



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Last Issue

August 2008

Our Little Honeybee

August will be the last issue of The Buzz. Future information will be communicated through CDE's Scoop. Individuals can sign up for The Scoop by sending a blank e-mail with nothing in the subject line or message screen to subscribe-thescoop@web.state.co.us.

The Buzz has had five wonderful years and as a tribute to the bee that served an important role in our work, we wanted to shed some light on a serious problem among the honeybee population.

In 2006, honeybees began to inexplicably abandon their colonies destroying about a third of U.S. hives. And unfortunately, the rate of decline is accelerating. Many of the honeybee deaths are being attributed to a mysterious threat called Colony Collapse Disorder, which causes bees to suddenly leave their hive and die. Researchers are desperately trying to study this new threat but thus far the information is limited.

What we do know is that honeybees are an essential part of our food cycle. Every third bite an average American eats is dependent on a honeybee to pollinate that food. Honeybees are responsible for \$15 billion in U.S. agricultural crops each year.

Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream who uses only all natural fruit and is deeply impacted by this crisis has developed an amazing website, www.helpthehoneybees.com, that provides a

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Final Decisions from USDE on Adequate Yearly Progress in Colorado

As you may have already heard, changes have been made to Colorado's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations as a result of decisions by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE).

In October 2007, the USDE monitored the Colorado Department of Education's administration of three major federal programs, Title IA, IB and ID. On March 24, CDE received a final monitoring report from USDE identifying a number of concerns about our AYP calculations and appeals. A memo was sent May 21st alerting districts of the USDE's concerns.

A full copy of the monitoring report can be found at:

<http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/monitoring/reports08/index.html>.

Over the last two months, CDE has negotiated with USDE regarding these findings. CDE challenged some of the findings and resolutions proposed by USDE as not in the best interest of students in Colorado. CDE staff met with USDE staff on July 10 to attempt to reach a resolution. Unfortunately, the meeting did not result in a favorable outcome. As a result, we must now make changes to Colorado's AYP calculations and procedures for 2007-2008 determinations.

We sent district AYP contacts and Title I Directors detailed information about the changes on July 15th. But, the following are the key changes, in summary:

- In general, tests that receive a "No Score" will count as non-participants, but will not be included in AYP proficiency calculations.
- CDE can no longer allow the exclusion of NEP or LEP students who have been in the United

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Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grants

The 2008-2009 MSP RFP is now available 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.

The application is due to CDE on Friday, August 29th. For questions contact Mariah Aldinger (aldinger_m@cde.state.co.us) or Nazanin Mohajeri-Nelson (mohajeri-nelson_n@cde.state.co.us).

DIRECTOR'S MEETING

The NCLB Directors Meeting which was scheduled for September 16th and 17th has been cancelled. Unfortunately, we were unable to secure an appropriate location.

Understanding that a new school year can be overwhelming for those new to federal programs, we are planning to have a one day meeting for new Directors. The New Directors Meeting will be held on September 17th from 8:30 – 2:30 at the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Training Center. An e-mail with specifics will be sent in the next couple of weeks.

In addition, we have started planning several regional trainings to address monitoring, comparability and needs assessments.

It's that time again... Supplemental Educational Services

Supplemental Services are tutoring opportunities for eligible students, conducted by an approved provider outside of the school day. Eligible students are those who are enrolled in a school on 2nd year of Improvement, Corrective Action or Restructuring and identified as low-income. These tutoring services are free to parents and paid for with district Title I funds.

During the 2007-2008 school year 91 schools were required to offer SES. Approximately 3,685 students in Colorado received tutoring which is 11% of the eligible population.

Districts with schools in 2nd year Improvement or beyond are responsible for notifying parents of eligible students that these services are available to them. Notification must 1) be in a language understandable to parents 2) identify the approved provider(s) within the district, and describe their services and 3) provide procedures and timelines parents must follow to obtain services.

A complete list of providers is available at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/SuppServices.asp. Simply, click on *Search for Approved Provider by District*. Only districts with schools in 2nd year Improvement or beyond are in the searchable database. This information is in both English and Spanish and can be printed and used to fulfill the notification requirements in the law. The website also includes guidance, a revised sample parent letter and contracts.

Although a letter informing parents meets the requirement, it does not necessarily assist parents' understanding of their choices under this provision. The following are some of the successful parent awareness practices

- Educate building principals on the providers and the deadlines for applications
- Place reminder notices about the application due date in school bulletins
- Post an SES notice on your district's website
- Host a provider fair to allow parents to meet providers and determine the best fit for their child
- Discuss SES with eligible parents at parent/teacher conferences
- Use parent/community liaisons to call homes or make home visits to explain SES
- Work with local parent organizations or other community organizations to get the word out

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 6th – September 12th
Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) - Dates to Remember

August 6th from 3 – 4 p.m.
AYP Training for veteran contacts. To register e-mail Clara Algiene at algiene_c@cde.state.co.us.

August 7th from 9 – 10 a.m.
AYP Training for veteran contacts. To register e-mail Clara Algiene at algiene_c@cde.state.co.us.

August 12th– AYP data available to district AYP contacts in the Automated Data Exchange system

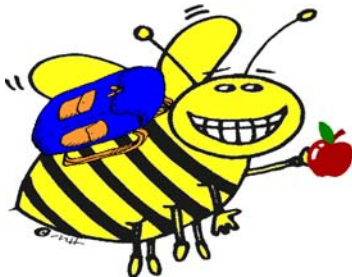
August 28th– district AYP appeals due to CDE

September 12th– AYP data in ADE final

August 29th
Math and Science Partnership Grants due to CDE
For more information contact Mariah Aldinger (aldinger_m@cde.state.co.us) or Nazanin Mohajeri-Nelson (mohajeri-nelson_n@cde.state.co.us)

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 17th
NCLB New Directors Meeting
Adams 12 Training Center
8:30 – 2:30
Details to be sent to federal program contacts.



- 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. For specific program questions contact the program consultant listed in the comment log.
- All districts with schools on Improvement must submit a signed copy of each school's Public School Choice notification to Laura Hensinger Meushaw (meushaw_l@cde.state.co.us) by August 21st. Public School Choice letters must be available to parents prior to the first day of school.
- Regular HR Collection and the Special Ed HR Collection have reopened. Please correct any data for HQ purposes - especially based on our agreements in the online HQ system. Remember, if you do not resubmit your data in ADE, we will need to default to your December 2007 HR submission. This would *not* include any of the updates (e.g., HOUSSE approvals) that we did through the online HQ Plan system. Any data changes (including new HOUSSE and licensing data from CDE) requires a resubmission to incorporate this new data into your final submission. Both collections are expected to close Friday, August 8th. For questions contact Cheryl Miller at (303) 866-6214, miller_c@cde.state.co.us.

Colorado Quiz

August's Question:

How did Denver become the seat (or capital) of the Colorado Territory? A bill to create Colorado Territory was passed almost immediately after Kansas was voted statehood in 1861. The first legislature sitting in Denver, selected Colorado City as the capitol. In 1862, the second legislature met only a few days and adjourned to Denver. The assembly met in Denver and Golden until 1867 when Denver was named the permanent seat of the territory.

For future questions visit www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/pdssp/ss.asp.

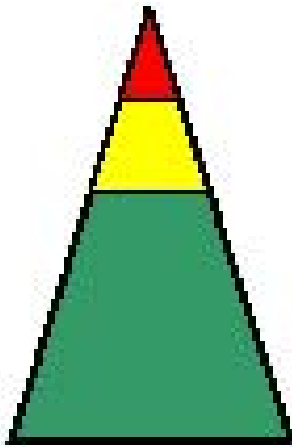
Response to Intervention and Title I Targeted Assistance Schools

In a targeted assistance program, additional services are only provided to students identified as having the greatest need for assistance. The Title I teacher(s) and highly qualified paraprofessionals can provide additional services to these identified students.

While an Rtl approach can align with the intent of a targeted assistance program, there are limitations:

- Eligible Title I students must be provided supplemental instruction from the Title I teacher(s) and highly qualified paraprofessionals. The ability to have another, highly qualified teacher other than the Title I teacher provide the supplemental instruction to Title I eligible students is restricted.
- Paraprofessionals may:
 - provide one-on-one tutoring,
 - assist with classroom management,
 - provide instructional assistance in a computer laboratory
 - provide instructional support services
- All services/support provided by paraprofessionals must be under the direct supervision of a teacher. Paraprofessionals cannot provide initial instruction;

For questions regarding Rtl and Title I schools contact Judy Huddleston
(huddleston_j@cde.state.co.us)



great deal of information on the importance of the honeybee, the colony crisis and a downloadable lesson plan with classroom activities to increase awareness.

According to the Pollinator Partnership, at www.pollinator.org, there are ways in which we can all help

- 1) Create Pollinator Habitats
 - Cultivate native plants especially those that provide nectar or larval food for pollinators
 - Install nest boxes for native bees
 - Supply salt/mineral licks for butterflies and water for all wildlife
- 2) Reduce Pesticide Use
 - Use insecticides and herbicides only when no alternatives are available
 - Follow label directions, apply with caution, pay special attention to “bee toxicity” information
 - Substitute flowerbeds for turf grass
- 3) Minimize Your Environmental Impact
 - Buy locally produced or organic food
 - Walk, cycle, or use public transit – minimize your automobile and electricity use
 - Reduce your consumption, reuse, and recycle
- 4) Enjoy Nature
 - Experience gardening, working with plants and animals, and scenic get-aways.

There is a plethora of information available on this issue, simply search the internet for “Save the Bee”. And as the editor of every issue, thank you for your support of The Buzz. Each issue has truly been a labor of love.

– Laura Hensinger Meushaw



For questions regarding future communication, please contact Mark Stevens, Director of Communications, at (303) 866-3898; stevens_m@cde.state.co.us.

Once parents have signed their children up for tutoring, the district is responsible for developing with parents and the SES provider.

1. Specific achievement goals for the student, which must be developed in consultation with the student's parents [Section 1116(e)(3)(A)];
2. A description of how the student's progress will be measured and how the student's parents and teachers will be regularly informed of that progress [Section 1116(e)(3)(A) and (B)];
3. A timetable for improving the student's achievement [Section 1116(e)(3)(A)];
4. A provision for termination of the agreement if the provider fails to meet student progress goals and timetables [Section 1116(e)(3)(C)];
5. Provisions governing payment for the services, which may include provisions addressing missed sessions [Section 1116(e)(3)(D)];
6. A provision prohibiting the provider from disclosing to the public the identity of any student eligible for or receiving supplemental educational services without the written permission of the student's parents [Section 1116(e)(3)(E)]; and
7. An assurance that supplemental educational services will be provided consistent with applicable health, safety, and civil rights laws [Section 1116(e)(5)(C)].

A finding from the USDOE's monitoring visit in the fall was that districts were not developing and/or reviewing these agreements. Districts must be involved and sign-off on student learning plans.

CDE is responsible for approving and removing tutoring providers from the state-approved list. LEAs must notify parents of the providers available in the district as identified by the state. In addition, districts may not require additional program design requirements, except the requirement to abide by applicable local health, safety, and civil rights laws. If at anytime, the district has concerns about a provider, please contact the State for resolution.

CDE continues to evaluate the effectiveness of SES in Colorado. We hope to have a report of the findings from the evaluation work conducted using information gathered during the 2007-2008 school year by November.

For more information contact Laura Hensinger Meushaw at (303) 866-6675 or meushaw_l@cde.state.co.us.

States for less than 3 years from school or district AYP reading proficiency calculations through its appeal process.

- Students with IEPs will have the same AYP proficiency targets as students without IEPs. No appeals will be allowed.

CDE understands that these changes, along with increasing targets, will have an impact on AYP determinations this year. We will provide assistance to school districts in explaining the results to the public in October when results are final. Contact Alyssa Pearson (pearson_a@cde.state.co.us) or Donna Morganstern (morganstern_dcde.state.co.us, 303-866-6209).

GOOD NEWS *for Schools on Improvement*

CDE has completed a total of 93 School Support Team (SST) reviews since its conception in 2003.

The Title I School Improvement Grant will again be offered for the 2008-2009 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 grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in August 2009 to address the major areas of need as identified by the external review.

To read more or to apply now simply complete an *Intent Form* at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/schimp_tia.asp. For more information contact Laura Hensinger Meushaw at (303) 866-6675, meushaw_l@cde.state.co.us.

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