



# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

201 East Colfax Avenue • Denver, Colorado 80203-1799  
303.866.6600 • [www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us)

**Robert K. Hammond**  
Commissioner of Education

**Diana Sirko, Ph.D.**  
Deputy Commissioner

**Keith Owen, Ph.D.**  
Associate Commissioner

September 30, 2011

To: Superintendents, District Curriculum/Literacy Coordinators, Principals, and Teachers

Re: Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA) Update

In 2007, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved three assessment instruments from which districts may choose for annual reporting of the Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA) for grades K-3; the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA2), Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), and the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS). At that time, the State Board agreed to revisit the assessment choices after three years of data had been collected and after an evaluation of the validity and reliability of the approved assessments as early indicators of reading achievement.

Additionally, in December 2010, the Colorado Department of Education recommended that the rules for administering the Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA) be revised to ensure alignment with the expectations outlined in the Colorado Academic Standards.

Therefore, in April 2012, the State Board will simultaneously consider adopting updated CBLA rules and approve new assessment tools if necessary. The rules identify the standards and criteria for the assessment of literacy in grades K-3 (including the identification of grade level proficiencies, assessment instrument criteria, and permitted exceptions.)

In an effort to keep all constituents informed of the processes taking place, the following timeline outlines events that have already taken place as well as next steps:

- June 2011 – A report on the validity and reliability of existing CBLA assessments was presented to the SBE. The report may be accessed here: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/cbla/index.htm>
- July 2011 – An external advisory committee met to revise current CBLA proficiencies and make suggested revisions to CBLA State Board Rules.
- January 2012 – CDE will present to the State Board a first draft of updated CBLA rules.
- January/February 2012 – CDE will publish revised draft CBLA rules and offer opportunities for public feedback.

- March 2012 – SBE will conduct CBLA Rulemaking Hearing to establish the new rules regarding the administration of literacy assessments. Public comment will be invited. In addition, CDE staff will identify recommended literacy assessments for board member discussion.
- April 2012 – State Board will adopt revised CBLA rules and approve CBLA assessment tools.

CDE will be soliciting feedback from the field and public in the coming months as recommendations are developed. Please stay tuned for more information.

*For more information, please contact Dian Prestwich at [Prestwich\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Prestwich_d@cde.state.co.us).*