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Colorado is implementing significant education improvements 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 our strategic priorities including implementation milestones, supports now available, and a look of what to expect ahead.

Educator Effectiveness

Overview:

The CDE Educator Effectiveness team supports districts and BOCES with guidelines, trainings and resources for implementing the educator effectiveness law (S.B. 10-191). The team's ultimate goal is to support educators as they continually improve their impact on student learning.

What's Happening Now:

Last Chance - Trainings for the Colorado State Model Evaluation System

This summer, five trainings will be offered around the state on both the professional practices and student learning outcomes/student growth components of the new state model educator evaluation requirements. This is the last chance to receive training this summer by CDE to prepare for the new educator evaluation requirements going into effect in 2013-14. Registration is free, but capacity is limited. Sign up now. There are two opportunities available: a session on professional practices for districts using the Colorado State Model Evaluation System rubric, and a work session on student learning outcomes/student growth applicable for all districts wanting more information on the 50 percent of evaluation linked to student outcomes/growth. Register for one or both of the training sessions depending on your role in your district. To view dates, locations and to register, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/SMES-Trainings.asp>

Online Performance Management System

After reviewing requests for proposal, CDE selected RANDA Solutions, Inc. to create an online performance management system. The system will be an optional technology platform provided by CDE at no cost to districts. This technology infrastructure will help districts organize data from the model evaluation system including educator data, progress tracking, professional development and rubric information. This tool will make data tracking and reporting much more useful and meaningful. Initial beta tests will be available to all districts by fall 2013.

Teacher Rubric Improvements Based on Educator Feedback

The Colorado State Model Evaluation System for teachers and principals was pilot tested over the last two years to garner critical feedback from educators to improve the rubrics before statewide roll out in 2013-14. Twenty-seven districts as well as other districts, schools and educators piloted the system and provided significant input. Based on input received, the teacher rubric has been revised. More changes may be made over the summer based on further stakeholder advice. The final rubric to be used by districts implementing the model evaluation system in 2013-14 will be posted online by **Aug. 15, 2013**. To view the newest iteration of the teacher rubric, visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/SMES-Teacher.asp>

What's on the Horizon:

Inter-rater Agreement Online Training System

To support a fair and consistent educator evaluation system, CDE is developing tools to promote common interpretations of teacher quality and to help evaluators give useful and actionable feedback to educators. One such tool is an online inter-rater agreement training system being developed in partnership with My Learning Plan. CDE is building the online inter-rater agreement training system, a robust system of online modules schools and districts can use for calibration and certification of evaluators. The system will include teaching cases of master-scored videos and artifacts that can be used to measure inter-rater agreements on the state model rubrics. The first set of videos will be available in August. Over time, CDE plans to include examples of teaching at all school levels and in a variety of content areas. The videos will show examples of all observable practices in the teacher evaluation rubric. To read the fact sheet, visit

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/downloads/FactSheets/IRA.pdf>

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

Assurances for Written Evaluation Systems

By **July 1**, all districts must provide CDE an assurance that specifies if they are implementing the Colorado State Model Evaluation System or another evaluation system aligned with S.B. 10-191 and state board rules. To view the assurances and checklist, visit

www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/SB-Assurances.asp.

Approval of District/BOCES-Developed and Third-Party Provided Educator Evaluator Training Programs

To support districts to distribute leadership, manage workload and ensure high quality feedback to educators, S.B. 10-191 allows principal designees to conduct evaluations as long as they've attended a CDE-approved training program. Last month, CDE released a request for proposal to approve evaluator training providers for systems other than the Colorado State Model Evaluation System. Districts, BOCES, vendors, non-profits, universities and other organizations can apply to be approved trainers. The application to become an approved evaluator trainer on a unique evaluation system is available and is due to CDE by **4 p.m. on June 17** (Note: The deadline was extended to allow better timing for districts as they wrap up the school year). For more information, visit

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/SB-EvaluatorTrainings.asp>. There will be a similar request for proposal process to become approved to train on the Colorado State

Model Evaluation System. This process will be in place next year. Currently, the only state approved trainer on the model system is CDE.

For more information about educator effectiveness, visit:

www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/ or contact Katy Anthes, executive director of Educator Effectiveness, 303-866-6654.

Standards

Overview:

CDE supports Colorado districts' and schools' transition to the new standards. Full implementation of the new standards will begin in 2013-14.

What's Happening Now:

Standards Communication Resources Released

There's now a new CDE webpage to help educators communicate the origins, intentions and instructional focus of the new Colorado Academic Standards. Resources on this page offer standards' overviews as well as key messaging strategies for discussion with parents and community partners about the nature and goals of the standards. These communication tools can be found at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/StandardsAndInstruction/ColoradoStandards-communication.asp>

The Standards and Instructional Support website also provides standards implementation tools and resources. Simply log on to:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/StandardsAndInstruction/StandardsImplementationsupport.asp>

School Readiness

School Readiness Assessment Funding. The Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Fund provides resources and supports to districts for the implementation of school readiness plans and assessments in kindergarten. Specifically, the subscription costs for Teaching Strategies GOLD are supported for the duration of the grant. There's also funding for training. (*See section below.*) The next application process is next spring for districts implementing school readiness plans and assessments in 2014-15. If districts missed the first round's May 31 deadline, you could still get funding. We'll work with you regarding your specific situation. Just contact Sharon Triolo-Moloney at triolo-moloney_s@cde.state.co.us by **June 15**. More information is at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/schoolreadiness/index.asp>.

Teaching Strategies GOLD training: CDE is hosting free regional training sessions for kindergarten teachers using the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment system in 2013-14. Thanks to the Colorado's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Fund, CDE can fund training for kindergarten teachers implementing school readiness assessments. A second round of trainings will be conducted in the same locations during the weeks of July 29 – August 2 and August 5 – 9.

- June 10: Denver metro area
- June 11: Greeley
- June 17: Pueblo

- June 18: Alamosa
- June 20: Grand Junction

Meeting times and locations will be released as they become available. Space for each session is limited. Register at <http://bit.ly/12yYtjV>.

The READ Act

READ Act Training. Educators can access a recording of CDE’s READ Act training held this past spring. The sessions included information on (1) components of the READ Act, (2) identifying a significant reading deficiency, (3) developing effective READ plans, and (4) the READ Automated Data Exchange (ADE) system collection. To view, visit <http://connect.enetcolorado.org/p7fz9nq8pbt/>.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

READ ACT Data Collection

The 2012-13 READ Act data collection is open through **July 1**. Data will be collected through the Automated Data Exchange system. Due to the repeal of the Colorado Basic Literacy Act, the collection will include new data elements. Districts must report READ Act data to receive per-pupil funds for students identified as having a significant reading deficiency. New respondents must submit a respondent form to the Office of Literacy to receive user passwords. For more information, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/ReadAct/data.asp>.

For more information about standards, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/index.asp> or contact Melissa Colman, executive director of teaching and learning, 303-866-6737.

Assessments

Overview:

Summative Assessment Timeline

Below are the summative assessments slated to be administered through 2014-15.

2014

- TCAP/CoAlt reading, writing and math
- New summative and alternate social studies and science assessments expected to be operational
- Colorado ACT
- ACCESS for ELLs

2015

- New English language arts and mathematics assessments expected to be operational (PARCC assessments expected)
- Second year of new summative and alternate social studies and science assessments
- Colorado ACT
- ACCESS for ELLs

What's Happening Now:

Student Biographical Data Review

The Student Biographical Data Review allows districts to verify the accuracy of the demographic data submitted for each student for each content-based assessment. The TCAP and Colorado Alternate Assessments Student Biographical Data window runs **May 22 – June 6**. The Colorado ACT Student Biographical Data window runs from **June 21 – July 2**. To learn more, contact Jessica Allen, allen_j@cde.state.co.us.

Science and Social Studies Assessments Spring Field Test Update

Field tests for the new Colorado science and social studies assessments were conducted in April and May. The new science and social studies assessments will be administered for the first time operationally in the spring of 2014. Data from the field tests will be used to evaluate the quality of items before they are included in next spring's assessments. Data will also be used to inform policy about testing time. Field testing for high school social studies and science assessments will occur in the fall.

Science and Social Studies Assessment Frameworks

Drafts of the science and social studies assessment frameworks were reviewed by Colorado content experts and educators. Revised versions of the assessment frameworks are posted at [Summative Assessment Frameworks \(http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/NewAssess-Sum.asp\)](http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/NewAssess-Sum.asp) and [Alternate Assessment Frameworks \(http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/NewAssess-CoAltSSS.asp\)](http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/NewAssess-CoAltSSS.asp).

For more information about the summative assessment frameworks, contact Jason Clymer, clymer_j@cde.state.co.us. For more information about the alternate assessment frameworks, contact Mira Monroe, Monroe_m@cde.state.co.us.

Online Assessment Readiness

About 70 percent of all Colorado schools submitted data to the Technology Readiness Tool. Initial information from that was used to establish the testing window for spring 2014 (April 14, 2014 to May 2, 2014). This window may be lengthened pending additional results of the Technology Readiness Tool.

Districts are encouraged to enter data into the Technology Readiness Tool survey so it can be considered in future decisions impacting science and social studies assessments, as well as the 2015 PARCC assessments. **Districts are encouraged to also include all of the charter schools that are associated with the district in their submission.** PARCC makes determinations about technology readiness based on snapshots of information taken from the Technology Readiness Tool at distinct points in time. Districts that have their information in the tool will be included in these determinations and policy decisions. PARCC's next snapshot will be **June 14**.

Verification of Technology Readiness Tool Data

Districts can get from CDE a breakdown of how many days each of their schools would need to complete the 2014 Colorado science and social studies assessments based on their current device-to-student ratio. Upon request, districts receive a spreadsheet with their results broken

down by school. This will also provide an opportunity for districts to verify the accuracy of any information that may have been added based on other collections. For more information, contact Collin Bonner at bonner_c@cde.state.co.us.

Approved Devices for Online Assessments

Technology requirements for the Colorado science and social studies summative assessments slated for 2014 are the same as the current version of the PARCC technology guidelines. The guidelines for the Colorado science and social studies and PARCC assessments can be found at

http://www.parconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCCTechnologyGuidelines2dot1_Feb2013Update.pdf. Here are the highlights:

Chromebooks

Chromebooks may be used for the Colorado Science and Social Studies and PARCC assessments as long as they meet the minimum device specifications for laptops and netbooks identified in the information at the link above.

iPads

iPads may be used for the Colorado Science and Social Studies and PARCC assessments if they meet the minimum device specifications for tablets identified in the information at the link above, including, but not limited to, the restrictions identified below.

iPad Device Specifications

iPad Version	Operating System	RAM	Keyboard	Mouse
iPad 2 or greater	iOS 6	512 MB RAM or greater	Must have external keyboard	Must have touch screen interface or mouse*

**Comparability research studies are being conducted and are intended to yield data on students' use of virtual versus external keyboards, and the use of a touch screen versus the use of a mouse. CDE will refine this guidance as needed based on these results.*

Accommodations Advisory Group

The Assessment Unit will invite stakeholders from the field who represent students with disabilities and students identified as English language learners to participate in an advisory group. This advisory group will provide feedback on anticipated accommodations for computer-based assessments, and provide guidance on prioritizing future accommodations.

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment Consortium

PARCC has released assessment blueprints and test specifications. These documents are available at <http://www.parconline.org/assessment-blueprints-test-specs>. For additional information about PARCC, contact Stephanie Boyd, boyd_s@cde.state.co.us.

Educator Recruitment

Educator involvement in the development and review of state assessments is essential to ensuring the content of items is appropriate for students and that items are not unfairly

advantageous or disadvantageous to a particular group of students. CDE is recruiting educators for assessment item development meetings. CDE needs your help to recruit reviewers. We are especially interested in candidates who represent minority racial/ethnic groups, as well as educators who work with students with special needs and English learners. Educators will be reimbursed for travel expenses to the meeting site. For those who travel more than 35 miles to the meeting site, hotel accommodations will be provided. Additionally, districts will be reimbursed for substitute teacher costs. If a substitute teacher is not required because the school is out of session, the educator will be paid an honorarium.

For development and review opportunities for the new science and social studies assessments, visit <http://educator.force.com/CO>. For more information, contact Jason Clymer (new summative science and social studies assessments), clymer_j@cde.state.co.us or Mira Monroe (new alternate science and social studies assessments), monroe_m@cde.state.co.us.

What's on the Horizon:

Colorado Content Collaboratives

The Colorado Content Collaboratives will meet **June 11-12**, at The Village at Breckenridge, 535 S. Park Ave, in Breckenridge. Meetings begin at 8 a.m. and are open to the public for observation.

These meetings bring all Content Collaboratives members together to receive training and subsequently engage in a performance assessment development process. The Content Collaboratives are working with the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation from the University of Kansas, led by Dr. Neal Kingston.

Performance assessments developed by the Content Collaboratives will be tested and edited prior to being added to the CDE Resource Bank as options for use in educator evaluations. Performance assessments and related protocols developed during Phase 2 of the work of the Content Collaboratives will be available in the CDE Resource Bank in September. For more information about the Content Collaboratives, contact Angela Norlander at norlander_a@cde.state.co.us.

For more information about assessments, contact Joyce Zurkowski, executive director of assessment, 303-866-6760, zurkowski_j@cde.state.co.us, or you can visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/index.asp>.

Accountability, Performance & Support

What's Happening Now:

Federal Programs

The Federal Programs Unit is adjusting its process for reviewing the 2013-14 Consolidated Application. Program and fiscal staff will work together in the application review, to make connections across the various federal funding sources. This process should clarify the changes that are needed so CDE staff can grant final approval for the 2013-14 Consolidated Application. For more information, contact Trish Boland at [Boland_T@cde.state.co.us](mailto:boland_t@cde.state.co.us).

The Federal Programs Unit has been evaluating the longitudinal effectiveness of the

Supplemental Educational Services (SES) program. The Unit is reviewing SES to determine if changes are needed to the program that take into consideration the components that have yielded higher increases in student performance. For more information, contact Nazanin Mohajeri-Nelson at mohajeri-nelson_N@cde.state.co.us.

Improvement Planning

Unified Improvement Planning: Plans Now Posted

District and school UIPs are posted on SchoolView. The plans may be accessed on the school performance link from SchoolView by clicking on the "Improvement Plan" link associated with the district/school selected. As improvement planning is a continuous process and districts and schools continue to work on their plans throughout the year, the plans that are posted reflect a "point-in-time" submission.

2013-14 UIP Template

Based on district feedback and CDE's review of plans, the UIP template is being updated for the 2013-14 school year. Changes to the template will be minimal. The 2013-14 school and district UIP templates will be available this summer.

Accountability and Data Analysis

Requests for New School Codes: Requests for new school codes, school closures, name changes and grade changes for the 2013-14 school year are due to CDE by **June 30**. This information is crucial for ensuring accurate Title IA funding, NCLB ESEA waiver implementation, on-time and accurate release of the School Performance Frameworks and the pre-populated Unified Improvement Plans. To request school code changes or updates, please use the guidance and forms posted here:

https://cdeapps.cde.state.co.us/ade_news.htm#definition.

Accountability and UIP Tracker Contacts

Superintendents will be asked to confirm and update (if necessary) district accountability and UIP Tracker contact information for the upcoming school year. Links to the contacts were sent via email at the end of May. Our primary means of communication around accountability work is through the accountability contacts; we want to ensure that all districts are receiving the necessary information. The Tracker contact will receive all improvement planning-related communications and also be responsible for submitting improvement plans to CDE. As in previous years, improvement plans are to be submitted to CDE via the C-FIRS Tracker system. CDE understands that in some cases, the district's accountability contact and tracker contact may be the same individual.

Accountability for Alternative Education Campuses: By **July 1**, if schools wish to be eligible for Alternative Education Campus (AEC) accountability, districts/authorizers must submit (1) the Application and Renewal Form for Designation as an AEC (for the 2013-14 school year), and (2) the Selection of Accountability Measures Form for AECs (for 2012-13 plan type ratings). Both forms are required for schools seeking AEC designation for the first time and schools seeking renewal as an AEC. Forms, along with supporting resources are updated and available at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Accountability/StateAccountabilityAECs.asp>.

What's on the Horizon:

Federal Programs

Mid-June: Federal Programs will host a webinar to acquaint districts with the new 2013-14 Consolidated Application review process.

Fall 2013: CDE will seek input on which aspects of Supplemental Educational Services should remain in the state's guidance to be implemented for the 2014-2015 school year. CDE invites schools and districts to analyze their own data to determine which students have benefited from SES and what aspects or practices have contributed to that success.

English language proficiency growth data release

Summer 2013: Currently, CDE is investigating the validity of the student growth percentiles and median growth percentiles calculated from CELApro results to ACCESS results. If results are determined to be useful and meaningful, CDE will release student level English language proficiency growth data through CEDAR in the summer.

TCAP Growth

Aug. & Sept. 2013: Based on feedback from the field around priorities for TCAP growth results, CDE will release results in August and September in the following order:

- Student level flat file in CEDAR
- School and district summary growth reports (green and whites) in CEDAR
- Public release of Colorado Growth Model visualization tool in SchoolView and District and School Summary Growth Reports on Data Center and SchoolView
- Individual Student Growth Reports via File Transfer Protocol and Growth Model visualization tool
- Data Lab – 2013 growth data will be populated in Data Lab
- Data Center - 2013 growth data will be populated in Data Center

Preliminary School and District Performance Frameworks

The preliminary school and district performance frameworks will be released to districts through CEDAR by **Aug. 21**.

Preliminary Pre-Populated Unified Improvement Plans

The preliminary school and district unified improvement plans will be available by **Sept. 9** (two weeks after the release of the DPFs and SPFs).

Requests to Reconsider

Districts intending to submit a district or school request to reconsider must notify CDE (Lisa Steffen at steffen_l@cde.state.co.us) by **Sept. 16**. All documentation will be due by **Oct. 15**. Notification of intent to submit will allow CDE staff to provide technical assistance to districts to ensure complete requests by **Oct. 15**.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

- **June 28:** Annual district Safety Accreditation Report is due.
- **June 30:** Deadline for districts to submit requests to CDE for new school codes, school

closures, name changes, and grade changes for the 2013-14 school year.

- **July 1:** Deadline for districts to submit (1) the Application and Renewal Form for AEC Status Designation, and (2) the Selection of Accountability Measures for AECs Form.
- **By August 21:** Release of preliminary 2013 District and School Performance Framework reports.

For more information on accountability and improvement, contact Keith Owen, Deputy Commissioner, 303-866-6099.

Innovation and Choice

No update at this time.

For more information, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/index.asp> or contact Rebecca Holmes, associate commissioner of innovation, choice and engagement, 303-866-6938.

Organizational Effectiveness

*This month's update focuses on **RISE** and **Data Pipeline**.*

Overview:

Data Pipeline is a streamlined approach to efficiently move required education information from school districts to the Colorado Department of Education. Data Pipeline reduces data redundancy, captures closer to real-time data, streamlines the data collection process and allows districts to exchange information on transferred students.

What's Happening Now:

Weekly Town Halls

Town halls and training webinars are being held on a weekly basis. Dan Domagala, CDE CIO, will provide a Data Pipeline project update on Thursday, **June 13**, at http://www.cde.state.co.us/DataPipeline/train_trainings.asp.

Phase II Pilots

The following phase II pilots are currently in progress: RITS, EDIS, Directory, Student October, Human Resources, Title I, 11th-Grade Alternate Assessment and Finance. Phase II pilots are open to all LEAs. Ensure your teams are involved. To get involved with the Pilots, email datapipeline.support@cde.state.co.us.

Checklists and Best Practices

A Data Pipeline checklist and best practices documents are being developed to help prepare for the Data Pipeline launch on July 1.

What's on the Horizon:

Going Live with RITS, EDIS and Directory on July 1

To help LEAs prepare for the July launch, data teams need to download new file layouts at

http://www.cde.state.co.us/DataPipeline/inter_interchanges.asp.

For those districts that are required to report data in the Math and Sciences Partnership collection, please remind data team that CDE will pilot the Math and Science collections in June. Ensure your teams are involved. To get involved with the Math and Science Pilot, contact the Pipeline Project Team at datapipeline.support@cde.state.co.us.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

- **July/August** - The last two collections, Special Ed End of Year and Special Ed December, will be piloted.
- **July 1**- Data Pipeline goes live with Student/Educator IDs and Directory information open in Data Pipeline
- **Sept. 1** - All Interchange Submissions go live in Data Pipeline

Please visit the Data Pipeline home page for more information

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

For more information, contact Lisa Bradley, IMS project manager, 303-866-4902.

For More Information

If you have general questions or need assistance, contact:

- John Condie, field services manager for the Northwest, West Central and Pikes Peak regions. Contact John at 303-866-6630 or condie_j@cde.state.co.us
- Jhon Penn, executive director of field services, and field services manager for the Northeast, North Central and Metro regions. Contact Jhon at 303-866-6632 or penn_j@cde.state.co.us
- Tina Goar, field services manager for the Southeast and Southwest regions and the Rural Council. Contact Tina at 303-866-6608 or goar_t@cde.state.co.us.

To access all CDE fact sheets visit:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheets.html>

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