



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 26

January 2006



Amended NCLB State Application

CDE has been working with the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Committee of Practitioners and other committees to amend the state's NCLB application for submission to the U.S. Department of Education in early 2006. Below is a listing of some of the proposed changes compiled to date. Additional changes to AYP and other NCLB matters are still being considered at this time. CDE and the Committee of Practitioners expect to submit a draft of the revised NCLB application for review by the State Board in February, 2006.

- AYP for K-1 and K-2 schools will be calculated using the third grade reading and math assessment results from the school(s) that the K-1 and K-2 schools feed into.
- Districts will be given the option of providing supplemental services in year one of Improvement, instead of, or in combination with, public school choice. In year two, schools would be required to offer both Supplemental Services and Public School Choice.

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Supplemental Educational Services Request for Proposals Now Available

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for State Approved Supplemental Educational Service Providers for the 2006-2007 school year is available at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/SuppServices.asp. The proposals are due to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) on or before March 6, 2006. There will be a training for the completion of the RFP at CDE in the State Board Room on January 18 from 2-4 p.m.

Supplemental Services are free tutoring opportunities for low-income children attending schools on their second year of school improvement, corrective action or restructuring. The cost of tutoring is paid for by the school district using Title I funds. A list of schools in Colorado that are presently offering supplemental services as well as schools that may have to offer services next year is also available on the above link.

This is not a competitive grant in that as many providers can be included on the list of approved providers as meet the criteria of the RFP. Furthermore, approval means being placed on a list of approved providers which districts will send to eligible parents. There is no guarantee that if selected to be on the list the organization will serve students. Eligible parents are provided the list at the start of school and choose the provider that best suits their child's needs.

Currently, we have a list of 44 state approved providers. Eligible applicants are organizations with a demonstrated record of effectiveness in increasing the academic achievement of students in reading and/or math. Districts and schools on improvement may not be supplemental service providers. However, a school that is making adequate yearly progress within a district identified for improvement may apply to be a provider.

Although our list contains many competent providers we are hoping to add more options for the rural areas of Colorado. If you know of an organization that would be a strong provider of Supplemental Services please encourage them to apply. For further information contact Laura Hensinger at hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us.

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Upcoming Parent Involvement Professional Development Opportunities hosted by the Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center

February 6 in Thornton
February 23 in Pueblo

Professional Development Training: Improving Parent-School Partnerships

This workshop consists of a staff development session to help staff improve partnerships with parents. Workshop topics will include:

- Identifying attitudes and assumptions about working with families
- Identifying barriers and overcoming them
- Identifying strategies for parent involvement

Professional Training of Trainers (TOT): “Workshops for Parents”

This workshop consists of training for staff and parent leaders to learn how to present these workshops for parents in their schools. TOT will be presented in English and Spanish and will cover:

- How educators and parent leaders can present the four “Workshops for Parents”: Helping with Homework, Enjoying Reading, Parent-Teacher Meetings, Preparing for CSAP
- Responsibilities of trainers
- Recruiting parents to attend the workshops

Note: Eligible schools will stay for an additional half hour to learn about possible funding opportunities to hold workshops.

To download a registration or for more information visit www.cpirc.org.



- CDE will request the flexibility to use School Improvement grant funds in support of districtwide strategies in districts identified for Improvement.
- Elementary math AYP baselines and intermediate targets will be re-set with the inclusion of the 3rd and 4th grade CSAP math assessments.
- The plan will include detail regarding the action plan, transition plans, and timeline associated with the phasing out of the locally administered English language proficiency assessments and the roll-out of the new, single English language proficiency assessment (CELA).
- The plan will be amended to include a revised definition of graduation rate should the State adopt a revised definition of graduation rate.
- The plan will be amended to reflect that - only if district AYP targets are unmet in the same content area and grade span for two consecutive years - will a district be identified for District Improvement.
- District Improvement designations will be modified to differentiate among districts that have not met large numbers/percentages of AYP targets from those that have not met small numbers/percentages of targets as well as those that are increasing in the number/percentage of AYP targets met and those that are decreasing in the number/percentage targets.
- With regard to Highly Qualified Teachers, the advisability of reciprocity agreements with neighboring states and the development of a HOUSSE will be considered.

The amended plan will be posted on CDE's website once it is submitted at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/Reports/index.asp. Upon receipt, CDE will post the plan that is ultimately approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January – May

The 8-Step Process: Responding to Struggling English Language Learners with Exceptional Needs. For more information on the following regional conferences visit

www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm.

Greeley - January 10-13, 2006

La Junta - January 17-20, 2006

Glenwood Springs - February 28-March 3, 2006

Pagosa Springs - April 18-21, 2006

North Metro - May 2-5, 2006

Frisco - May 9-12, 2006

January 16

Martin Luther King's Birthday

Colorado Department of Education is closed.

January 27 – 31

National Title I Conference

Dallas, Texas

For more information visit www.titlei.org.

February 2 – 3

6th Annual CASE Winter Leadership Conference
Broomfield, Colorado

For more information visit www.co-case.org.

February 20

President's Day

Colorado Department of Education is closed.

February 26 – March 1

Learning Disabilities Association of America
43rd Annual International Conference

Jacksonville, Florida

www.LDAmerica.org



Visit CDE's Calendar for more events.

www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm.



- Comparability Reports were due to CDE on December 15. All districts must submit an assurance form. Districts with more than one school at each grade level must submit a Comparability assurance form and worksheets. Contact Laura Hensinger at hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us.
- Districts new to Program Improvement were required to submit a plan addressing the targets missed by January 2, 2006. Contact Brad Bylsma at bylsma_b@cde.state.co.us with any questions.
- The following indicators are scheduled for a Desk Review during February:
 - Targeted Assistance Programs (T1A 15.1, 15.9, 15.13)
 - Adequate Yearly Progress (T1A 6.1, 6.2, 6.3)

The Desk Review document is available at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/monitoring.asp.

C-FIRS Regional Workshops

In order to better familiarize district personnel with the Colorado Federal Integrated Review System (C-FIRS), four regional workshops will be held to acquaint people with this process. These workshops will be held in the following locations:

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| January 19 | Durango, Administration Bldg.
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. |
| January 20 | Pueblo 60, Administration Bldg.
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. |
| January 26 | Adams 12 Training Center
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. |
| January 27 | Roaring Fork District Office
12 p.m. – 3 p.m. |

The focus of the workshops will be on the process for monitoring and the online reporting system. No sign up or registration is needed. For more information, contact Trish Boland: boland_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6998. Visit the CDE Calendar for specific location information www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm.



CSAP Trainings

The Unit of Student Assessment at the Colorado Department of Education will be holding CSAP trainings in January. This training is provided annually for the District Assessment Coordinators in each district so that they can train district administrators and teachers with high quality materials and the most up-to-date information.

The following are the dates and locations for the workshops. Each workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- January 5 Douglas County RE-1
Board Room, 3rd Floor
620 Wilcox, Castle Rock
- January 9 Jefferson County R-1
Warren Tech
13300 West 2nd Place, Lakewood
- January 11 Akron
Akron High School, Library
600 Elm Street
- January 12 Pueblo 60
Admin. Building, Arapahoe Room
315 W. 11th Street
- January 18 Eagle County School District
757 E. 3rd Street
- January 19 Grand Junction
Basil T. Knight Center (BTK)
2523 Patterson Rd.
- January 20 Pagosa Springs
Archuleta High School
800 S. 8th Street
- January 24 Fort Collins
Johannsen Support Services
Center, 2407 LaPorte Avenue
- January 25 La Junta
BOCES Professional Development
Center, 210 Santa Fe Avenue
- January 26 Colorado Springs
General William Mitchell H.S.
1205 Potter Drive

CDE Sponsors Parent Involvement Policy Evaluation Workshops

Is CDE expecting all schools to have the same parent involvement policy and plan within Districts?

What are the consequences of not demonstrating effectiveness?

Section 1118 of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) specifies that each district will “conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under this part...” In December, CDE sponsored workshops in Colorado Springs, Denver, Glenwood, and Greeley, which presented discussions of evaluation techniques for determining the effectiveness of parent involvement policies. The presenters were from the Center for Education Policy Analysis (CEPA) at the Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver/Health Sciences Center.

The workshops were interactive, and offered participants an opportunity to begin to develop an evaluation plan. The discussion provided evaluators and CDE staff with information about what district staff persons need to be successful in the evaluation process, such as development of outcome measures. Participants also received power point presentations on evaluation for their own use as trainers and a Parent Involvement Policy Evaluation Toolkit.

The project will continue through the academic year. CEPA evaluators will be sending workshop participants an electronic newsletter—*Notes to the Field*. CEPA evaluators are conducting an evaluation of the district Parent Involvement Policy in Adams 12, and the *Notes* will contain updates about this evaluation and provide links to new research and resources on parent involvement. *Notes* will also have an FAQ section to answer district Title I administrators’ questions about evaluation of parent involvement activities.

Parts of the document, *Policy Compliance and Evaluation Guidance*, located on the CDE website, were used in the workshops. Multiple participants referred to the evaluation examples on page 5 of the *Compliance* document, entitled “Oversight of Title I Parent Involvement Requirements,” indicating they thought the items listed in the last column in the table were requirements. These evaluation tools or methods are examples only and are NOT requirements. They exist only to guide the district in collecting information/data for their evaluation. For more information, contact Trish Boland, boland_t@cde.state.co.us or Tracey O'Brien, Center for Education Policy Analysis, (303) 315-2735.



AYP Growth Committee Update

Margaret Spellings announced on November 21, 2005 that states are eligible to apply to the US Department of Education to use a growth model in AYP calculations. The USDE will approve up to 10 states that meet the requirements stated in the "Dear Colleague" letter

www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/051121.html.

Prior to that announcement, the AYP Growth Committee was meeting to investigate possible growth measurements to use for Colorado's AYP. The group reviewed three different models, as well as an analysis of current safe harbor numbers. After analyzing the data from the three models, and weighing the benefits and concerns of each, the committee has agreed to the following:

- Apply for a growth model, if necessary;
- Make changes to the Safe Harbor calculation;
- Use categories, not scale scores or twelfths, to judge growth;
- Compare No Scores + Unsatisfactory to Partially Proficient + Proficient + Advanced (current cut points);
- Include CSAPA; and
- Use matched student records.

Over the next month the AYP Growth Committee will be working with the Technical Advisory Committee for Longitudinal Growth to bring together the work of the two groups. Currently, the state is planning to apply for the growth model under Secretary Spellings' proposal, due February 17, 2006. However, there is a possibility that we would be able to make these changes under our current state plan and current NCLB law. We are investigating this possibility as well.

Integrated Onsite Review Update

The districts and BOCES that will be participating in an integrated onsite review as part of the Consolidated Federal Integrated Review System (C-FIRS) have been selected and notified. There is a possibility that some districts may be visited by one or more individual programs. Districts will be contacted by those programs 60 days prior to any visit. The C-FIRS team is working to ensure that when one program plans a visit; they team up with any other programs in hopes of limiting and maximizing visits. A series of informational meetings will be held this month, we encourage you to attend if you have any questions regarding C-FIRS (see page 3 of this issue for details).



With no reauthorization of the Educational Flexibility Partnership Act (Ed Flex) attached to congressional bills, this piece of federal legislation is set to end for Colorado on June 30, 2006. For districts that currently have an Ed Flex waiver from the state, this means that the approved waiver is only in effect until June 30, 2006. CDE is exploring how to use Title IX, Part D as a means to continue some measure of flexibility with NCLB. Title IX-D provides language similar to Ed Flex with respect to granting waivers, with the difference being that the USDE makes the decision about granting any request for flexibility.

For those interested in how to use Title IX, Part D for flexibility, the legislation can be found at the following USDE website:

www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg110.html.

Trish Boland will be in contact with districts that currently have Ed Flex waivers, in order to ensure that reporting requirements are maintained and next steps are clear.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

FY05 Reallocated Title I, Part A Funds Grant

Any Title I school that did not make AYP for the first time during the 2004-2005 school year is eligible to apply for this grant. Each grantee will receive a \$50,000 award. Approximately \$20,000 of the award will be used to fund a School Support Team review of the school program. The remaining funds will be awarded to the school at the completion of the review. For more information and a copy of the RFP visit

www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/improvement/sc_himp_tia.asp or contact Laura Hensinger: hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us, (303) 866-6675.

FY05 Reallocated Title II, Part A Funds Grant

These funds will be made available to districts through a competitive process. Grant recipients will receive financial assistance:

- in reaching the goal of having 100% highly qualified teachers (HQT)
- to provide incentives for the recruitment and retention of teachers

This grant will be posted by the end of the month. For more information and a copy of the RFP visit www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/NCLB/tiia.asp or contact Bush White white_b@cde.state.co.us, (303) 866-6901.

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Did you miss the last Buzz? Visit www.cde.state.co.us for a copy.

Concerns!!

Questions??

Comments

Do you want to be on the mailing list?

Contact Laura Hensinger at (303) 866-6675 or hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us