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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:

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:

More Time Given to Adjust to Educator Evaluation and Accountability System

In the 2014 legislative session, two pieces of legislation were passed to ensure fair implementation of the state's new educator evaluation system and allow for adjustments to the state's accountability system.

First, flexibility was passed for districts/BOCES regarding the 50 percent multiple measures of student learning (for teachers and principals) or student outcomes (for specialized service professionals) portion of the evaluation for the 2014-15 school year only. District flexibility comes in the final step of the evaluation process when determining how much weight the measures of student learning/outcomes standard counts in the educator's final evaluation rating. Districts can choose to weight that portion anywhere from 0 percent up to 50 percent for that one year. To learn more, visit:

www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/sb14165factsheet.

Additionally, some adjustments were made to the state's accountability system to account for the transition from the reading, writing and mathematics Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) assessments to the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) in the spring of 2015. H.B. 14-1182 calls for 2015 school plan type assignments and district accreditation ratings to be based on:

- 2014 school plan type assignments and district accreditation ratings (*2014 ratings will use elementary and middle level CMAS science and social studies results for participation only and not achievement.*)
- 2015 assessment participation rates
- Accreditation assurances (for districts)
- Optional: 2014-15 student performance data (aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards) or postsecondary workforce data that districts may optionally submit

through the request to reconsider process.
For additional details, view the fact sheet at:
www.cde.state.co.us/communications/assessmenttransitionhb141182.

Online Data System to Support State Model Evaluation System

CDE is working with RANDA Solutions, Inc. to create an online performance management system to support districts in the implementation of the Colorado State Model Evaluation System. The State Model Performance Management System is an optional tool for districts that will be ready for use in the 2014-15 school year. The performance management system includes electronic interfaces and data collection tools for the state model evaluation rubrics, measures of student learning/outcomes, final effectiveness ratings and aggregate reports to help principals and district leaders in providing useful feedback and possible professional development opportunities for their educators.

For the school districts/BOCES that committed to using the Colorado State Model Performance Management System for the 2014-15 school year, several full-day trainings will be provided in August. These trainings are intended for district/BOCES staff that will be responsible for training users in the system and providing technical support to users during implementation. To see the dates and locations of these trainings and to register, visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/COPMS_Trainings. If your district/BOCES hasn't committed to using the Colorado State Model Performance Management System but you'd like to, simply contact Joslyn Robich at robich_joslyn2@cde.state.co.us.

What's on the Horizon:

Improvements Made to the State Model Evaluation System

CDE is committed to continuous improvement of the State Model Evaluation System. Over the past year, CDE monitored the usability, fairness and credibility of the State Model Evaluation System and talked to the field about how to improve it. As a result, improvements to the system and guidance documents including clearer teacher and principal rubrics will be released. CDE's goal is to have all resources updated by **Aug. 1**. However, since the rubrics may be needed earlier, they are planned to be posted on the State Model Evaluation System webpage by mid-July:

www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/statemodevaluationsystem.

For more information about educator effectiveness, visit:
www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness/ or contact Katy Anthes, executive director of Educator Effectiveness, anthes_k@cde.state.co.us, 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 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:

Teacher-Created Instructional Units Available Online for Sharing

The Standards and Instructional Support webpage now includes 20 additional teacher-authored instructional units for visual arts, drama and theater arts, music, comprehensive health, social studies, and reading, writing and communicating. These teacher-authored units include learning experiences, teacher and student resources, assessment ideas and differentiation options. The website also includes curriculum overviews, blank templates, instructional units, and other supports for the curriculum samples. These voluntary-use

resources were created by and for Colorado educators as a way to better understand and translate the Colorado Academic Standards into curriculum. See more at:

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

Educators Slated to Participate in Early Learning and School Readiness Work

School Readiness Summer Training Opportunities Slated: CDE is hosting summer training events in support of the school readiness initiative. Workshops for teachers and principals are open for registration. Workshop topics include formative assessment and best practices for kindergarten as well as training for districts implementing *Teaching Strategies GOLD®*. Workshop locations and dates are as follows: La Junta, July 22; Alamosa, July 29; Durango, July 31; Aurora, Aug. 4; Denver, 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>.

CDE Anticipates Additions to School Readiness Assessment Menu: CDE solicited additional assessments for the school readiness assessment menu. In August, qualified early childhood educators will assist the department in identifying appropriate school readiness assessments for implementation of the school readiness initiative as outlined in the CAP4K legislation. The evaluation rubric for the school readiness can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/schoolreadiness>. Recommendations from reviewers will be brought to the state board for discussion in September with a vote anticipated in October. Following the adoption of approved school readiness assessments, districts will have until August 2015 to fully implement the approved assessments and provisions outlined in CAP4K.

New Resources Available Through The READ Act

More Resources Added to READ Resource Bank: The READ Act requires CDE to identify quality reading instructional programs and professional development programs for optional use by local education agencies. This spring, a team of literacy Colorado educators assisted with a review of instructional programs to support students' reading development. The READ resource bank includes programs identified through the review process including core instructional programs, English language development programs, interventions, supplemental reading programs and tutoring programs. For more information, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/readact/programming#sthash.wAERO1vy.dpuf>.

More Funding Available for READ Act Efforts: This past legislative session, the General Assembly allocated more money to support early literacy efforts, bringing the total funds available for annual allocation to districts to about \$33 million. The state will calculate per-pupil early literacy funds based on the total number of students with a significant reading deficiency according to data provided in the READ Act data collection. **Due to programming issues with data pipeline, CDE is extending the READ data collection deadline from July 1 to July 18.** After validating the data, the department will begin the distribution process anticipated by mid-September. Please be sure to submit your data by **July 18** to ensure meeting the timeline for distributing funds to you. For more details, check out <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/readdatapipeline>.

Allowable uses for the per-pupil intervention money for students with significant reading deficiencies include: (1) providing full-day kindergarten; (2) purchasing reading tutoring services; (3) providing other targeted, scientifically- or evidence-based intervention services (including but not limited to those identified in the READ program advisory list); or (4) operating a summer school literacy program. As part of the allowable use around scientifically-or evidence-based intervention services, funds may be used to purchase diagnostic assessments on the approved assessment list and to provide the professional development needed for teachers to use READ assessments or provide scientifically- or evidence-based intervention services. Further flexibility in the use of per-pupil intervention

funds was provided in H.B.14-1204, the Rural Flexibility bill. This bill allows small rural districts to purchase the services of a literacy specialist from a BOCES to provide professional development in literacy or other supports for implementation of the READ Act.

Questions about the data collection, identification of a significant reading deficiency and allowable uses of per-pupil funds can be directed to Dian Prestwich, assistant director of the Office of Literacy at Prestwich_d@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6150. For more information about the READ Act, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/ReadAct/index.asp>.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

- **July 18:** READ Act data collection closes

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, colman_m@cde.state.co.us, 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:

Educators Conduct CMAS Science and Social Studies Rangefinding

Educators from around the state participated in rangefinding for the science and social studies assessments in early July. At rangefinding, educators review student responses to field tested items to select the exemplary responses that best reflect a student score of zero, one, two or three. These examples become training materials that assist scoring personnel in interpreting the rubrics and scoring guides. Educators also review, modify and sometimes rewrite scoring guides to ensure they are aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards and typical classroom teaching.

Educators Set Standards for CMAS Science and Social Studies Tests

About 128 educators will participate in standard setting during the week of **July 14** for the science and social studies elementary and middle school assessments. At standard setting, educators reviewed performance level descriptors, assessment items, student responses and data. The panels will make performance standards recommendations to be presented to the state board of education in August.

Students to Take WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test (WIDA-APT)

The English language proficiency “screener” test, W-APT, is given to incoming students with a primary or home language other than English who may be designated as English learners. At the beginning of the school year, the W-APT must be given within one month of a student’s enrollment, after the first month of school the W-APT must be given within two weeks of a student’s enrollment. Determination of English Language Development (ELD) program placement is determined at the district level. For information about the W-APT, contact Heather Villalobos Pavia at Villalobos-pavia_h@cde.state.co.us. For ELD programming support, contact CDE’s office of Language, Culture and Equity at deines_c@cde.state.co.us.

What's on the Horizon:

Improvement Suggestions Made for Future CMAS Administrations

CDE is working with districts and Pearson to identify improvement priorities for future CMAS

administrations. CDE invited groups of district assessment coordinators and technology coordinators to share their feedback on the science and social studies and PARCC-developed assessment administrations. Stakeholder surveys were also collected throughout the state. These priorities for improvement emerged from the feedback:

- Improve the TestNav exit process
- Streamline the process for accommodation and special form assignment
- Provide infrastructure trial resources allowing districts to sufficiently test technology environments
- Refine PearsonAccess reporting features and status indicators
- Closely align PearsonAccess training and operational sites

CDE is actively working with Pearson to make these improvements.

Districts Set to Get TCAP Results in Mid-July

TCAP results are expected to be released to districts in **mid-July**. Results will be released to the public once they are presented to the state board at its **August 13-14** board meeting.

Here's the release schedule for TCAP results:

- **July 14:** TCAP and CoAlt reading, writing and math score files on the secure CTB Navigator website.
- **Aug. 8:** TCAP and CoAlt reading, writing and math hard copy reports in districts.
- **Aug. 11-15:** CO ACT reports in schools.

Release of science and social studies assessments results are contingent upon board adoption of cutscores. Score files are currently scheduled to be available on Pearson Access by **Sept. 3** with hard copy individual student reports in districts by **Sept. 24**.

State, district and school level results for the TCAP and CoAlt reading, writing and math assessments are embargoed until noon on **Aug. 13**. Because these results are embargoed, they may not be released, shared with the media or presented in any public meeting. However, they may be shared with principals and teachers for the purpose of school improvement planning. Individual Student Reports may be shared with parents as of **Aug. 11**.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

- Next year will be the first year for the 12th-grade science and social studies assessments. Student information will need to be uploaded into the vendor system, PearsonAccess, prior to the deadline for the **Oct. 1** count. **Schools are strongly urged to finalize 12th-grade student lists as early as possible to ease uploading into PearsonAccess.** The file layout will be available by **Aug. 15**.

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 school and district support systems, accountability measures, improvement plans, federal programs and data analysis.

What's Happening Now:

Accountability and UIP Tracker Contacts Need Updating

Superintendents should confirm and update district accountability and UIP Tracker contact information for the upcoming school year. Links to the contacts were sent via email in June. The Tracker contact will receive improvement planning-related communication and be

responsible for submitting improvement plans. This year, improvement plans will be submitted to CDE via the C-FIRS Tracker system, or within the new UIP Online System, depending on the system the district chooses.

English Language Proficiency Growth Data Now Available

Student growth percentiles and adequate growth percentiles calculated from two years of ACCESS results are available through CEDAR. Also, individual student growth reports for English language proficiency growth, similar to those created for TCAP, will be sent via secure FTP to districts in **July** for the first time. For more details, visit:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/englishlanguageproficiencygrowth>.

Benefits Come With New Online UIP System

Schools and districts can now make updates to their UIPs using an online platform. Training will be available **later this summer** for districts interested in these benefits:

- Ability to track progress on a dashboard
- Easier submissions to CDE (no more Tracker)
- Automatic availability of required addenda
- Ability to download sections to Excel (e.g., action plan to sort by date)
- Ability to use language from the older plan to populate current plan (after the first year of use)

For more information, visit http://www.cde.state.co.us/uiip/online_uip_system. Use of the online UIP system is optional; the MS Word templates and Tracker system will still be available for the 2014-15 school year.

UIP Templates Available

The Education Data Advisory Committee approved the 2014-15 UIP templates for districts and schools. Very few changes were made. Templates and a summary of the changes are available at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/uiip/uiip_templates. Pre-populated reports will be available by **Sept. 1** (two weeks after the release of the School and District Performance Frameworks).

What's on the Horizon:

Educator Feedback Used to Set TCAP Growth Results Release

Based on educator feedback around priorities for TCAP growth results, CDE will release results in August and September in this 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 – 2014 growth data will be populated in Data Lab
- Data Center - 2014 growth data will be populated in Data Center

Data will be embargoed, except for district and school planning purposes until after the Aug. 13-14 state board meeting.

Preliminary Frameworks to be Released in August

The preliminary school and district performance frameworks will be released to districts through CEDAR by **Aug. 18**.

Preliminary Pre-Populated Unified Improvement Plans

The preliminary school and district unified improvement plans will be available by **Sept. 1** (two weeks after the release of the DPFs and SPFs).

Requests to Reconsider Deadlines Set

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

Customized Assistance Available to Schools, Districts

CDE staff will conduct webinars and offer office hours throughout August and September for support with the Colorado Growth Model, School and District Performance Frameworks and the Request to Reconsider process. Dates and times will be shared in the Aug. *CDE Update*.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

- **July 1:** Deadline for districts to submit the Selection of Accountability Measures for AECs Form
- **Sept. 15:** Notification of intent to submit a request to reconsider a school plan type assignment or district accreditation rating

For more information on accountability and improvement, contact Keith Owen, Deputy Commissioner, owen_k@cde.state.co.us, 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:

School Library Survey Results

The Library Research Service Office at CDE recently published 2013-14 data from the school library survey at <http://www.lrs.org/school/data/profiles?year=2013>. The school library profiles are meant to be used as a comparative tool for school libraries in Colorado. Results represent data only from school libraries that completed the survey.

State Grants to Libraries

Guidelines and eligibility forms for the 2014-15 State Grants to Libraries are due to the State Library by **Sept. 12**. These non-competitive grants provide a minimum of \$3,000 (and up, based on student population) to each participating district and/or community library. The process and 2-page form will be nearly identical to the 2013-2014 form. Grants are for educational materials such as databases, books or e-resources used in district libraries. For more information, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/stategrants>.

Online Task Force Members Appointed

House Bill 14-1382 requires the creation of an online task force to review best practices and policies for authorizing and administering multi-district online schools, provide the state board of education with recommendations regarding quality standards and practices for authorizers and provide recommendations to the state board and General Assembly regarding the regulatory and statutory changes that are necessary to certify authorizers of multi-district online schools. The first meeting of the group will be in **August**. Commissioner of Education Robert Hammond appointed the following members to serve on the Online Task Force:

- Judy Bauernschmidt, Parent, Jeffco's 21st Century Virtual Academy
- Brian Bissell-Parent, Colorado Virtual Academy
- Scott Campbell-Superintendent, Widefield School District #3
- Joe Dinnetz, Teacher, LPS Voyager, Littleton Public Schools

- Leanne Emm, Associate Commissioner, Public School Finance, CDE
- Diana Gamboa, Director of Online Learning, Boulder Valley School District & Head of School, Boulder Universal
- Ethan Hemming, Executive Director, Colorado Charter Institute
- Chaille Hymes, Principal, Colorado Connections Academy
- Renee Martinez, Online & Blended Learning Specialist, CDE
- Dale McCall, Executive Director, Colorado BOCES Association
- Kim McClelland, Executive Director, Colorado Digital BOCES & Zone Superintendent, Falcon School District 49
- Gretchen Morgan, Executive Director, Choice and Innovation Unit, CDE
- Dan Morris, Executive Director, eNet Colorado
- Amy Valentine, Executive Director, Insight School of Colorado & Colorado Preparatory Academy
- Linda Van Matre, President, Board of Education, Academy School District 20

For more information about the online task force, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/onlinelearning>.

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

Organizational Effectiveness

*This month's Organizational Effectiveness update focuses on **Data Pipeline**.*

Overview:

Ongoing collections are READ, Safety and Discipline Indicators (in ADE), Directory, Student End of Year, Special Education Discipline, Special Education End of Year, Teacher Student Data Link, RITS and EDIS.

What's Happening Now:

Directory

District calendars are due **July 18**. However, directory is a year-round collection so it is open for other updates as well. Please check accuracy on a regular basis.

Student End of Year

This collection is open for interchange file submissions and snapshots.

Special Education Discipline

Continue to submit interchange files and take related snapshots. 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

Files may be submitted and snapshots taken for this collection.

Teacher Student Data Link

This collection is also open for interchange file submissions and snapshots.

RITS and EDIS

These two collections are always open. Submit for new identification numbers as soon as possible. There is no need to wait for 2014-15 to be available for assigning codes to incoming students or staff members.

What's on the Horizon:

Watch for more information on Math Sciences Partnership collection.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

- **July 18:** Directory district calendars due

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

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