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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:

Assurances for Written Evaluation Systems. If your district has not submitted its evaluation system assurance (the deadline was **July 1**), you must do so as soon as possible. The assurance specifies if districts are implementing the Colorado State Model Evaluation System or another evaluation system aligned with S.B. 10-191 and state board rules. If you need assistance meeting this critical deadline, contact Toby King at king_t@cde.state.co.us. To view the assurances and learn how to submit them, visit www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/SB-Assurances.asp.

Space Still Available for the Summer Model System Trainings. This summer, trainings will be offered around the state on the professional practices and student learning outcomes/growth components of the new state model educator evaluation requirements. There are two opportunities available on each day: a session on professional practices for districts using the Colorado State Model Evaluation System rubric, and a work session on student learning outcomes/growth applicable for all districts wanting more information on the 50 percent of evaluation linked to student outcomes/growth. Space for the trainings is still available, but capacity is limited. To register, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/SMES-Trainings.asp>.

What's on the Horizon:

Evaluation Requirements for the 2013-14 school year. The 2013-14 school year will be the first year the new evaluation requirements are in effect. However, this first year is a hold harmless year, meaning a final rating of partially effective or ineffective will not count

towards the loss of an educator's non-probationary status. This gives all districts the opportunity to adjust to the new evaluation requirements in a low-stakes environment. Next year, all districts are required to evaluate all of their principals and teachers on the professional practices (50 percent) and student learning outcomes/growth (the other 50 percent). All principals and teachers must receive a final rating combining both the professional practices and student learning outcomes/growth scores into a final rating of either highly effective, effective, partially effective or ineffective.

Specialized Service Professionals Pilot. Interested districts can now apply to become an official pilot for the evaluation of other licensed personnel, or specialized service professionals, for the 2013-14 school year. Selected districts will receive training on the evaluation process and can provide feedback for system improvements. To apply, complete an application by **July 31**. CDE will select pilot sites based on geographic diversity, student population and involvement in the teacher and principal pilots. Selected districts will be contacted after **July 31**. For more information on the pilot application, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/SpecializedServiceProfessionals.asp>.

Model System Rubric and Scoring Improvements Based on Educator Feedback.

A new scoring rule for the model system's teacher and principal rubrics will be released in August. This is in response to direct feedback from educators and looking at the pilot data. The new scoring rules, final rubrics and user guides for districts implementing the model evaluation system in 2013-14 school year will be posted online by **Aug. 15**.

Grant Available to Vendors to Support Recruiting Teachers. In response to districts' expressed need for help with recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers, the state has developed a grant program to aid in meeting this need. With the state's new emphasis on teacher evaluation and support, the Quality Teacher Recruitment Program grant will help better support districts' recruitment work. The 2013 School Finance Act established the Quality Teacher Recruitment Program and is aimed at vendors who are external service providers (not districts or BOCES) to partner with one or more school districts or BOCES to implement a teacher recruitment program in areas of the state that demonstrate historic difficulty with recruitment and retention.

A total of \$2.94 million is available for one or more vendors. Vendor funding will cover program costs for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years. Vendors applying for the grant must have a documented history of recruiting, training and retaining highly qualified teachers in areas of Colorado and other states that have demonstrated historic difficulty in recruiting and training highly qualified teachers and must demonstrate that the teachers it has placed achieve high academic growth from their students. Additionally, applicants must secure no less than 100 percent matching funds for any moneys awarded through the Quality Teacher Development Grant Program. Applications are due on **Sept. 30, 2013**. To learn more about the application process for vendors and partner districts and BOCES, please visit the Educator Licensing webpage at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_license.htm

Superintendents' Integrated Timeline. An integrated timeline has been created to help guide superintendents through key implementation work during the 2013-14 school year and into the 2014-15 school year. The timeline includes the main tasks associated with implementing new standards, assessments, educator evaluations and accountability requirements. By identifying what work is happening simultaneously, districts can be more intentional in integrating their efforts.

While not representative of all tasks, the timeline includes major activities, broken out quarterly and by phase of implementation: planning, implementation and continuous improvement. Guiding questions for each quarter are included to help identify focus points and strategies.

Links to CDE resources are available to ensure that superintendents and their staff are supported in their implementation efforts. CDE is developing a principal version of this timeline to be released in July. For more information, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheets.html>.

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:

The 2013-14 school year marks the first year of full implementation of the Colorado Academic Standards, the implementation of the READ Act, and the first of a two-year school readiness initiative implementation process. CDE continues to support districts and schools with their implementation of the READ Act and the Colorado Academic Standards.

What's Happening Now:

Standards. The Standards and Instructional Support Office is contacting superintendents to provide support for standards based unit development. Content specialists will travel to districts across the state to gather teams of educators who will build full instructional units based on samples created by Colorado teachers this past fall. These teams, working in district settings, will add to the samples learning strategies, resource suggestions, differentiation options, and assessment ideas linked to helping all students master the Colorado Academic Standards.

This work depends on the participation of dedicated educators who are responsible for the instructional delivery of standards-based instruction. Upon the completion of this work, hundreds of educators will have produced at least one instructional unit at each grade level (K-12) for each content area. Participation details are available at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/StandardsAndInstruction/SampleCurriculum-summer2013participation.asp>

School Readiness. CDE has added training sessions for kindergarten teachers planning to begin using the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment system in their classrooms in the 2013-14 school year. Through Colorado's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Fund, CDE is able to support some training for kindergarten teachers implementing school readiness assessments. Each session will provide the same information as the June training sessions.

The new sessions will be held:

Monday, July 29: Sterling
Tuesday, July 30: Denver metro south
Wednesday, July 31: Pueblo
Friday, Aug. 2: Eagle
Monday, Aug. 5: Denver metro north
Wednesday, Aug. 7: Alamosa

Registration can be found at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/schoolreadiness/goldtraining.asp>. Specific venues will be announced on the website as they are secured.

School Readiness Resources. CDE has released a draft school readiness assessment guidance document. The document provides background on the school readiness initiative, guidance related to literacy assessment in alignment with the READ Act, and a sample school readiness plan. The draft guidance document and a feedback form are available on the school readiness web page: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/schoolreadiness/index.asp>. A final version for the 2013-14 school year will be available in August.

The READ Act. The READ Act created an Early Literacy Fund to provide districts with per-pupil funding to offer intervention for students identified with a significant reading deficiency. The state has allocated \$15.3 million to the Early Literacy Fund for the 2013-14 school year to be distributed to districts according to the number of students identified with a significant reading deficiency across the state.

The state will calculate per pupil Early Literacy funds based on the total number of students identified with a significant reading deficiency according to data provided in the READ Act data collection due on July 1. After a validation of the data, the department can begin the distribution process anticipated by mid-September.

The READ Act specifies that districts must provide interventions to each K-3 student identified with a significant reading deficiency. Per-pupil intervention money for students with significant reading deficiencies must be used in one or more ways that include providing full-day kindergarten, purchasing tutoring services in reading, providing other targeted, scientifically- or evidence-based intervention services (including but not limited to those identified in the READ program advisory list) or operating a summer school literacy program. Funds may also be used to purchase diagnostic assessments on the approved assessment list.

Questions about the data collection, identification of a significant reading deficiency, and allowable uses of funds can be directed to Pati Montgomery

(montgomery_p@cde.state.co.us), executive director of the office of literacy. For more information about the READ Act, visit:

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

For more information about standards, visit

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/index.asp> or contact Melissa Colsman, executive director of teaching and learning, 303-866-6737.

Assessments

Overview:

The Assessment Unit supports the teaching and learning process by providing a range of assessments to inform classroom instruction and school and district improvement. Assessments administered by the Assessment Unit include summative content assessments, English language proficiency assessments; college/career ready assessments, and alternate content assessments.

What is Happening Now:

Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) and CO ACT Results. TCAP and CoAlt data files are expected to be available to districts on **July 17**. TCAP and CoAlt score reports are scheduled to be delivered to districts during the week of **Aug. 7**.

State, district, and school level results for the TCAP and CoAlt assessments will be embargoed until **Aug. 14**. Because these results are embargoed, they may not be released or shared with the media, or presented in any public meeting; however, districts may share results with their principals and teachers for the purpose of school improvement planning. Individual Student Reports may be shared with parents as of **Aug. 7**. ACT score reports are scheduled to be delivered during the week of **Aug. 9**.

Field Testing for the Colorado Science and Social Studies Assessments. Many districts that participated in the initial round of field testing for the new science and social studies assessments reported it was a positive experience that provided an opportunity for testing technology capacity, interacting with the online testing environment and training personnel. Districts can continue practice with the new system in a no-stakes environment as more field test opportunities will be available in the fall. The field testing will take place in mid-late September for elementary and middle school and in late October for high school. The elementary and middle school field tests will occur one grade higher than the intended assessed grades. Social studies will be assessed at 5th- and 8th-grades on 4th- and 7th-grade assessment frameworks. Science will be assessed at 6th- and 9th-grades on 5th- and 8th-grade assessment frameworks. The Assessment Unit is currently recruiting districts for participation. If you are interested in participating in the fall field tests, please contact Margo Allen at allen_m@cde.state.co.us.

Educator Recruitment for Assessment Review. Educator involvement in the development and review of state assessments is essential to ensuring that the content of items is appropriate for Colorado students and that items are not unfairly advantageous or disadvantageous to a particular group of students. Assessment development provides a

unique professional development opportunity for participating educators, and CDE would like your district to be represented.

The next educator item development opportunity involves the review of summative science and social studies items for content, bias and sensitivity. This meeting will occur on **July 15-17**. For participation in this educator item development opportunity and all others, please direct interested educators to the following link: <http://educator.force.com/CO>.

English Language Arts & Mathematics Assessments: Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). PARCC is the multi-state assessment consortium for English language arts and mathematics of which Colorado is a governing member. During the summer, PARCC plans to release information related to the following:

- Timeline for professional development modules
- Final accommodations manual for students with disabilities
- Final performance level descriptors for all grades/courses in ELA/literacy and mathematics
- Testing windows for traditional and block scheduling
- Final English Language Learner policy
- Additional sample items

Additional information regarding PARCC may be found at www.parcconline.org. For questions or issues related to PARCC, please contact Stephanie Boyd at boyd_s@cde.state.co.us.

Technology Readiness Tool. Technology guidelines for the Colorado Science and Social Studies and PARCC assessments are specified in the Technology Guidelines for PARCC Assessments Version 2.1. This document is available at: http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCCTechnologyGuidelines2dot1_Feb2013Update.pdf. Chromebooks and tablets such as the iPad may be used for the assessments; however, districts are encouraged to read the restrictions for these devices that are outlined in the aforementioned technology guidelines and to consider these guidelines when making technology purchasing decisions for the 2013-2014 school year.

Communication about the Technology Readiness tool and all online readiness assessment activities are delivered directly from CDE to school districts. Therefore, districts are encouraged to include all of their associated charter schools in their Technology Readiness Tool submission and to ensure that their charter schools are informed about all online readiness assessment activities. For more information about the Technology Readiness Tool and online readiness, please contact Collin Bonner at bonner_c@cde.state.co.us.

What's on the Horizon:

Public Release of TCAP Results. State, district and school level results for the TCAP and CoAlt assessments will be embargoed until **Aug. 14**.

Accommodations Training. Accommodations trainings are open to all public school employees. This full day of training will cover accommodations for instruction and for statewide assessments. Additional information and a registration link will be available later this summer. The following trainings will be available:

Aug. 22 – Denver Area
Aug. 29 – Durango
September 5 – Poudre
September 12 – Limon

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

Overview:

CDE supports schools and districts in the continuous improvement process through its focus on implementing quality improvement plans, school and district support systems, accountability measures, federal programs and data analysis.

What's Happening Now:

Requests for New School Codes. 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. While these requests were due at the end of June, if you still need to request school code changes or updates, please use the guidance and forms posted at:

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

Accountability for Alternative Education Campuses. The state board will approve the AEC designations at its August meeting. For more information, visit:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/Accountability/StateAccountabilityAECs.asp>.

Unified Improvement Planning Templates. The 2013-14 districts and school UIP templates will be posted on the UIP website by mid-July at:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/UIP_Templates.asp. The UIP handbook and Quality Criteria will be posted on the General Resources webpage of the UIP site:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/UIP_TrainingAndSupport_Resources.asp by the end of July. All resources will be announced via *The Scoop* the week during which they are released.

Federal Programs. In July, the ESEA Office will review and approve the 2013-14 Consolidated Applications. Districts should expect feedback by the end of the month. Districts will also have an optional opportunity to have a conference call with the review team to address the team's questions. LEAs can sign up for a conference call at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/consappcall>. For more information, contact Trish Boland, director of the Office of ESEA Programs, Boland_T@cde.state.co.us

CEDAR. The Colorado Education Data Analysis & Reporting System (CEDAR) is a system designed by CDE to create customizable reports to measure and present the progress of students over time so that you can quickly address the needs of many different audiences. CDE has added new training videos that walk new superintendents, or anyone that needs a refresher, through the process of logging on and provides an overview of report choices and more. For more information, visit <https://cedar2.cde.state.co.us/>.

What's on the Horizon:

English language proficiency growth data release. This summer, student growth percentiles and median growth percentiles calculated from CELApro results to ACCESS results will be used for improvement planning and accountability determinations. More information can be found at <http://bit.ly/12DpaJA>. CDE will release student level English language proficiency growth data through CEDAR this summer.

TCAP Growth. 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 SPFAs).

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:

- **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.
- **Sept. 16:** Deadline for notification of intent to submit a request to reconsider a school plan type assignment or district accreditation rating.
- **September:** Release of preliminary pre-populated 2013 Unified Improvement Plan reports (Section I) to districts.

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

This month's update focuses on the teacher/student data link (TSDL).

Overview:

As we continually improve our education system and work towards our collective goal of preparing all students for success in college and careers, timely and quality data is more important than ever. One strategy for achieving our goal is to collect linked data to allow districts to analyze the data and help improve instruction and student support. By developing a reliable and accurate teacher/student data link (TSDL) the department can identify regional support and resources for Colorado school districts. Additionally, preparation programs can do analyses on the student outcomes that are linked to their graduates in order to identify program improvement needs. The aim for is 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.

What can districts do with TSDL data?

- Provide differentiated support to teachers
- Support teachers to personalize classroom instruction
- Inform educator evaluation and staffing assignments
- Identify and deploy district resources to meet demonstrated needs

What will CDE do with TSDL data?

- Provide educator effectiveness data to preparation programs for program improvement
- Research best practices that result in increased student outcomes
- Deploy department resources to areas or regions with demonstrated needs

What's on the Horizon:

Beginning in **September**, all Colorado school districts will submit TSDL data into Data Pipeline. A designee from each district can upload data as frequently as needed to maintain accurate data throughout the school year. Two files will be extracted and imported: course enrollment and course instructor. Webinars are available for the designees in each district that are responsible for collecting and submitting the data. For those designees who are just beginning, a webinar is available from 10 to 11 a.m. every Tuesday. For those designees who already know the basics and need to learn more, a webinar is available every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to noon. To register for a webinar, contact Chris Vance at vance_c@cde.state.co.us.

For more information about TSDL, visit

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/EDIDProject/DataLink.asp> or contact Chris Vance, student growth support at vance_c@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-4383 and Annette Severson, data specialist at Severson_a@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6824.

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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