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<http://www.cde.state.co.us/update/>

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:

Classroom teaching and school leadership are the strongest school-based factors impacting student achievement. CDE supports the state's 178 school districts to attract, prepare and support great educators as a part of meeting the requirements of S.B.10-191, the Great Teachers and Leaders Act.

What's Happening Now:

Reminder: Check Your Excel Files

As your school district/BOCES begins to finalize educator evaluations, it's important to make sure that the Excel rubrics are up-to-date. During this first year of implementation, the Educator Effectiveness team identified some errors in certain versions of the Excel files.

In order to make sure files are accurate, there is a simple way to verify them:

For Teachers: The version is a date after 11-14-14

For Principals: The version is a date after 4-14-14

(To check the version, open a file, click the instructions tab, find the version at the top left.)

You can also run an automated program, Finalizer (for both teacher and principal files), that will check all of your Excel evaluation files and update any files that are old and need to be modified. For instructions on how to use and run this program, contact Toby King at king_t@cde.state.co.us). Districts are encouraged to run this program before finalizing their evaluation systems for the 2013-14 school year. If you need support checking and updating your evaluation files, please contact Toby King at king_t@cde.state.co.us.

Evaluation Process Webinars

CDE is offering a series of monthly webinars with topics following the part of the evaluation process districts are working through. Participants will engage with CDE staff and others around the state. May's webinar is on **Tuesday, May 20** from 4-5:30 p.m. and focuses on goal setting and performance plans. To register, visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2014EEwebinarseries>. Note: In advance of each webinar, a short 10-15 minute recorded module with an overview of the webinar content is available at <http://bit.ly/1i0i6Jm>. CDE recommends watching the module prior to the webinar.

Approved Evaluator Training Providers

A group of training providers have been initially approved by CDE to train on the Colorado State Model Evaluation System and effective evaluation practices (C.R.S. 22-9-106).

To access the list of school districts, BOCES, institutions of higher education and independent consultants that have been initially approved by CDE for the 2014-15 school year as Colorado State Model Educator Evaluation System training providers, visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/trainingopportunitiesfromproviders>.

Elevate Colorado (Inter-rater Agreement) Trainings

Last month the Educator Effectiveness team released the training schedule for building inter-rater agreement systems with Elevate Colorado. Elevate Colorado is an online training system that includes videos of lessons that are aligned by master coders to professional practices in the Colorado State Model Evaluation System teacher rubric. Additional trainings have been added in June and July. To register for an open training, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MJVV2Q3>. Registration is free, but a minimum of 10 participants is required per training or the training could be cancelled. To have an accurate count, please register at least one week prior to your training. For more information, contact Joslyn Robich at robich_joslyn2@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6964.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

Submit your intent to use the Colorado State Model Performance Management System

CDE has contracted with RANDA Solutions, Inc. to create an online performance management system to support districts using the Colorado State Model Evaluation System. The Colorado State Model Performance Management System, pending no major development issues, will be ready for the 2014-2015 school year. The current development schedule anticipates a district's local access managers having access in July 2014 to set up CDE identity management. Training for local access managers will be available in June and more details will be released once the training calendar is finalized. Educators and districts using the Colorado State Model Online Performance Management System are anticipated to have access to RANDA by early August 2014. This is an optional tool provided free-of-charge to all districts.

To assist the Educator Effectiveness team in creating training and implementation plans for this summer, please let us know if you are considering using RANDA for next year via the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RSDQG66> **as soon as possible**. If you would like an opportunity to demo the tool before you submit your intent to use the Colorado State Model Performance Management System, please contact Toby King at king_t@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6964.

Assurances for Educator Evaluation Systems

By **July 1** of each year, all districts and BOCES are to provide an assurance that they are evaluating their licensed personnel against the educator Quality Standards. To view the 2014 assurances and other resources related to submitting assurances, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/sb-assurances>. If you have questions, contact Toby King at King_T@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6964.

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.

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 three-year school readiness initiative. The Teaching and Learning Unit offers schools and districts resources and supports to enhance student learning and achievement.

What's Happening Now:

Standards

Webinars Available on Colorado Teacher Created Units: More than 100 teacher-authored instructional units based on the Colorado Academic Standards are available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction>. The units, authored by teams of teachers in school districts across the state, include learning experiences, teacher and student resources, assessment ideas and differentiation options. In April, content specialists in the Standards and Instructional Support Office hosted webinars on the unit development process and the unique components/aspects of the units by content area. These webinars are available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunit-resources>. For more information, contact Brian Sevier at 720-498-2132 or sevier_b@cde.state.co.us.

Early Learning and School Readiness

School Readiness Summer Training Opportunities: CDE will host summer training events in support of the school readiness initiative. Training will be offered for teachers and principals related to formative assessment and best practices for kindergarten as well as training for districts implementing *Teaching Strategies GOLD®*.

Tentative locations and dates are Sterling, June 17; Denver (south), June 19; Grand Junction, June 24; Steamboat Springs, June 26; La Junta, July 22; Alamosa, July 29; Durango, July 31; Aurora, Aug. 4; Denver (north), Aug. 5; Greeley, Aug. 6; Pueblo, Aug. 7; and Colorado Springs, Aug. 8.

Detailed information about the sessions and registration can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/schoolreadiness>. Contact Suzanne Rougier at rougier_s@cde.state.co.us with questions.

QRIS Webinar Recording Available: A recording of April's Colorado Quality Rating and Improvement System webinar is available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cpp>. The webinar contains information relevant to district based preschool programs related to the QRIS and program licensing. Pursuant to House Bill 11-1027 (C.R.S. 26-6-604), the Colorado Department of Human Services will embed the QRIS in the licensing of all early education and care programs, including preschool programs. The new system will be implemented in four phases beginning in 2014 and ending by January 2016. District-based programs will phase in no later than the 2015-16 school year. Once CDHS releases the full implementation timeline, CDE will work closely with CDHS to disseminate information to districts through all available avenues. More information about QRIS can be found at <http://www.coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.com/#!/qris/c5ch>.

The READ Act

Regional READ Act Training Continues: The Office of Literacy is conducting a series of trainings for teachers in kindergarten through 3rd-grade, literacy coordinators and coaches, and elementary school principals to support implementation of the READ Act. Trainings include information about effective implementation of the READ Act, development of READ Plans, specific guidance for English Learners and the spring READ data collection.

Dates, locations, registration and other meeting information can be found at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/ReadAct/index.asp>. Questions can be directed to Marisa Herrera at herrera_m@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6189.

Additions to the READ Resource Bank Coming Soon: The Office of Literacy just completed another review of instructional programs for supporting students' reading development. New additions to the advisory list of instructional programs will be posted to the READ Resource Bank in early **June**.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

The READ collection opens **April 1** and closes **June 30**. For more information, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/readdatapipeline>.

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:

Assessments administered by the unit include summative content assessments, English language proficiency assessments, college/career ready assessments and alternate content assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

What's Happening Now:

CMAS Science and Social Studies Assessments

Administration: Districts around the state completed science and social studies testing. Approximately 250,000 elementary and middle school students took Colorado's first computer-based state assessments. Colorado was one of the first states to use Pearson's new online test engine, TestNav 8. The move to the new testing platform allowed schools and districts to use iPads and Chromebooks for testing, which districts indicated was a priority for this spring. The move to the new system did mean that schools and students experienced working through the glitches and bugs expected in a new system. With a few exceptions, schools were able to resolve issues and complete computer-based administration successfully. Lessons learned this spring will be used to improve Pearson's online test engine and technology preparation guidance for next year. The efforts and patience of district and school assessment coordinators, district technology coordinators, test administrators and students were invaluable during the administration.

Development: CMAS and CoAlt science and social studies item development are an ongoing process with activities occurring throughout the year. Educators are selected to participate from the Colorado educator database. Educators may submit applications to participate in development activities at <http://educator.force.com/CO>.

Upcoming events include:

- **June 24-26:** CMAS high school item/bias/sensitivity review with invited educators

PARCC English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments Field Testing

More than 12,400 students in 54 districts participated in PARCC performance-based assessment field tests. The end-of-year assessment field test will be administered from **May 5 – June 6**. Online and paper versions of the assessments will be given during the window. Participation is voluntary.

Dynamic Learning Maps Field Testing

Colorado is part of a multi-state consortium, DLM, developing English language arts and mathematics assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Volunteer school districts will participate in DLM field testing that will be available from May 1 through the end of the school year. Additional information on DLM field testing may be found at:

http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/moreinfo/field_testing/index.html.

What's on the Horizon:

Standard Setting for CMAS and CoAlt Science and Social Studies

Standard setting will be held this summer for CMAS and CoAlt Science and Social Studies. This process will generate cut score recommendations for each of the performance levels. CDE is seeking science content specialists who have worked with students in grades 5, 6, 8 and 9, social studies content specialists who have worked with students in grades 4, 5, 7 and 8 and individuals who are experienced in working with English learners and special education students. Superintendents are also encouraged to participate. Participants will be selected from educator names submitted to the educator database at <http://educator.force.com/CO> as well as from nominations. Nominations should be sent to Margo Allen at allen_m@cde.state.co.us with "CMAS Standard Setting Nomination" in the subject line.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

- **May 7:** CO ACT make-up test date
- **May 15 - 20:** TCAP and CoAlt N-count excluding grade 3 reading expected
- **May 16:** Deadline for ACT to receive all answer documents from schools. Late arriving documents will not be scored.
- **May 22 - June 3:** CMAS/CoAlt Science and Social Studies electronic review and verification of student data by districts (expected)
- **May 22 - June 6:** TCAP/CoAlt Reading, Writing and Math electronic review and verification of student data by districts (expected)

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:

Accreditation Contracts

The Charter School Institute, districts and BOCES Accredited with Turnaround, Priority Improvement or Improvement Plans must sign an annual accreditation contract to CDE by **June 2**. In past years, districts Accredited with Improvement were automatically renewed, along with districts Accredited with Performance and Distinction. However, after the Office of Legislative Legal Services reviewed the state's accountability rules last fall, it determined that the Education Accountability Act does not authorize the Colorado State Board of Education to automatically renew contracts for districts Accredited with an Improvement Plan. This winter, CDE proposed a statutory change that would have explicitly authorized automatic contract renewals for this category of districts, but the change was not supported by the legislature. As a result, the state board was required to amend its rules (which were approved in March) to require districts Accredited with Improvement to annually submit their accreditation

contracts. Accreditation contracts have been emailed to district superintendents for districts required to submit this year.

UIP Spring Submissions Posting to SchoolView

This spring, approximately 1,800 updated Unified Improvement Plans were submitted by the April 15 deadline. Plans submitted this spring will be publicly posted on SchoolView at the beginning of the summer. District UIP Tracker contacts will be notified once plans are publicly available. Updated plans may be submitted at any time to replace what is posted on SchoolView. Contact Lisa Steffen at steffen_l@cde.state.co.us with questions.

What's on the Horizon:

English Language Proficiency Growth Metrics

Now that Colorado has two years of data on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment, we are able to determine adequate growth again. Adequate growth provides an indicator if individual students are on track to becoming proficient in English. CDE is working closely across the department, with the Technical Advisory Panel for Longitudinal Growth and with practitioners to analyze the new data and make a determination for adequate growth targets. A decision will be shared in **June**.

Accountability and Tracker Contacts

If your district will have a new accountability or UIP tracker contact for the 2014-15 school year, please remember that CDE will need information for the new representative. More information on the process for districts to update their contacts will be sent this month.

Alternative Education Campuses- School Performance Framework Updates

The Selection of Measures form to report on additional measures used in your 2014 AEC SPF will be released in **mid-May** and will be due on **July 1**. The form will be posted here: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Accountability/StateAccountabilityAECs.asp>

Updated UIP Template

Based on district feedback (including the spring needs assessment) and CDE's review of plans, the UIP template is being updated for the 2014-15 school year. It is expected that changes in the template will be kept to a minimum. The 2014-15 school and district UIP templates should be available by this summer. CDE is also developing an online UIP system that will be available for schools and districts this coming fall. The online version of the UIP will be optional during the 2014-15 school year. More information about the new online system will be released this summer.

Safety Accreditation Report

The Safety Accreditation Report is due **June 27** and has been updated to match what is stated in legislation. The report can be found, starting **May 5**, in the Automated Data Exchange in the safety and discipline indicator collection section. For questions, contact Annette Severson at severson_a@cde.state.co.us or John Condie at condie_j@cde.state.co.us.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

- **Summer** - CDE publicly posts submitted UIPs to SchoolView
- **June 2** - Accreditation contracts due to CDE for districts Accredited with Turnaround, Priority Improvement or Improvement Plans
- **June 27** – Safety Accreditation Report due
- **June 30** - New school and closed school requests for 2013-14 due – see http://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/snap_studentoctober
- **July 1**- AEC applications and selection of measures due

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

Postsecondary Readiness

Overview:

CDE supports the various ways students can enter postsecondary education by working with districts and schools in thinking through the personalization of a pathway through high school and on to college and career for every student.

What's Happening Now:

Charter School State Waiver Renewals

Charter schools opening in the fall and existing charters with waivers from state statute (expiring 6/30/2014) can request or renew their state waivers by following the steps outlined at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart/waivers>. Contact rosensweet_k@cde.state.co.us with questions regarding this process.

Graduation Guidelines

Four of the seven Graduation Guidelines work groups are halfway through their task to create tools/resources, best/promising practices and implementation recommendations. Several groups will post draft recommendations over the next few months. A follow-up notification will be sent when these initial drafts are posted, beginning a three-month comment period to hear from the field. To learn more about Colorado's Graduation Guidelines and the work groups, see www.cde.state.co.us/Postsecondary.

ASCENT Information for 2014-15 Participation

If your district submitted a request for students to participate in ASCENT for the 2014-15 academic year, CDE will contact your district's ASCENT coordinator to confirm the allocation of ASCENT slots by **June 1**. For more information on ASCENT visit, http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ce_ascent.

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 Organizational Effectiveness update focuses on **Data Pipeline**.*

Overview:

Local education agencies continue to submit data within Data Pipeline. CDE is strengthening the system from lessons learned as we progress through this initial year. The Safety and Discipline Indicators collection opens in the Automated Data Exchange for the last time this month. The TCAP/CoAlt: Reading, Writing and Mathematics and the CMAS/CoAlt: Science and Social Studies (Spring 2014) Student Biographical Data processes and Math Science Partnerships have tentative opening dates in May. This month's snapshots may now be taken for Special Education Discipline, Special Education End of Year and Student End of Year. Other open collections are READ, 11th-Grade Alternate Assessment for Colorado ACT and Directory.

What's Happening Now:

Local education agencies are submitting and cleaning files for:

- **Safety and Discipline Indicators (ADE)** - This collection is open from **May 5 - July 3** in the Automated Data Exchange and will move to Data Pipeline in 2014-15.
- **TCAP/CoAlt: Reading, Writing and Mathematics SBD** - The tentative dates for this collection are **May 22 - June 6**.
- **CMAS/CoAlt: Science and Social Studies (Spring 2014) SBD** - This collection is

tentatively scheduled for **May 22 - June 3**.

- **Math Science Partnerships** - This collection is tentatively set for **May - Sept. 30**.
- **READ** - Collection is **April 1 - July 1**.
- **11th-Grade Alternate Assessment** - The test administration window is complete. Sign-off forms verifying the accuracy of entered student scores are due **May 8**.
- **Directory** - Four-day school week applications are due **May 9**. Also, in Directory, 2014-15 school codes changes may be submitted to CDE for entry into the Data Pipeline system for the 2014-15 school year by **June 30**.
- **Student End of Year** - This collection is open for interchange file submissions and snapshots.
- **Special Education Discipline** - Snapshots may be created for this collection beginning May 1. There are also two interim deadlines for Indicator 20 timeliness. Because districts submit the student data and administrative units create the snapshots, it is imperative for districts and administrative units to collaborate and communicate regarding this collection.
- **Special Education End of Year** - Snapshots may be taken as of May 1.

What's on the Horizon:

The CO ACT SBD process is coming in June.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

- **May 8** – Sign-off forms verifying the accuracy of entered student scores due.
- **May 9** – Four-day school week applications due via Data Pipeline.

For more information, contact Jan Rose Petro, director of data services, Petro_J@cde.state.co.us, 303-866-6838. Submit questions and suggestions to datapipeline.support@cde.state.co.us.

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 CDE fact sheets visit:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfags>. Access superintendent and principal tools at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/superintendentandprincipaltools>.

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