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*Colorado is implementing significant education reforms aimed at ensuring all students graduate college- and career-ready. While much research and discussion has gone into the policy development, we're now putting those policies into action. Here's a brief snapshot of the most significant initiatives and the latest key implementation milestones.*

## Educator Effectiveness

### **Overview:**

The educator effectiveness team provided workshops on the CDE model evaluation system at the CDE symposia. Staff also conducted a preliminary training at the CEA leadership conference June 11-12 and hosted a S.B. 191 pilot summit June 26-27 in partnership with the Colorado Legacy Foundation. The summit was an opportunity for CDE to learn more about the first year of the pilot process and the supports CDE needs to provide going forward. In addition, the office is partnering with CASE, CEA and the Colorado Legacy Foundation to calibrate the state model rubric through creating a master score with videos. This will be used to develop inter-rater agreement training in the future. Colorado teachers and principals are creating these master scores.

### **What's Happening Now:**

The office's attention is on scheduling inter-rater agreement training with pilot districts in September and October. Once these training are complete, 14-16 regional trainings will be scheduled for districts in Colorado that want to use the state model system. These trainings are tentatively scheduled for January through June 2013. Stay tuned for the schedule, it will be posted in The Scoop and on the website.

### **What's on the Horizon:**

The office is working to get the final "assurances" approved for publication in November. These assurances will be required of every district that chooses to use their own evaluation model rather than the CDE model system. The assurances allow CDE staff to determine if the model meets expectations in law and in the State Board of Education rules.

### **Important Upcoming Deadlines:**

The assurances template will need to be completed and sent to CDE by July 2013.

For more information about educator effectiveness, contact Katy Anthes, executive director of educator effectiveness, 303-866-6654.

## Standards

### **Overview:**

CDE continues its support of Colorado districts and schools during transition to the new standards. CDE recommends districts use the 2012-13 school year to begin phasing in the standards-based curriculum in preparation for full implementation in 2013-14.

### **What's Happening Now:**

In June, the Standards and Instructional Support team delivered two interactive sessions at each of the locations for CDE's Summer Symposia. One session provided a "101" refresher/overview of the unique aspects of the Colorado Standard, while the second explored the supports and continuous improvements necessary for the meaningful translation of standards into instruction. This second, "deeper dive," session also allowed the team to discuss work on the development of state model curricula and the support offered to districts as they pursue the transformational practices implied by the new Colorado Academic Standards. The materials from these sessions are available here:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/summersymposium/index.asp>

### **What's on the Horizon:**

At the end of May, the Office of Standards and Instructional Support hosted a cross-unit, three-day training and workshop event with Lynn Erickson, author of *Concept-Based Teaching and Learning for the Thinking Classroom*. The workshops facilitated the drafting of a unique curriculum framework for use with the Colorado Academic Standards. The draft curriculum framework is intended to be a flexible design that can be customized for voluntary use across locally-controlled Colorado districts. The team presented the first draft of the framework at the Summer Symposia for feedback from educators across the state. This feedback process will continue over the summer and into the fall through focus groups to inform the continued development of this latest implementation support tool. Also in the late summer and early fall, a call for participants will be issued to Colorado educators to become involved in the model curricula project.

### **Important Upcoming Deadlines:**

None at this time.

For more information about standards, contact Melissa Colman, executive director of teaching and learning, 303-866-6737.

## **Assessments**

### **Overview:**

**Science and Social Studies Assessment in 2014.** The state legislature provided funding for CDE to pursue the development of summative assessments in science and social studies for implementation in the spring of 2014. The science assessments will be administered in grades 5, 8 and 11, while the social studies assessments will be administered in grades 4, 7 and 11. These grades were selected to allow maximum flexibility at the local level in determining scope and sequence in teaching the high school social studies and science standards. It is expected that the science assessments will be computer-based; discussions are being held regarding the delivery mode for the social studies assessments starting in 2014. The science and social studies assessments will be designed to measure the Colorado Academic Standards. CDE continues to work with CTB McGraw Hill to administer the TCAP in reading, writing, math, and science. The request for proposals for the new 2014 social studies and science assessments was awarded to Pearson.

**Alternate Assessments.** Colorado is also working with Pearson to negotiate a contract to design new assessments that measure the Extended Evidence Outcomes of the Colorado Academic Standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to take the regular assessments even with accommodations. Development and administration of the alternate assessments will follow a pattern similar to that of the summative assessments. New science and social studies assessments will be administered in the spring of 2014. Reading, writing and mathematics assessments are scheduled to begin in the 2014-2015 school year. As with the other assessments, the state's development plan involves educators across the state. Schedules are currently being determined with expected

upcoming development and review activities including item development meetings, item review and bias review meetings, and field testing. District educators will be recruited for participation in these activities.

***English Language Proficiency.*** In May, the legislature provided the funding needed to proceed with the adoption of new English language proficiency exams. This action was consistent with direction provided by the State Board of Education in September 2011. Based on conversations with the English learner field and listening to its expressed desire to move forward with a new language proficiency exam as soon as possible, the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) exams will be implemented in the 2012-2013 school year.

**What's Happening Now:**

**Science and Social Studies assessment development.** This involves the inclusion of Colorado educators in both test development and the item review process. Expected upcoming development and review activities include: two item development meetings in July; an item review and a bias/sensitivity review meeting in August; cognitive labs in September; technology training in January; system testing in February and field testing in April. District educators will be recruited for participation in item and bias review meetings in July, in cognitive labs in August, and in field testing in November.

**Assessments for Educator Evaluation.** Beginning last January, Content Collaboratives, professional learning communities, met to establish student assessments which might be used (voluntary) as part of a body of evidence for educator evaluation which demonstrate student learning over time. The content areas for these measures included Music, Drama, Visual Arts, Dance, Reading/Writing/Communicating and Social Studies. These measures will be trialed for their utility as a body of evidence in evaluation and soon shared.

**What's on the Horizon:**

**Reading, Writing, and Mathematics Assessments.** For assessments in reading, writing and mathematics, S.B.12-172 directed Colorado to join, as a governing member, a multi-state consortium that is developing a common set of assessments. The current multi-state assessment consortia plan is to administer computer-based English language arts and mathematics assessments for the first time in the 2014-2015 school year. This means that the TCAP for reading, writing, and mathematics will be administered for an additional year (spring 2014) while the state explores whether the use of the multi-state assessments will meet our state's needs. CDE will work with the State Board of Education to select the multi-state assessment consortium, with action expected by the State Board at the August 2012 meeting.

**English Language Proficiency Assessment.** WIDA's ACCESS test trainings will occur in the fall and the test window will remain similar to what has been used historically. As soon as dates have been finalized, they will be shared with the field. More detailed information regarding the logistics and transition options were shared with your district assessment coordinators.

**Assessments for Educator Evaluation.** Beginning on July 23, five more collaboratives (math, science, physical education, health and wellness, and world languages) will meet and over the course of this fall and early winter, will identify assessments for posting on a statewide resource bank for districts to access and use.

**Online Assessment Readiness Survey.** As the state begins the transition to computer-based assessments, it is important for districts to participate in the Online Readiness Survey that will initially occur in September and will continue to gather information in the future on an on-going basis. This survey will support the transition to online assessments by providing the state, districts and schools with information about what schools and districts need to

successfully implement computer-based assessment and instruction. Districts will be asked to identify a district technology coordinator to support this effort in July of 2012. More information regarding the role of the district technology coordinator and the survey will be shared with your district assessment coordinator.

**Important Upcoming Deadlines:**

None at this time.

For more information about assessments, contact Jo O'Brien, assistant commissioner for assessments, research and evaluation at 303-866-6852.

## Accountability and Improvement

**Overview:**

The Department is currently preparing for next year's district and school performance frameworks, improvement planning processes, and the implementation of Colorado's NCLB flexibility waiver. CDE will notify districts as plans are finalized and resources become available.

**What's Happening Now:**

**Consolidated Application.** The Consolidated Application is now available for districts and BOCES: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/consapp/index.asp>. Resources for completing the application are available at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/consapp/trainctr.asp>. The application is due on June 30, so LEAs can obligate funds as of July 1, 2012. Federal Programs is working jointly with other units to assist districts in leveraging federal NCLB funds to address district performance challenges.

**NCLB Flexibility Waiver – Title III.** CDE is awaiting final notification from the U.S. Department of Education on a waiver and amendment to Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs), the accountability measure for Title III funds in support of English learners. When officially approved, AMAOs will align with sub-indicators in the District Performance Frameworks, namely the CELApro Growth Academic Indicator, reading, writing and math Academic Growth for English learners, and the graduation rate for English learners. Detailed information is coming soon.

**CELA-pro Growth Data Release.** CELApro student-level growth data, which provide a measure of the relative growth an individual student made toward English proficiency, are now available for download from CEDAR. The available flat files contain 2012 student growth percentiles, adequate growth percentiles, and stepping stone flags. Starting this fall, the CELApro median growth percentiles and adequate growth percentiles will be a part of the school and district performance frameworks. Access additional resources for downloading and analyzing this data at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/CELA-DataAndResults.asp>.

**Unified Improvement Planning Templates Now Posted.** The 2012-13 district and school UIP templates and addenda forms have been finalized and are now posted on the "Templates" page of the UIP website. There are minimal changes to the templates based upon feedback from the field, the ESEA waiver and CDE's review of improvement plans. Note that Improvement plans are designed to incorporate planning efforts for at least two school years, and be revised at least annually. The 2012-13 UIP should therefore incorporate the plans for the current 2012-13 school year, as well as future plans for the 2013-14 school year. The UIP Handbook and Quality Criteria are available in draft form under the training link. Visit the UIP website at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/uiip/index.asp>.

**Accountability for Alternative Education Campuses.** The window for districts to apply for

or renew schools as Alternative Education Campuses closes on July 2. The Department is reviewing submitted application/renewal forms, as well as submitted measures, metrics and cut-points. CDE will follow up with districts as needed and make recommendations to the State Board, who will approve the AEC designations at their August meeting. For more information, visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Accountability/StateAccountabilityAECs.asp>.

**What's on the Horizon:**

**District and School Performance Frameworks.** The Department has drafted the 2012 District and School Performance Framework (DPF/SPF) report templates. The 2012 DPFs and SPFs will include the addition of two new measures: (1) growth in English language proficiency (CELApro) and (2) disaggregated graduation rates. Districts will have an opportunity to see the simulated results (2011 DPF data using the 2012 modifications) this summer. The actual DPF and SPF results with 2012 data will be released on August 15 via CEDAR. Preview the report templates and read a summary of the changes at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Accountability/PerformanceFrameworks.asp>.

**Unified Improvement Planning: Fall Training Schedule.** This fall, the Department will host several regional UIP training sessions to support districts through the stages of the improvement planning process. The sessions will allow districts to receive training in data analysis, action planning, progress monitoring, and to engage in facilitated peer reviews. Visit the "Training" page of the UIP website for training dates, locations, and session descriptions: [http://www.cde.state.co.us/uiip/UIP\\_TrainingAndSupport\\_Register.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/uiip/UIP_TrainingAndSupport_Register.asp).

**Important Upcoming Deadlines:**

**August 15:** Release of preliminary 2012 District and School Performance Framework reports to districts.

**September:** Release of preliminary pre-populated 2012 Unified Improvement Plans (Section I) to districts.

For more information regarding accountability and improvement, contact Keith Owen, deputy commissioner, 303-866-6099.

## Innovation and Choice

**Overview:**

The Innovation, Choice and Engagement Division is focused on expanding access to quality education options for Colorado students and infusing innovative and promising educational practices into our work at the Department and in districts, schools and communities across the state.

**What's Happening Now:**

- The Schools of Choice team attended the 12th Annual National Charter Schools Conference in Minneapolis, MN at the end of June where they celebrated the 20th anniversary of the first charter school in the U.S. It was also a proud time for Colorado charters as Jim Griffin, president of the Colorado League of Charter Schools, was honored for his pioneering efforts toward growing and developing charter schools in Colorado and inducted into the National Charter Schools Hall of Fame.
- CDE has joined the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's "CO9to25" youth system building effort to develop a statewide plan to increase education and training options for youth and young adults 17 to 25 years old. The work group held planning sessions at the end of May that will help as they begin to build the community action plan for this work.
- Fifteen new grantees were approved to receive \$2,761,708 of Expelled and At-Risk Student Services funds in fiscal year 2013. They will join 39 continuation grants making a total of 54 grantees in the 2012-2013 school year.
- Five new grantees were approved to receive \$457,895 of state School Counselor

Corps dollars in fiscal year 2013, for a total of 27 grantees for the 2012-2013 school year.

**What's on the Horizon:**

- CDE and the Colorado Legacy Foundation have begun implementing the strategies outlined in the [Expanded Learning Opportunities vision and strategic plan](#). A kick-off in late August will include information and support for districts and schools interested in applying to be proof points for this exciting work. This kick-off will also focus on how to support districts interested in the Race to the Top strategy on personalized learning recently released by the U.S. Department of Education. For more information, contact Gretchen Morgan at [morgan\\_g@cde.state.co.us](mailto:morgan_g@cde.state.co.us).
- As part of the Colorado Coalition for Healthy Schools' efforts and the Coalition's Data Workgroup, CDE and the Colorado Legacy Foundation are applying for a five year grant from Kaiser Permanente to develop a data collection system related to school health policies and practices. The application will be submitted on July 15.
- CDE is in the process of completing a study with the Evergreen Education Group on Blended Learning Opportunities and Challenges for Rural Colorado. Findings from that study will be presented at the Rural Education Council pre-conference meeting at the CASE conference on July 24.

**Important Upcoming Deadlines:**

None at this time.

For more information on innovation and choice, contact Amy Anderson, associate commissioner of innovation, choice and engagement 303-866-6938.

## Organizational Effectiveness

### Teacher Student Data Link

***Overview:***

As CDE continues to identify opportunities for supporting educators, districts, and BOCES, one major area of focus is supporting educator effectiveness efforts in the state. A crucial component of educator effectiveness is developing a reliable and accurate educator/student data link. This link allows educators to know which students they are being held responsible for in a course, activity, or extended learning opportunity at the district level. Having this linked data at the state level is imperative for supporting local districts as they work to improve instruction, preparation programs, and to support the study of emerging practices that result in desired outcomes for teachers and students alike. The aim is for the system to provide dynamic data that enables users to learn from the past and understand the present so that they can take appropriate actions to impact the future.

Once the data link is established statewide, researchers and analysts will be able to answer such questions as:

- How are the students of novice teachers in the school performing? How does this compare to the students of experienced teachers?
- What educator preparation programs are producing the most effective educators based on student performance?
- Are there equity gaps for students relating to their ability to access effective educators?
- Do more rigorous evaluation requirements result in increased student outcomes?

Once the data link is established at the district level, evaluators and educators will be able to answer the following questions:

- Which students in a teacher's class will be used to inform the teacher's evaluation?
- Which students in a teacher's class will NOT be used to inform the teacher's

evaluation?

- Can multiple teachers collaborate for sets of students around school improvement goals?

### ***Purpose of the Educator Identifier System***

- Identify what makes "great" educators and determine how to replicate those attributes or conditions.
- Improve teaching and learning by linking student achievement data to the students teacher(s)
- Improve educator preparation programs and professional development
- Enable users to recognize and reward educators
- Study educator mobility, recruitment and retention issues
- Address inequities in the distribution between high/low poverty schools as well as schools with high/low minority populations

In order to achieve an accurate teacher student data link, specific actions must be taken to ensure that the data is meaningful for study and data analyses. Below are the major attributes of an accurate teacher student data link.

- Assignment of Educator Identifiers
- Integration with Licensure Database
- Teacher/Student Data Link
  - Roster Verification
  - Educator of Record
  - Standard Course Codes

### ***What's Happening Now:***

Standard Course codes were approved in March for statewide implementation and to date, 14 districts have mapped their 2011-12 course codes and two districts have mapped their 2012-13 course codes.

CDE has identified seven pilot districts to assist in the submission of the data and to date, three districts have participated.

CDE is also partnering with the Battelle for Kids in implementing a pilot of their Roster Verification tool in October 2012.

### ***What's on the Horizon:***

Over the summer CDE will perform data analysis on the TSDL data to further refine business rules in preparation for the September 2013 TSDL data collection. Standard Course Codes training will be provided to further assist districts in mapping of their courses to the state standard courses.

CDE and the Battelle for Kids will work on identifying pilot districts and begin the training and implementation of the Roster Verification Tool.

### ***Important Upcoming Deadlines:***

July 2012 – Provide additional training on the Standard Course Codes system

June 2012 – September 2012 – Analyze TSDL data and refine business rules

October 2012 – Pilot Roster Verification System

## **For More Information**

If you have general questions or need assistance, please contact:

- John Condie, field services manager for the Northwest, Southwest, West Central and Pikes Peak regions. Contact John at 303-866-6630 or [condie\\_j@cde.state.co.us](mailto:condie_j@cde.state.co.us)

- Jhon Penn, executive director of field services, and field services manager for the Northeast, North Central, Southeast and Metro regions. Contact Jhon at 303-866-6632 or [penn.j@cde.state.co.us](mailto:penn.j@cde.state.co.us)