profit sector and as a middle school English teacher. Cheryl earned a B.A. in English Language and Literature and certification in secondary education from the University of Michigan and a law degree from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law. Cheryl will be supporting the Title I, Part A and Title II, Part A programs.

Donna Morganstern arrived from Boston in 1994, and taught statistics at Metro State and UCD. She has spent the past eight years working extensively with data (especially CSAP and AYP) at the district level, mostly in Douglas County. Back in Boston, Donna taught in the Psychology Department at Providence College and did various types of research consulting. Donna will be working with Alyssa Pearson in NCLB data and accountability.

USDE MONITORING & ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS CHANGES

As you may know, the U.S. Department of Education conducted an on-site monitoring visit of Title I, Part A at CDE in October 2007. Several findings in the monitoring report focused on our AYP calculations and appeals.

Since then, CDE has been negotiating with USDE about these findings. The findings will soon be available on our website. There are a number of issues that have yet to be resolved. However, we wanted to provide an update of the general changes that have been made to AYP calculations and appeals, and what changes may still be made. We realize that the timing for these changes is not ideal. We strive to announce changes before testing occurs. However, due to the fact that Title I, Part A funds are in jeopardy if we are not deemed in compliance, we need to make some of these changes for the 2007-2008 determinations. CDE will continue our conversations with the USDOE to explain that no other changes can be made for the 2007-2008 determinations at this time, but we cannot guarantee the result.

Your district's AYP Contact has received a very detailed memo about the specific changes that are being made, but we wanted everyone to have a general understanding about the upcoming changes.

Changes based on USDE Monitoring Visit

1. The minimum N size for performance calculations has been changed to 30 for the current year only. If there were not 30 students in the prior year, performance determinations are still made. However, if the performance target was not met, then there is no regular Safe Harbor option, but Matched Safe Harbor may still be used.
2. Certain test invalidation codes will not longer count as participants. If they are counted as a non-participant, they will be pulled out of the performance denominator.
3. For Matched Safe Harbor, English CSAP and Lectura will count as a match.
4. Only students who have been in the US since 3/12/07, coded as test deferred due to language, and are NEP or LEP students, will count as reading participants if they took the CELA. This will no longer be an appeal, as CDE is now able to process this calculation.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 7th

Colorado Arts Education Summit
Auraria Campus, Denver
9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
For information and registrations, visit
www.denvergov.org/artsedsummit.

June 22nd – 25th

Rocky Mountain Institute 2008: Implement Response to Intervention, Keystone. For more information visit
www.bettereducator.com/event.aspx?EventID=173.

July 23rd – 25th

39th Annual CASE Convention
Global to Local — Bringing It Home, Breckenridge
<http://www.co-case.org/>

July 24th – 27th

Technology in Education (TIE) Conference
For more information visit
<http://tiecolorado.org/2008/index.cfm>.

September 8th – 9th

Foundations in Family Literacy
Louisville, Colorado
For more information and to register visit
www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm.

September 16th – 17th

- Save the Date for the NCLB Directors Meeting

Colorado Quiz

May's Question:

How did Denver get its name, and in what year?

Answer: After gold was discovered in Cherry Creek, General William Larimer led a group of men from the Kansas Territory to establish a settlement. The resulting settlement was christened Denver City in honor of James W. Denver, governor of the Kansas Territory. Cherry Creek provided a boundary between Denver City and another community established earlier, Auraria. Despite an initial rivalry, these two communities were consolidated into the single community of Denver in 1860.

June's Question:

How did Denver become the seat (or capital) of the Colorado Territory?

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



- Complete the Acceptance, Relinquishment Assignment and Certification (ARAC) form and fax signature page to Tina Tamayo (303) 866-6637 by June 1st.
- The FY '09 NCLB Electronic Budget for the Consolidated Application can be found at www.cde.state.co.us/cdefisgrant/NCLB_download.htm. Please read the "Read First" information on the web site prior to opening the Consolidated Electronic Budget. For questions contact Robert Hawkins (303-866-6775), Barb Vassis (303-866-6389) or Debbie Wolfe (303-866-6724).
- The deadline for the online HQ Plan systems for special education and general education teachers has passed. If your district or administrative unit has not finished all submissions, please do so right away. This includes addressing any records that have received a code 9 (red cell) which indicates that CDE could not accept the plan and a new one needs to be submitted. 2008-09 NCLB funds will not be released until all core content teachers are HQ or at least have an approved plan. HQ Plans for Title I paraprofessionals are due June 9, 2008.

General Education Teacher System:

www.cde.state.co.us/scriptscfpu/HQT08/

Special Education Teacher System:

www.cde.state.co.us/scriptscfpu/HQSpEd08/index.asp

Paraprofessional System:

www.cde.state.co.us/scriptscfpu/HQPara08/index.asp

- Submit a draft of the district's Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services notification to Laura Hensinger (hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us) for approval. Public School Choice letters must be sent to parents with students in a school on improvement prior to the first day of school.



Due to increased gas prices, the Buzz will not be traveling this July but simply enjoying the hive. See you in August.

3. **Accountability Workbooks -**
The proposed regulations call for re-submitting State Accountability Workbooks, with justification for the N size and confidence intervals, even though these were already approved. Workbooks would be due 60 days after the regulations become final.
4. **NAEP -** The proposed regulations are adding a reporting requirement to State and LEA report cards. The NAEP results would need to be included in the reports to the public. There is question about USDE's authority to include this in the regulations since NCLB is very specific about the reporting requirements already, and NAEP is never mentioned.
5. **National Technical Advisory Council -**
A council has been proposed that would advise the Secretary on issues around standards, assessments and accountability systems. The council would not take the place of the peer reviewers.
6. **Identification for School Improvement -**
this section simply puts ED's guidance into regulation concerning the identification of schools by same content area for two consecutive years, and not allowing identification only by the same disaggregated group.
7. **Public School Choice and SES -**
School Choice notifications would need to be sent to parents at least 14 days before the start of the school year. Districts would be required to include on their website the number of students eligible for SES and choice as well as how many participated. Unused choice and SES dollars could only be reallocated once the district illustrated that they assisted in making SES a genuine opportunity for families.
8. **School Improvement - Restructuring -**
restructuring options are clarified that they need to be more rigorous and comprehensive than corrective action. Additionally, removing the principal would not be enough to constitute restructuring.

Again, the proposed regulations, summaries and directions for submitting comments are posted at: www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/reg/proposal/index.html.

Megan Talbott, a second-grade teacher at Basalt Elementary School, Roaring Fork School District, in Basalt, Colo., and Michelle Caldwell, a math teacher at Skyview Middle School, Falcon School District 49, in Falcon, Colo., are among the 72 teachers who have sought reimbursement through the program since the fall of 2007.

Talbott stated that she would not be able to pursue professional development opportunities without financial support from sources such as the department's tuition reimbursement program. For Caldwell, the program is an added bonus to the other personal and professional benefits provided by the PBS TeacherLine courses. Both teachers said that the Colorado Department of Education Tuition Reimbursement Program illustrates that the state's education leaders value the contribution of teachers to student achievement, and are willing to invest in making high-quality professional development accessible to all teachers.

PBS TeacherLine courses are offered locally to Colorado educators through PBS member station Rocky Mountain PBS. To learn more about the Colorado Department of Education Tuition Reimbursement Program and the approved course offerings from PBS TeacherLine, go to http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/pdssp/download/cal_pbsinfo.pdf. For more information about PBS TeacherLine, visit www.pbs.org/teacherline.

Title II, Part D Power Results Grant Now Available!

The Title II, Part D Power Results Grant is designed to fund qualified participants interested in the continuation or creation and dissemination of an 8th Grade Literacy Assessment or for Standards Implementation and Support for 21st Century Learning Skills and Effective Use of Available Technology Tools.

Proposals are due on or before Friday, June 13, 2008 by 4 p.m. The RFP and information regarding the grant requirements, subparts and parameters can be found at www.cde.state.co.us/edtech/eettcompetitivegrant.htm For questions regarding the proposal contact Lynn Bamberry at (303) 866-6813.

The Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy Expands Opportunities

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The Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy recently announced a new way for elementary school teachers to get a chance to attend the 2009 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy and improve their math and science teaching skills.

Students can nominate teachers from Grades 3, 4, and 5 or urge them to apply for an all-expense paid trip to the Academy's math and science professional development program by logging on to www.sendmyteacher.com.

Developed in conjunction with the National Science Teachers Association and Math Solutions, the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy enables teachers to hone their science and math teaching skills, enhance their curricula, and discover innovative new ways to inspire students.

The teachers will spend five days next July at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, NJ, deepening their understanding of mathematics and science content, building expertise in facilitating student learning through problem solving and inquiry, and using links between math and science that support student learning and understanding in the classroom.

Teacher applications are due by October 31, 2008. To nominate a teacher or to learn more about the program, visit www.sendmyteacher.com.



Possible Changes Based on the USDE Monitoring Visit:

1. All test invalidation codes would be counted as non-participants.
2. We would no longer be able to provide the appeal for NEP and LEP students, who have been in the U.S. less than three years as invalid reading scores.

Changes Based on Amendment Requests:

1. CDE will be allowed to continue the use of Matched Safe Harbor.
2. The old IEP target will probably not be allowed any more, but this still has not been decided.

Other AYP Updates:

1. Performance and Other Indicator targets increase this year.
2. The "Continuous in US" field has been replaced with the "Date Most Recently Enrolled in U.S." field. We will be using dates for calculations instead of the Yes/No field that was previously used.

If you have further questions, contact your district's AYP Contact or Alyssa Pearson at pearson_a@cde.state.co.us.

Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grants

The 2008-2009 MSP RFP will be available soon at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/msp.asp. CDE will award up to two new MSP partnerships for Fiscal Year 2009. The awards will range from a minimum of \$90,000 to a maximum of \$300,000 per fiscal year, contingent on the availability of funds. Partnerships must include faculty from the science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics departments in institutions of higher education and at least one "high need" local school district. For the purposes of the FY2009 Colorado MSP program, CDE defines a high-need LEA as one that meets the following conditions:

1. Percentage of non-Highly Qualified (HQ) math and science teachers (general education and/or special education) is greater than the state average **and/or**
2. Significant and ongoing difficulty in recruiting and retaining HQ math and science teachers (general education and/or special education)

Priority will be given to partnerships that focus grant activities in full or in part on special education teachers.

For questions about the MSP grant, contact Mariah Aldinger (aldinger_m@cde.state.co.us) or Nazanin Mohajeri-Nelson (mohajeri-nelson_n@cde.state.co.us).

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