

## Update from the Director of Special Education

The final version of the Colorado Special Education State Improvement Plan is being printed and will be distributed widely over the next few weeks. The Vision of the plan is "A Colorado where diversity is honored and respected, where learners and families are valued and prepared for full community participation, and where service providers are responsive to the unique circumstances of children, youth, and their families."

Six goals were determined based on statewide needs assessments, the CDE-Self-Assessment that was part of the federal monitoring that took place last school year, and the Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee (CSEAC). Additionally, input was solicited from Local Special Education Directors, the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development Committee (CSPD), CDE Consultants, Parents, and Families, and many other stakeholder groups. The six goals of the plan are:

**Goal #1:** All children and youth with disabilities will participate in the general curriculum to the maximum extent appropriate and will be included in Colorado's accountability systems.



**Goal #2:** Students 14 and older will receive appropriate planning, assessments, and services that facilitate the transition from school to employment and/or post secondary education.

**Goal #3:** Schools will provide appropriate behavioral interventions for children and youth with disabilities whose behavior impedes the learning of themselves and others.

**Goal #4:** Assure an adequate supply of qualified personnel to meet the identified needs of children and youth with disabilities and to provide equal access to quality education.

**Goal #5:** Effectively monitor local administrative units, provide technical assistance and take other actions as appropriate to ensure compliance with Colorado Rules and Regulations and with IDEA.

**Goal #6:** Families will receive the information and training that they need to increase their participation in their child's education and services.

*(Continued on page 3)*

<i>Inside this Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
Parents Encouraging Parents Conferences: CDE supports Families of Children with Disabilities	2
Update from the Director of Special Education, Continued	3
SIED Guidelines Available on the CDE Website	3
What's in the News?	4
Calendar of Events	5-6
Resources, Resources, and More Resources	7



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The purpose of the *Inside Special Education* newsletter is to serve as a medium for the dissemination of information pertaining to special education in the state of Colorado and the activities of the CDE Special Education Unit. This quarterly newsletter is designed to disseminate information on professional issues, procedural changes, and upcoming events to Colorado educators.

All views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Colorado Department of Education or the University of Colorado-Denver.

The *Inside Special Education* newsletter is made possible by a grant to UCD by the Colorado Department of Education.

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**PEP Conferences:  
CDE Supports Families of Children with Disabilities**

For almost two decades, the Colorado Department of Education has been working to support families with children with disabilities by sponsoring the Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) conferences. These conferences provide a forum for parents and other professionals to come together to share ideas, discuss concerns, celebrate successes and obtain information related to parenting, educating, and supporting a child with a disability. PEP Conferences are organized and facilitated by parents and occur three times a year. They are open to any Colorado parents who have a child with a disability (ages birth to 21). The conferences are funded by the Colorado Department of Education Special Education Unit and are free to all attendees. PEP conferences are scheduled for 2 1/2 days and are held from 5:00 p.m. Thursday until 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The conference offers both small and large group sessions. The conference begins by welcoming parents and facilitating "get acquainted" activities in small groups. Participants then hear a "parenting talk" hosted by a parent or couple who has a child with a disability. Participants also have the opportunity to share their own personal experiences in small groups. Conference participants then attend sessions focused on information and resource dispensing. Major presentations always a part of the conference are:

- *The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Informational Session.* Hosted by Randy Chapman, Legal Center for Persons with Disabilities.
- *Understanding the IEP Process for School Aged Children.*
- *Understanding the IFSP and IEP Process in Early Childhood and Preschool.*

Smaller topical sessions that participants may chose to attend include:

- *For Men Only.* A session facilitated by fathers for fathers of children with disabilities.
- *For Women Only.* A session facilitated by mothers for mothers of children with disabilities.
- *Maneuvering Medicaid and Insurance.* Hosted by Christie Blakely.
- *Partnering with Paraprofessionals.* Hosted by Dr. Nancy French, University of Colorado at Denver.
- *Questions You Want to Ask Your Doctor.* Hosted by Dr. Tom Riley, Pediatric Neurologist.
- *Partnering with PEAK.*
- *Understanding State Standards, Accommodations, and Modifications.*

The combination of small and large group activities seeks to build and strengthen relationships between conference participants. The overall theme of every conference is collaboration and partnership. "The PEP conferences are the anchor for parent involvement and leadership in Colorado. They are focused on building capacity in regions," says Romie Tobin, CDE Consultant responsible for assisting in the coordination of PEP events. As a mother of a child with disabilities, Romie speaks from the perspective of both a parent and a professional. "The power of PEP is in the stories that families share with one another. The sharing helps families put a sense to the crazy times that you have when you find out that your child has a disability. It leaves parents with a sense of hope."

For more information about upcoming PEP conferences, please call (303) 866-6846 or visit the CDE website. The next PEP conference is scheduled for February 22-25 in Glenwood Springs, CO. Approximately 300 people will be sponsored by CDE to attend the 2000-2001 PEP conferences. (CDE also sponsors a conference for Spanish speaking families in collaboration with El Grupo Vida that also serves about 300 people.) If you would like a registration form for the upcoming conference, you may complete the information request on the following page, call the PEP phone line at (303) 866-6846, or download a copy from the CDE-special education website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sppep.htm>.



## Director's Update, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

For most of the key performance indicators that fall under the six goals, the 2000-2001 academic year is a time for compiling and analyzing baseline data. Annually, a public report will be produced showing progress on goals and refining future goals. All CDE projects and activities and all Sliver Grants will support the goals of the State Improvement Plan. Examples of past and current projects and initiatives that support this plan include the extensive work being done on the CSAP and CSAP-A, the trainings on Multisensory Reading, the BEST Project, the support for PEP and Parent to Parent, the Paraeducator Project, Early Childhood Building Blocks, and Cochlear Implant Training.

It has taken us almost three years to complete the State Improvement Plan (SIP), but the results show the time was well spent. I personally want to thank the many families, educators, and other agencies that gave so much of their time and thoughts to the development of the plan. Be watching for a copy of the final version with all of the Performance Indicators.

Sincerely,

*Lorrie Harkness*

Lorrie Harkness, Ph.D.  
State Director, Special Education



## 2001 Parents Encouraging Parents Conference Information Request

### 2001 PEP Conference Information Request

If you would like additional information and a registration form for the upcoming PEP conference, please fill out the following form and return to the address below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

We are/I am:

\_\_\_\_\_ A Parent of a child with a disability.

\_\_\_\_\_ Educator (Please identify your job title & employer):

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please identify title)

Please return to: Romie Tobin  
CDE Special Education Unit – PEP  
201 E. Colfax  
Denver, CO 80203-1704

## SIED Guidelines Available on CDE Website

The new SIED Guidelines will soon be available for downloading from the CDE Website:

**www.cde.state.co.us**. The electronic version of the document should be available starting in January. Hard copies of the final draft of the manual will then be printed and distributed to Special Education Directors.

Regional meetings discussing the contents of the manual will be conducted throughout the state beginning in January. These meetings will be facilitated by CDE Supervisor Jackie Borock and Dr. Stacy Skalski from the University of Colorado at Denver. The dates and locations for regional workshops are currently being determined. Special Education Directors will be contacted soon as to how many participants may be sent from each school district and where and when their regional meeting will be held.

## Visit the Colorado Electronic Employment Board [www.coloradoeducationjobs.com](http://www.coloradoeducationjobs.com)

We have an exciting service now available to you! The Colorado Electronic Employment Board (CEEB) is on the Internet and available for your use. With the CEEB you are able to post openings for positions in your district, BOCES, or school and even arrange to hear from interested applicants online. If you are a job-seeker, you can find information about positions available in all parts of Colorado.

You can access the CEEB directly or through the CDE website at the following internet addresses:

**[www.coloradoeducationjobs.com](http://www.coloradoeducationjobs.com)**  
**[www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us)**

When you visit CEEB, you may browse the existing job postings or you may post job listings ("Post the Job Vacancy"). Job listings are arranged by region of the state. If you have any problems with the site, please call Jean Prevol, our site administrator, at (303) 866-6669 or FAX us at (303) 866-6811.

# What's in the News?



## CSAP-A IS AVAILABLE FOR 4TH GRADE

The CSAP-A is here! The alternate assessment for students, who are unable to participate in the general CSAP will be administered to 4th graders during March, 2001. SWAAAC team leaders will attend trainings in November and January and will work collaboratively with special education teachers to increase access to literacy through assistive technology.

### CSAP ACCOMMODATIONS

#### Which students qualify for accommodations on the CSAP?

Students with specific and unique learning needs usually have instruction plans developed by teams of educators. Students in special education and students eligible under Section 504 have a legal right to the accommodations listed in their instructional accommodations plans. Additionally, students receiving other types of instructional assistance such as Title I or English as a Second Language, may also need appropriate accommodations.

There are five criteria for selecting accommodations for CSAP:

1. Accommodations must have been used during instruction for at least three months prior to the assessment so the student is familiar with them.
2. Accommodations are content-area specific. Therefore, only those accommodations the student requires for the specific content area being assessed may be selected.
3. The possible effects on the student of allowing the accommodations must be considered. Some accommodations may not help the student, and may actually have the opposite effect.
4. A student may be allowed more than one accommodation.
5. Limited English proficient students are entitled to the same assessment accommodations as their English-speaking peers. Level 1 or Level 2 or Non-English speaking (NES) students may be exempted from the CSAP with required documentation. Level 3 (Limited English speaking) must be included in the CSAP assessment.

For more information on CSAP and CSAP-A go to the Colorado Department of Education Website at: [www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us) or call the Colorado Department of Education's Special Education office at (303) 866-6669.

## SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Provided by School Social Work Association of America

A report produced by the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education with support from the National Institute of Justice was recently released. It is a 9-page report resulting from a study of 37 school shootings involving 41 attackers. Details regarding each of the findings as well as implications of the findings are contained in the interim report.

All school mental health professionals should get a copy of this report and make a copy for your principal and superintendent to insure that they are up-to-date on this important issue. This report is the first part of the Safe School Initiative. You can obtain a copy of this report by visiting the National Threat Assessment Center website: [www.treas.gov/usss/ntac](http://www.treas.gov/usss/ntac) or email SSWAA for a copy of this report. You may also send a large self-addressed envelope (\$.55) to SSWAA, P.O. Box 2072, Northlake, IL 60164.

## P.E.A.R.L.E

Performance, Evaluation, and Reporting in the Learning Environment - Classroom Management Software for Special Educators

This software program assists with the implementation of IEP requirements (i.e. lesson planning, data collection, alignment with standards, scheduling, etc.). This improves student programming and compliance with IEP requirements. For more information contact (303) 866-6694.





## Calendar of Events

- DECEMBER 14 Videoconference on Ottis Media**  
 University of Colorado Health Sciences Center  
 3:00 – 4:30 P.M.  
 Downlink sites: Greeley, Sterling, Lamar, Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Alamosa, Durango, Grand Junction.  
 For more information, contact Cheryl Johnson at [cheryl\\_johnson@ceo.cudenver.edu](mailto:cheryl_johnson@ceo.cudenver.edu).
- JANUARY 12 Affective Needs Conference**  
 Holiday Inn, DIA  
 For more information, contact Borock\_j@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6707.
- JANUARY 18-20 Inclusive Education Conference**  
 PEAK Parent Center, Denver.  
 For more information, contact 303-394-2022.
- JANUARY 24 SWAAAC Team Leader Meeting, Denver**  
 For more information, contact 303-864-5111 or [cathy.bodine@uchsc.edu](mailto:cathy.bodine@uchsc.edu).
- JANUARY 25 SWAAAC Advisory Meeting, Denver**  
 For more information, contact 303-864-5111 or [cathy.bodine@uchsc.edu](mailto:cathy.bodine@uchsc.edu).
- JANUARY 24 Colorado Educational Audiology Group Meeting**  
 2:30 – 4:30 P.M.  
 Site to be announced.  
 For more information, contact 303-866-6960 or [cheryl\\_johnson@ceo.cudenver.edu](mailto:cheryl_johnson@ceo.cudenver.edu).
- JANUARY 26-27 The 9th Annual Colorado School Social Work Conference**  
 The Historical Stanley Hotel, Estes Park.  
 For more information, contact [roark\\_k@cde.state.co.us](mailto:roark_k@cde.state.co.us).
- NOTICE CHANGE IN DATE! Intensive workshops include: Comedy for Real Life, Youth Subcultures, Suicide Prevention, Effects of Divorce on Children, Functional Behavioral Assessment.
- JANUARY 26-27 School Speech Language Symposium**  
 For more information, contact: Kathy Fahey – [kathy\\_fahey@ceo.cudenver.edu](mailto:kathy_fahey@ceo.cudenver.edu).
- FEBRUARY 1-2 State Motor Conference, Northglenn**  
 “Programming Motor Activities for Children with Disabilities”  
 For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at 303-866-6681.
- FEBRUARY 5-6 State Peer Counseling Conference**  
 Doubletree Hotel, Denver  
 For more information, contact Jess Karet at 303-347-7722 or [Jkaret@lps.k12.co.us](mailto:Jkaret@lps.k12.co.us)
- FEBRUARY 9-10 Courage to Risk Conference**  
 Broadmoor West, Colorado Springs  
 For more information, contact 970-224-2238 or [couragetorisk@hotmail.com](mailto:couragetorisk@hotmail.com) or go to [couragetorisk.tripod.com](http://couragetorisk.tripod.com).

## Calendar of Events continued

**FEBRUARY 20**    **Colorado Educational Audiology**  
Group Meeting  
Mapleton Instructional Services Center  
602 E. 64th Ave.  
2:30 – 4:30 P.M.  
For more information, contact [cheryl\\_johnson@ceo.cudenver.edu](mailto:cheryl_johnson@ceo.cudenver.edu).

**FEBRUARY**    **Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference**  
**22-25**  
Glenwood Springs  
See article on page 2 for more information or contact:  
PEP-CDE-SESU  
201 East Colfax Avenue, Room 300  
Denver, CO 80203-1704  
Phone: (303) 866-6846  
Fax: (303) 866-6811

### Functional Behavioral Assessment Update

The FBA User's Manual and Facilitator's Guide with the interactive CD-ROM has been sent out in Colorado. If you have not seen this guidebook/CD-ROM, please contact your administrator or Special Education Director. The Functional Behavioral Assessment is appropriate for every school professional who works with students who exhibit problem behaviors.

This is available for purchase (\$40.00 for Colorado educators, \$79.00 for educators outside of Colorado) through Sopris West: 1-800-547-6747 or [www.sopriswest.com](http://www.sopriswest.com).



### Words of Wisdom

Anonymous

Provided by Romie Tobin, CDE Senior Consultant



As the old man walked along the beach at dawn, he noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Finally, catching up with the youth, he asked him why he was doing this. The answer was that the starfish would die if left until the morning sun. "But the beach goes on for miles, and there are millions of starfish," countered the old man. "How can your effort make any difference?" The youth looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to the safety of the ocean. "It makes a difference to this one," he said.

## Resources, Resources, and More Resources.....

### Regional Coordinators

Are you curious about the activities in which CDE is involved in your area? Contact your CDE Regional Coordinator for more information:

#### **Southwest:**

Sandra Berman-LaFrance  
3310 E. 5th Avenue  
Durango, CO 81301  
Phone: (970) 259-2744 Fax: (970) 269-2745  
Email: lafrance@frontier.net

#### **Metro Denver:**

Jean Capillupo  
5273 Golf Course Drive  
Morrison, CO 80465  
Phone: (303) 697-8588 Fax: (303) 697-8688  
Email: capivj@aol.com

Jane Keen  
9920 Winona Court  
Westminster, CO 80003  
Phone: (303) 556-3941 Fax: (303) 466-0353  
Email: Jane\_Keen@ceo.cudenver.edu

#### **Pikes Peak:**

Frank Fielden  
201 E. Colfax Ave., #408  
Denver, CO 80203-1704  
Phone: (303)866-6674 Fax: (303) 866-6857  
Email: Fielden\_F@cde.state.co.us

Peter Matthews  
825 E. Kingsdeer Point  
Monument, CO 80132  
Phone: (719) 262-4117 Fax: (719) 262-4110  
Email: pmatthew@mail.uccs.edu

#### **Northeast**

Marcia DeGroot  
Box 186  
Marino, CO 80741  
Phone: (970) 520-6374 Fax: (970) 522-0091  
Email: degroote@kci.net

#### **North Central**

Amy McMillan  
PO Box 1504  
Nederland, CO 80466-1504  
Phone: (303) 642-7085 Fax: (303) 642-7085  
Email: mcmillanamy@hotmail.com

#### **Southeast**

Henry Roman  
161 Encino Drive  
Pueblo, CO 81005  
Phone: (719) 647-0023 Fax: (719) 647-0136  
Email: henryr@csn.net

#### **Northwest**

Valinda Yarberry  
PO Box 1146  
Edwards, CO 81632  
Phone: (970) 926-2310 Fax: (970) 926-3123  
Email: yarberry@vail.net

#### **West Central**

Bruce Yoast  
270 Horse Thief Lane  
Durango, CO 81301  
Phone: (970) 247-1541  
Email: Byoast@frontier.net

### The Grief Center

**The Grief Center** for children and their families, in Denver, provides support groups for children, ages 3-18, and their caregivers following a significant death loss. The ongoing support groups are coordinated by a master's level therapist and co-facilitated by trained volunteers. The Grief Center utilizes the internationally recognized Dougy Center Model for grieving children. Loving support is offered in an emotionally safe environment so that the child may work through the grief process at her or his own level and pace. The Littles Group is for ages 3-5; ages 6-12 participate in the Elementary Group; the Teen Group serves ages 13-18. Caregivers participate in a support group while the children meet. A limited number of groups may be offered within the schools in the Denver metro area supported by donations from families who are able to make contributions, grants, and primarily through *Angels Befriending Children*, an auxiliary of Hospice of Metro Denver. School packets designed to assist teachers and administrators in helping children with grief issues are available. Volunteer training is in October. To refer a child to this program, please call Mary Lyles, MSW, LCSW at Hospice of Metro Denver, (303) 321-2828.

# Request for Information or Mailing Changes

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

THE MAILING LIST:  
 ADD NAME       REMOVE NAME       MAKE INDICATED CHANGES

**NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK:**

(1-revise, 5-fantastic)

Overall Quality	1	2	3	4	5
Overall Appearance	1	2	3	4	5
Overall Content	1	2	3	4	5

**COMMENTS:**

**SEND THIS INFORMATION TO:**

Attn: Special Education Services Unit  
 Linda Perkins  
 Colorado Department of Education  
 201 E. Colfax Ave. Room 502  
 Denver, CO 80203



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