



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 20

May/June 2005

2 0 0 4

Highly Qualified Teacher Determinations

CDE is required to establish annual, measurable objectives for the state, each local school district and school that ensures an annual increase in the percentage of highly qualified teachers and classes taught by highly qualified teachers. The 2004 determinations were emailed to districts on May 20th. The data used to make these determinations were collected as part of the December 2004 human resource data collection. The determinations reflect the percentage of teachers that were "Highly Qualified" and the percent of classrooms taught by "Highly Qualified" teachers (HQT).

A district may appeal its determination if it believes the information submitted for the HR report was incorrect. Appeals must be received by **June 3, 2005**. Appeals must include 1) the signature of the Superintendent indicating support for the appeal and 2) data and a narrative analysis of that data which illustrates how the HQT determination is incorrect and identifies how the requirements were met by the district.

Once determinations are finalized, districts and schools are required to notify their public of the percent of "Highly Qualified" teachers and the percentage of classrooms taught by "Highly Qualified" teachers. This notification can occur in the annual report.

2005 School Improvement Process

As a result of USDE monitoring visit, CDE must ensure that parents are notified of their NCLB choices in the timeframe outlined in the law. Thus, CDE wanted to give districts with schools presently on Improvement or with schools that may enter into Improvement a heads up on necessary steps that must be taken. A letter will be sent next week to districts with schools in these categories detailing the necessary requirements and deadlines. The following chart illustrates the requirements at each level of Improvement.

AYP Status	School Improvement Status	Sanctions
Miss 2 years*	School Improvement–Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Improvement Plan • Public School Choice Transportation
Miss 3 years	School Improvement–Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Improvement Plan • Public School Choice Transportation • Supplemental Services
Miss 4 years	Corrective Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise School Improvement Plan • Public School Choice Transportation • Supplemental Services • District must take at least one of 7 corrective actions
Miss 5 years	Restructuring-Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public School Choice Transportation • Supplemental Services • District must make a plan to restructure the school
Miss 6 years	Restructuring-Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public School Choice Transportation • Supplemental Services • District must implement the Restructuring Plan

* same content area

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 | Small, Rural Schools Application
- 3 | Parent Involvement Opportunity
- 4 | The New 2% Rule
- 5 | Title I Distinguished Teachers



Districts/schools can access their Adequate Yearly Progress information at www.cde.state.co.us/ayp. 2004-2005 AYP determinations will be available through the Automated Data Exchange by approximately August 11th.

Public School Choice

Title I schools that do not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area must be identified for School Improvement. In this first year of School Improvement, all students in Title I schools identified for Improvement must be offered Public School Choice – the option of transferring to a higher performing school, with transportation to the school paid by the district. In order to be prepared for offering public school choice, the district's plan should contain the following elements:

- Identification of transfer schools
- Process for notification to parents
- Public School Choice notification document for parents
- Transportation plan and options

Districts must offer public school choice to all students in attendance at a school on improvement before the first day of school. Districts with only one school at each grade level are encouraged, to the extent practicable, to work with other districts in the area to establish a cooperative agreement that would allow inter-district choice. Districts that are unable to establish a cooperative agreement must notify parents that their child's school is identified for School Improvement and that the child is eligible for choice, but that no choices are currently available. Such notification might also inform parents of the option of Supplemental Services for those children who are eligible for enrollment in cyber schools. More information on Title I Public School Choice as well as sample parent notification letters can be found at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/tia_psc.htm.

Supplemental Educational Services

In addition to public school choice, districts must offer Supplemental Services to the low-income children attending schools in 2nd Year Improvement, Corrective Action or Restructuring. The providers available in your district will be available at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/SuppServices.htm. Click on "Search for Approved Provider by District". The database will be completed by mid-July. Only districts with schools in 2nd year improvement or beyond are in the searchable database. Also available on the Supplemental Services webpage is a sample parent letter and a contract which can be used between the district and provider(s).

School Improvement Grant

Schools on Improvement are eligible for the 2005-2006 Title I School Improvement Grant. Funding for this

continued in next column

grant will be disseminated in two parts. An initial amount of \$50,000 will be granted to each school to be used to fund a School Support Team (SST) review of the school program. Each SST review is estimated to cost no more than \$25,000. The remaining funds will be awarded to the school at the completion of the review and after a detailed budget has been submitted to CDE.

Schools will then be eligible for a School Improvement Implementation Grant ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in June 2006. Prior to the release of funding a school improvement plan that incorporates research-based strategies for improving the major areas of need as identified by the external review must be submitted and approved by CDE. For more information on the School Support Team process contact Anita Foxworth at foxworth_a@cde.state.co.us Contact Laura Hensinger at hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us for School Improvement Grant information.

Small, Rural Schools FY05-06 Application Process

The Small, Rural School Achievement Program (SRSA) makes funds available to small rural school districts to be used for activities authorized by the Title programs in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Funds are granted directly to school districts by the U.S. Department of Education through the electronic grant or e-grant system. In keeping with past practice, the U.S. Department of Education will not require the majority of SRSA eligible districts to reapply for funds for the 2005-06 school year. The Department will post a spreadsheet with each district's allocation on the SRSA Home Page, approximately the week of May 23rd. This posting will verify eligibility. Award notices will be mailed in the fall. The Small, Rural School Home Page is located at:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/reapsrsa/index.html>.

How would a district know if it's one of those that must apply?

The U.S. Department of Education will highlight on the spreadsheet those districts that must apply in order to receive their allocation. Districts receiving funds for the first time will have to apply. Also, districts that have not claimed most of their funds by late spring will also likely have to reapply. The deadline for those needing to apply is tentatively set for June 15, 2005.

Changes in eligibility

The eligibility list has changed slightly each year due to the addition of more recent census data, changes in locale codes, or changes in average daily attendance. If a district becomes ineligible, it cannot take advantage of the "Alternate Use" flexibility provision for the NCLB funds in the Consolidated Application.

For more information contact Janelle Krueger at (303) 866-6660, krueger_j@cde.state.co.us

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 1st – 3rd

Levels of Use Evaluator Training
For more information contact Michael Ramirez at (303) 866-6991 or by email at ramirez_m@cde.state.co.us

June 2nd – 3rd

The Peak Afterschool Conference
Executive Towers Downtown Denver, CO
Register before May 1st for \$209.00
Visit www.mcrel.org for more information.

June 17th – 19th

International Teachers Recruiting Fair in Denver
100 international schools from around the world have been invited to this fair.
Sponsored by Universal Educational Staffing
For more information contact (303) 770-3523 or drjorusso@ecentral.com

June 15th – 16th

Science of Flight Teacher Workshop in Buena Vista
\$20 includes breakfast, lunch and supplies. Learn hands on activities and earn science credit through Adams State. Credit not included in registration fee. For more information visit www.colorado-aeronautics.org and click on the Teacher Workshop icon.

2005 DEADLINES

Consolidated Federal Programs Application

- June 1st Request for Extension must be submitted. Forms are available at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/consapp_currentyear.htm
- June 1st If declining funds, Section B (page 2 of Consolidated Application) must be submitted to CDE.
- June 30th Consolidated Federal Programs Application due to CDE.
- August 19th Applications with an approved extension must be submitted.



- If applicable, submit Ed Flex Waivers by May 31st. The Ed Flex Waiver Request form can be found at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/consapp.htm
- Conduct the needs assessment for the Consolidated Application. Consult with parents.
- The updated Single Assurance Form is on the website at the following link: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefisgrant/download/pdf/FY06/2005-Single-Assur-LtrFrm.pdf>
All districts that will be accepting federal funds must sign the form. A district may mark ALL of the programs, but the assurances apply only if the district is funded for that program.

Parent Involvement Opportunity

The Colorado Parent Information & Resource Center (CPIRC) and CDE are hosting a Parent Involvement Conference and Training of Trainers (TOT) on August 11th and 12th.

The **1 Day Parent Involvement Conference** is a training to build successful parent involvement policies and plans that meet state and federal guidelines. The training covers the following topics:

- Why involve parents?
- Strategies for effective communication with families based on their strengths
- Overview of Parent Involvement in Schools (what the law says & a self-assessment of your school's plan)

The **½ Day TOT** prepares you to present the following 4 workshops to parents at your school.

- How to Make Homework More Manageable
- Loving to Read, Loving to Learn
- Parent-Teachers Conferences: Easy as ABC
- CSAP-Helping Your Child Prepare

Visit www.cpirc.org for more information and a registration form.



THE NEW 2% RULE

On May 10th, Margaret Spellings, the U.S. Secretary of Education, announced a plan under NCLB that would allow states to develop additional alternate assessments based on modified grade-level standards for students with disabilities in the “gap” area. In addition to including the proficient scores of up to 1% of students taking the current alternate assessment (CSAPA in Colorado), states, districts and schools would be able to include up to 2% of the scores of students who attain proficient on an assessment based on modified achievement standards.

To apply for this option, each state must meet Title I and IDEA requirements that are directly related to achievement and instruction for the full range of students with disabilities. This new policy does not affect the 2004-2005 AYP calculations since Colorado did not test any students based on modified standards. CSAPA scores will be included as they were in last year’s calculations.

However, the Assessment, Title I and Exceptional Student Services Units are meeting to determine the next steps for this requirement for 2005-2006 AYP calculations. These requirements include a 95% statewide participation rate in CSAP and CSAPA for students with disabilities for the purpose of measuring AYP; availability and administration of appropriate accommodations for students on IEPs; the provision of alternate assessments in reading and math for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities; and, application of the state’s subgroup size for students with disabilities. Regulations are currently being developed to help states with the implementation of this new requirement. Further information can be found on the NCLB website at <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2005/05/05102005.html>.

State Committee of Practitioners

The State Committee of Practitioners serves to advise the State with respect to Title I and is an important communication link between CDE and the field. Several committee members are retiring or have served their three-year term. CDE is currently accepting nominations for those slots being vacated. Nomination forms can be found at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/tia_cop.htm. Contact Trish Boland at boland_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6998 with any questions.



At the recent consolidated application workshops, CDE indicated that districts cannot carry over more than 15% of their Title I, Part A allocation. Can you provide more information about this?

Section 1127 of NCLB states that, “not more than 15 percent of the funds allocated to a local educational agency for any fiscal year under this subpart (but not including funds received through any reallocation under this subpart) may remain available for obligation by such agency for one additional fiscal year.” Districts that believe their 04-05 carryover for Title IA will exceed the 15 percent may be granted, once every 3 years, a waiver when the State determines that the request of a local educational agency is reasonable and necessary. Please note the percentage limitation does not apply to any local educational agency that receives less than \$50,000 for any fiscal year.

What should districts do if they want to request a waiver to carry over in excess of 15%?

First, make sure that the district will likely need a waiver. Remember that 04-05 funds can be expended through September 30, 2005. If a district believes that an excess of 15% will be carried over into 05-06, the district will need to submit a waiver to CDE. The waiver request document will be on the CDE website by mid-June. Districts will need to submit the waiver request to CDE between August 15, 2005, and September 15, 2005. CDE will review these waiver requests on a case by case basis and respond to districts by September 30, 2005. If these districts indeed have an excess of 15% after September 30, 2005 and the waiver is approved, then it will be in effect for the upcoming school year.

Is the U.S. Department of Education’s Monitoring Report available on CDE’s website?

Yes. It can be found at http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/uni_whats_new.htm



The U.S. Department of Education has recently released a new publication, ***Choosing a School for Your Child***, a parent's planner for making decisions about education. This free booklet gives tips on choosing a school, descriptions of the types of choices available, questions to ask when considering schools and explanations of opportunities under *No Child Left Behind*. To order contact ED Pubs at

Online: www.edpubs.org
Toll-Free Phone: 1-877-4-ED-PUBS
Mail: ED Pubs, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, Maryland 20794-1398
Order number: EU 0121P

Additional U.S. Department of Education supported websites with information about parental choice:

www.ed.gov/nclb/choice/index.html
www.schoolmatters.com
www.greatschools.net
www.tutors4kids.org

Web-based Professional Development Opportunity

The Colorado Department of Education is partnering with the Center for Research Strategies and the National Center for School Engagement to recruit school administrators, classroom teachers and their community partners to participate in a year-long professional development project to improve educational practices for the homeless and highly mobile population. Structured in the style of a Professional Community of Practice, eight teams will be recruited. Each team will consist of a school administrator, an experienced teacher, and a community member. All participants will be provided with a \$1000 stipend at the successful conclusion of the school-year long project. Additionally, individuals may select to earn up to 6 graduate credit hours from Adams State College for \$45 per credit hour. One required meeting will take place in Denver on August 13th, 2005. The rest of the work will be done via asynchronous class work and technical assistance online. The local teams of three will work together on issues as each participant completes a project to improve educational/community practice for homeless and highly mobile students.

The application deadline is June 8th. Contact Margie Milenkiewicz at (303) 866-6930 milenkiewicz_m@cde.state.co.us with any questions.

CONGRATULATIONS 2005 DISTINGUISHED TITLE I TEACHER AWARD

Two Distinguished Title I Teachers were recently named following a rigorous application process. The Colorado Department of Education would like to congratulate

Anna Swink
*Leo Butler Elementary
Ft. Lupton School District*

Ruth Sprain
*Garfield Elementary
Thompson School District*

Both teachers had applications that clearly demonstrated, with data and analysis, that their students made significant gains in reading and/or math during the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school years.

A school assembly attended by district and state personnel was held at the respective schools to honor these two distinguished teachers. Recipients of this award also receive \$5,000.

It is not too early for educators to begin thinking about the 2006 Distinguished Title I Teacher award. The criteria will remain essentially the same, but more information about the 2006 award will be available in the fall and distributed at the Title I Director's Meeting in September.



Colorado Department of Education
Office of Special Services
201 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203



Did you miss the last Buzz? Visit www.cde.state.co.us/index_funding.htm 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