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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:

2014-15 School Year Resources for Educator Evaluation

Updated and improved Colorado State Model Evaluation tools for use in the 2014-15 school year are available. The slightly refined tools reflect pilot district and education feedback from 2013-14 versions.

Colorado State Model Evaluation System resources:

- User's guide for the Colorado State Model Evaluation System for teachers, principals/assistant principals and specialized service professionals (available **Aug. 15**):
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/statemodevaluationsystem>
- Teacher, principal/assistant principal and specialized service professional rubrics:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/statemodevaluationsystem#rubrics>

Measuring student learning/outcomes:

- Measures of student learning guidance for teachers:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/mslguidanceforteachers>
- Measures of student learning guidance for principals/assistant principals:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/mslguidanceforprincipals>
- Measures of student outcomes guidance for specialized service professionals:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/mslguidancessp>

Inter-rater agreement:

- Self-guided inter-rater agreement training, videos of practicing educators, scoring portions of the Colorado State Model Evaluation System rubric, getting feedback on inter-rater agreement and examples of high quality artifacts to support fair and consistent evaluations:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/interrateragreement>

Updated fact sheets:

- High level information on educator effectiveness topics, updated for the 2014-15 school year: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/factsheets>

Update: Colorado State Model Performance Management System

The Colorado State Model Performance Management System (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/copms>) is an optional tool to support the implementation of the state model evaluation system. Several districts/BOCES have committed to using the system for the 2014-15 school year and are now receiving training. Weekly town halls began in July to support districts on setup and implementation of the system. In addition, full day trainings in August (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/copmstrainings>) cover district/BOCES staff responsible for training users in the system and providing technical support to users during implementation.

If your district/BOCES hasn't committed to using the Colorado State Model Performance Management System but would like to, you can still sign up. To do so, please contact [Joslyn Robich](mailto:Joslyn2@cde.state.co.us) at Robich_Joslyn2@cde.state.co.us as soon as possible. After October, districts need to contact CDE to assess whether it is possible to start using the system mid-cycle.

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 marked 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: New Modules Available

Additional Literacy Design Collaborative Modules for instructional units in reading, writing, and communicating, comprehensive health, science and social studies are available. Written by Colorado educators, these modules complement instructional units created in the District Sample Curriculum Project and reflect the goals of the Literacy Design Collaborative—to develop literacy skills across content areas that will prepare all students for the demands of college and careers. Find the units and associated modules here:

Reading, Writing, and Communicating

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

Comprehensive Health

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

Social Studies

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

Science

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

Early Learning and School Readiness Trainings Continue

School Readiness Summer Training Opportunities: CDE continues to host no cost summer training events in support of the school readiness initiative. August 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: **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>. Contact Amy Cameron at cameron_a@cde.state.co.us with questions.

The READ Act Per Pupil Fund Distribution

READ Act Per Pupil Fund Distribution: The Colorado General Assembly allocated approximately \$33 million to the Early Literacy Fund for the 2014-15 school year to be distributed to districts according to the number of students identified with a significant reading deficiency across the state. The department is validating data and anticipates the distribution process to be initiated in early September. Preliminary numbers will be posted to the READ webpage and sent to district READ respondents on **Aug. 18** for confirmation. Districts will have an opportunity to correct their significant reading deficiency numbers prior to finalization of the count for the state.

The allowable uses for the per-pupil intervention money for students with significant reading deficiencies include: (1) providing full-day kindergarten; (2) purchasing tutoring services in reading; (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 at Prestwich_d@cde.state.co.us. For more on the READ Act, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/ReadAct/index.asp>.

Use the Superintendent and Principal Integrated Timelines

These integrated timelines were created to help guide Colorado superintendents and principals through key implementation work occurring during the 2014-15 school year and into the 2015-16 school year. The timelines include 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 the major activities, broken out quarterly and by phase of implementation. Guiding questions for each quarter are included to help identify focus points and strategies. The timelines are available at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/superintendentandprincipaltools-integratedtimeline>.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

- **Aug. 26:** Corrections to the district significant reading deficiency count due to the Literacy Office

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:

Assessment Results Timeline

- **Now:** TCAP and CoAlt reading, writing and mathematics score files available to districts (DACs gained access on July 14) on CTB navigator
- **Aug. 8:** TCAP and CoAlt reading, writing and mathematics hard copy reports arrive in districts from CTB
- **Between Aug. 11 and 15:** CO ACT reports arrive in districts
- **Aug. 11:** TCAP and CoAlt reading, writing and mathematics individual student reports may be shared with parents
- **Aug. 14:** Public release of state, district, and school level results for the TCAP and CoAlt reading, writing, and mathematics assessments at the state board of education meeting. Results may not be released, shared with the media, or presented in any public meeting until noon on **Aug. 14**. However, they may be shared with principals and teachers for improvement planning.
- **Sept. 3:** Score files for science and social studies available on PearsonAccess
- **Sept 24:** Hard copies of science and social studies individual student reports sent to districts from Pearson

CMAS Policy Level Performance Level Descriptors

Under the Colorado Academic Standards, expectation for student performance has transitioned from a focus on “proficiency” to a trajectory toward being “college and career ready” by the time of graduation. The new performance levels, beginning with this fall’s CMAS are: Distinguished Command, Strong Command, Moderate Command and Limited Command. Below are the policy performance level descriptors for these levels. The state board will review content area and grade specific policy performance level descriptors at the August board meeting.

CMAS Performance Levels and Policy Claims for Science and Social Studies (Describe the educational implications for students who attain a particular performance level on the CMAS assessments.)	
Distinguished Command	Students performing at this level demonstrate a distinguished command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards for Science or Social Studies assessed at their grade level. They are academically well prepared to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Strong Command	Students performing at this level demonstrate a strong command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards for Science or Social Studies assessed at their grade level. They are academically prepared to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Moderate Command	Students performing at this level demonstrate a moderate command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards for Science or Social Studies assessed at their grade level. They will likely need academic support to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Limited Command	Students performing at this level demonstrate a limited command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards for Science or Social Studies assessed at their grade level. They will likely need extensive academic support to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.

CMAS Science and Social Studies Standard Setting Recommendations

Educators from across Colorado participated in standard setting for the science and social studies elementary and middle school assessments in July. Educators made recommendations for cut scores based on review of performance level descriptors, assessment items, student responses and data. Panel cut score recommendations will be presented to the state board on **Aug. 13**.

August State Board Meeting Assessment Items

Several assessment topics will be covered at the August state board meeting, including Spring 2014 TCAP results, cut scores for CMAS and CoAlt science and social studies and an assessment study session (WestEd Assessment study results).

CMAS Science and Social Studies Sample Items and Practice Testing Environment

Updated ePATs (practice testing environments) and practice guides for the science and social studies assessments are scheduled to be available by **Sept. 1**. The ePATs will help students navigate through the online testing environment and use the embedded supports on the day of testing. An ePAT for each grade level and content area is available at www.pearsonaccess.com/co. Districts are strongly encouraged to give students time to practice in the testing environment before actual testing.

What’s on the Horizon:

H.B. 1202 Task Force to Study the Implications of the Statewide Assessment System

The first task force meeting to study the implications of the statewide assessment system was held July 15. The H.B. 1202 task force was established through legislation by the Colorado General Assembly to study the implications of the statewide assessment system for school districts, public schools, educators and students. A final report from the task force must be submitted to the legislature no later than **Jan. 31, 2015**.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Aug. 18** at Cherry Creek School District’s Instruction Support Facility, 5416 S. Riviera Way, Centennial. All meetings are open to the public and will be held from 8:30 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. in the Denver metro area, location TBD. Upcoming meeting dates are: **Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15** and **Jan. 12, 2015**. For updated information and meeting materials and a list of task force members, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdedepcom/taskforce>.

CMAS Science and Social Studies Assessment Training

In September, CDE will provide training for district assessment coordinators on the administration of the science and social studies assessments. Trainings will also include information about interpreting the elementary and middle school science and social studies assessment results. Detailed information about these trainings will be provided to district assessment coordinators.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

Testing Windows for School Year 2014-2015

PARCC is reviewing data from this spring’s field test. Adjustments to the test design may be made that could impact the testing windows. Final resolution on those issues should be made by September.

Assessment	Grade	Tentative Windows
CMAS and CoAlt: Science and Social Studies	12	11/03/14 to 11/21/14
PARCC Performance-Based Assessment (PBA)	3-8, High School	3/09/15 to 4/03/15

CMAS and CoAlt: Science and Social Studies	4 and 7 (Social Studies) 5 and 8 (Science)	4/13/15 to 5/01/15
CoAlt: English language arts and math	3-11	4/13/15 to 5/15/15
PARCC End-of-Year Assessment (EOY)	3-8, High School	4/27/15 to 5/22/15
ACCESS for ELLs® Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening	K-12	1/12/15 to 2/13/15
CO ACT Grade 11	Tues., April 28, 2015 Initial Test Date	Make-up Test Date Tues., May 12, 2015

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:

ACCESS for ELLs Growth Data Available

ACCESS for ELLs Growth data are available for districts to download in CEDAR.

TCAP Growth and ACCESS Growth Data Release

Growth data for TCAP reading, writing, math and English Language Proficiency growth data from CEDAR is available to districts. The data in CEDAR are provided as flat files. TCAP growth data will be provided in the same file format as last year (http://www.schoolview.org/documents/Flat_File_layout_2012.docx). By **Aug. 8**, districts will be able to access the School and District Summary Growth Reports (also known as the “Green and White” reports) in CEDAR.

Growth data is under embargo until the **Aug. 14** state board meeting. The embargo means that data may not be released, shared with the media or presented in any public meeting. However, data may be shared with school principals and teachers for school improvement planning. CDE will present the combined achievement and growth results from 2014. On that date, it is expected that the Colorado Growth Model visualization tool will be populated with 2014 data and available publicly. Additionally, the 2014 School and District Summary Growth reports are anticipated to be live in SchoolView.

By **Aug. 30**, CDE will send bundled Individual Student TCAP Growth Reports through the secure FTP site and notify DACs and superintendents of how to download their packages of reports. Achievement and growth results will be updated in Data Lab and Data Center in **September**. Questions related to the Colorado Growth Model data and reports should be referred to Dan Jorgensen at:

Jorgensen_d@cde.state.co.us.

District and School Performance Frameworks

The department will release the preliminary 2014 District and School Performance Framework (DPF/SPF) reports to districts by **Aug. 18**. Reports are draft versions for district review; they are not public and are considered unofficial until adopted by the state board in December. Districts can access the reports in CEDAR using the instructions that will be e-mailed to districts on **Aug. 18**.

The 2014 DPFs and SPFs include three adjustments: (1) adequate growth percentiles will be used for English language proficiency growth, (2) CMAS science and social studies results will be used for participation calculations, but not achievement and (3) foreign exchange students are not included in the composite ACT scores. For more information,

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

Trainings and Support

The Accountability and Data Analysis Unit will provide webinars and call-in office hour opportunities to help schools and districts access and interpret the growth and accountability data available. District/BOCES should feel free to request additional trainings or support, as needed. Send requests to Alyssa Pearson at pearson_a@cde.state.co.us.

Districts may register for **office hours** with Accountability and Data Analysis Unit staff. Call-in office hours are intended for districts/schools to ask individual questions about their own data and accountability reports and the request to reconsider process. Fifteen minute blocks are scheduled for call-ins, but districts may sign-up for consecutive sessions if more time is needed. Starting **Aug. 6**, office hours will be held on Wednesday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. and Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. - noon, through **Oct. 9**. To register go to: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B0A4FA4AB2DA02-office1. **Webinars** will be offered as follows:

- Colorado Growth Model- Accessing Data: Thursday, **Aug. 7**, 10-10:45 a.m.
 - <http://connect.enetcolorado.org/adw14>
- Colorado Growth Model- Accessing Data: Wednesday, **Aug. 20**, 8:30-9:15 a.m.
 - <http://connect.enetcolorado.org/adw14b>
- Understanding the Colorado Growth Model: Thursday, **Aug. 21**, 9-10:30 a.m.
 - <http://connect.enetcolorado.org/cgm101/>
- School and District Performance Frameworks Webinar: **Aug. 18**, 1-1:45 p.m.
 - <http://connect.enetcolorado.org/spfdpf2014/>
- School Accreditation and Request to Reconsider Process Webinar: **Aug. 25**, 1-1:45 p.m.
 - <http://connect.enetcolorado.org/sar2r2014/>

Webinars are recorded and posted on the website.

District Accountability and Tracker Contacts

Superintendents were emailed a survey link to confirm and/or update the district's accountability contact and tracker contact. Please confirm or update (especially if your district email server has changed) by **Aug. 15**. If you need the link to the survey resent, please contact Kelly Stritzinger stritzinger_k@cde.state.co.us; 303-866-6770.

Accountability for Alternative Education Campuses

The state board reviews and approves applications for school designation as an alternative education campus (AEC) at the August meeting. The approved list will be published on the CDE website. For the AEC School Performance Frameworks, the department is reviewing submitted measures, metrics and cut-points, and will follow up with districts as needed. Learn more at:

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

Unified Improvement Planning Templates Posted

The 2014-15 district, school and AEC UIP templates and addenda forms are finalized and posted on the “Templates” page of the UIP website. There are minimal changes to the templates based upon feedback from the field and CDE’s review of improvement plans this past year. Note that plans are designed to incorporate planning efforts for at least two school years, and be revised at least annually. The 2013-14 UIP should therefore incorporate the plans for the current 2014-15 school year, as well as future plans for the 2015-16 school year. All schools*, including new schools and alternative education campuses, are expected to complete/revise a UIP each year. The templates, addenda and a catalogue of changes can be found on at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/index.asp>.

* Through recently passed legislation ([H.B. 14-1204](#)) small, rural districts and schools (i.e., less than 1,200 students) that maintain a Performance plan type may submit their UIP biennially (every other year) to CDE for public posting.

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.

What’s on the Horizon:

Accreditation Forms and Requests to Reconsider

Based on the preliminary DPF and SPF reports, districts must submit (1) the School Accreditation Form indicating the district and local school board’s accreditation ratings for their schools, and (2) Requests to Reconsider for any district that wishes to appeal the district’s accreditation rating or any of their school’s plan type assignments, by **Oct. 15**.

Districts are encouraged to notify CDE (accountability@cde.state.co.us) of their intent to submit a request to reconsider by **Sept. 15**, in order for CDE staff to provide adequate technical assistance. CDE is unable to provide any follow-up or clarification to requests received on or after **Oct. 15**.

CDE will send districts passwords for the School Accreditation form in late August. The form will be available online on the accountability webpage. **The form must be filled out online, printed, signed by the superintendent and school board president and scanned in to CDE by Oct. 15.** Visit the website for detailed policy guidance on the Accreditation and Request to Reconsider process, with samples of last year's form: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Accountability/RequestToReconsider.asp>.

Unified Improvement Planning Pre-Populated Report

School and district pre-populated reports will be released to districts approximately two weeks after the release of the preliminary performance frameworks. The estimated date of release is **Sept. 1**. A link to access the documents (MS Word format) will be e-mailed to superintendents and accountability contacts. Once the online UIP system is ready for use, data will automatically be available in the pre-populated report for the selected school or district.

UIP Online System

The Online UIP System will be ready this fall. Schools and districts will be able to make updates to UIPs using this online platform. Training is being scheduled in early fall for districts interested in being early adopters. Users can track progress on a dashboard, submissions to CDE will be easier (no more Tracker), required addenda are automatically available, sections can be downloaded to Excel (e.g., action plan to sort by date), and language from the older plan can be populated into the current plan (after the first year of use). For more details, visit http://www.cde.state.co.us/uiip/uiip_trainingandsupport_resources. Use of the Online UIP System is optional; the MS Word templates and Tracker system will be available for the 2014-15 school year.

UIP Fall Training Schedule

UIP trainings will be offered in the fall. If you'd like a customized UIP training (e.g., half-day work session, facilitating root cause analysis, refining progress monitoring measures) in your region, please let your field manager know or contact Erin Loften loften_e@cde.state.co.us.

School and District Accountability Committee Trainings

CDE, in collaboration with the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE), is offering trainings for school accountability committees and district accountability committees beginning in September in the following locations: **Monday, Sept. 29—Grand Junction; Tuesday, Oct. 7—Denver Metro; Thursday, Oct. 9—Pueblo; Tuesday, Oct. 14—Greeley, Thursday, Oct. 16—Durango; Tuesday, Oct. 28—Denver Metro.** All trainings will be from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided. Information, including venue location, specific topics and registration links will be available later this month.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

- **Aug. 14:** Public release of 2014 TCAP achievement and growth results
- **Aug. 15:** Deadline for districts to update or confirm accountability and tracker contacts
- **Aug. 18:** Release of preliminary 2014 District and School Performance Framework reports to districts for review
- **Sept. 1:** Release of preliminary pre-populated 2014 Unified Improvement Plans (Section I) to districts
- **Sept. 15:** Deadline for districts to notify CDE of their intent to submit a Request to Reconsider
- **Oct. 5:** Release of preliminary 2014 AEC School Performance Framework reports to districts for review

- **Oct. 15:** Deadline for all districts to submit the School Accreditation Form and (if desired) Requests to Reconsider district accreditation ratings and school plan type assignments
- **Oct. 15:** Districts with a Priority Improvement or Turnaround plan type may submit revised UIPs for early feedback. Schools with a TIG grant may also submit a plan.

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:

Draft Graduation Guidelines Engagement Toolkit Now Available

The draft Graduation Guidelines Engagement toolkit is now available at <http://bit.ly/1xqDPkm> to assist your local boards of education and district in supporting implementation and policy discussions in your community. The toolkit is in draft form as CDE solicits feedback from important audiences like you! Please take some time to review the toolkit and begin using the pieces you need. If you have ideas on how to make it better, please contact Misti Ruthven, director of postsecondary readiness at ruthven_m@cde.state.co.us.

Update on the 2014 GED

An updated GED was introduced in January. Colorado uses the GED to issue High School Equivalency Diplomas, and with the 2014 GED aligned to more rigorous standards, earning this diploma is meant to reflect a student's readiness for postsecondary education and the workforce.

Since the beginning of the year, the number of testers and the pass rate has increased each month as testers, testing centers and preparation programs are becoming more familiar with the test. CDE's Postsecondary Readiness team continues to work with testing centers to ensure they have the information needed to support testers with the most current and accurate information to prepare students for the GED. For questions about the GED, contact Marina Estrada at estrada_m@cde.state.co.us.

Colorado GED Data:

- Colorado's pass rate (62%) is ten percentage points higher than the national rate (52%)
- Number of testers (individual people who have taken at least 1 test): **2,143**
- Number of completers (individuals who have taken all 4 tests): **1,096**
- Number of passers (individuals who have taken AND passed all 4 tests): **683**
- Individual test pass rates: Math **59%**, Reasoning through Language Arts **84%**, Science **81%** and Social Studies **77%**

What's on the Horizon:

State Grants to Libraries Eligibility Forms Due

Guidelines and eligibility forms for the 2014-15 State Grants to Libraries are available and due to the State Library by **Sept. 12**. For more information, visit www.ColoradoStateLibrary.org/stategrants. These non-competitive grants provide a minimum of \$3,000 (and up, based on student population) to each participating district for educational materials used in school libraries such as databases, books, or e-resources. The process and 2-page form is nearly identical to 2013-14. For those seeking assistance with the eligibility form or procedures, a webinar will be held **Tuesday, Aug. 26**, at 9 a.m. Join at <http://connect.enetcolorado.org/stategrants>.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

2014-15 CCSP Start-up Grant RFP Released

The Request for Proposal for the 2014-15 Colorado Charter Schools Program Start-up Grant is available at <http://bit.ly/1lwK9Bk>. The 2014-2015 grant calendar is available at <http://bit.ly/1uggDZR>. The application process will kick-off with a writer's boot camp on **Thursday, Aug. 21**, from **9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** This training is mandatory for Tier I applicants. The grant program provides up to \$215,000, renewable for two additional years, to new or expanding charter schools. Please see the eligibility rules for more detail on who is eligible to apply.

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:

Rollover to the 2014-15 school year in Data Pipeline is taking place for certain interchanges and continues over the next few months. Local education agencies are also preparing for the Student October count.

What's Happening Now:

Special Education Discipline - This collection closes **Aug. 19**. 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.

Teacher Student Data Link - This collection closes **Aug. 29**. If your district hasn't started, it's time to initiate interchange file submissions and snapshots.

Special Education End of Year - Files may be submitted and snapshots taken for this collection.

Student End of Year - Local education agencies are working toward an initial **Sept. 11** close. Continue to submit interchange files and take snapshots.

Math and Science Partnerships - This collection is open in the Automated Data Exchange system. It will move into the Pipeline next year.

RITS and EDIS - These two collections are always open. LEAs may submit for 2014-15 incoming student and staff identification numbers at any time.

Important Upcoming Deadlines:

- **Aug. 19:** Administrative units must generate a complete Special Education Discipline snapshot by passing all interchange and snapshot validations.
- **Aug. 29:** Teacher Student Data Link closes. All districts must have finalized TSDL snapshot data.

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.

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