

FAST News

September 2014

Introducing the Field Analyst Support Team (FAST)

We have a new name!

The Audit Team, which is part of the Public School Finance Division, had a name change to the Field Analyst Support Team. This was done in part to reduce the cohesive portrayal of the team. Each member of FAST is here to support and train the districts so that they can maximize their funding rather than being solely a punitive entity as the word 'audit' is usually associated with. While FAST still performs compliance audits on every school district, they are working hard to educate districts on legislation, how to improve internal processes around the Student October Count, the At-Risk (Free and Reduced Lunch) Count, and Transportation as it related to the CDE-40, and also how to better prepare for each corresponding audit.

New and Improved FAST Website

We have been busy updating our site!

In order to provide the best customer service possible to each district, FAST has been working hard to update their website. The new site includes a different page for each program (Pupil Count, At-Risk Count, and Transportation), important deadlines, resource guides, applicable forms, FAQs, and training videos. There is also an archive of previous resource guides and newsletters to ensure that districts are able to access past information that might related to audits. Please take the time to click around the pages and links, and spend a few minutes watching some of the training videos. There will be more posted throughout the fall, as well!

October Count Resource Guide Webinar

For 2014 Student October Count

The Field Analyst Support Team is providing training on the 2014 Student October Count Resource Guide from an audit perspective. The training is on Tuesday, September 2, 2014 from 11:00 am until 12:00 pm. FAST will discuss the new Student October Count Resource guide, our new website, and its resources. The team will also be available to answer any questions.

To join the webinar, visit <http://connect.enetcolorado.org/gfm3/>

Dial-in: 1-866-386-5651

No pre-registration is necessary. For more information, contact Scott Abbey, FAST Supervisor, at 303-866-6153 or abbey_s@cde.state.co.us

Highlights

- Introducing FAST!
- FAST Website
- October Count Resource Guide Webinar
- Important Dates

Important Dates!

Things you should be preparing for in September:

Pupil Count:

- 8/1/2014 – 9/30/2014:
 - Review all schedules for Secondary students and verify full or part time status
 - Identify all specialized student types (work study, Concurrent Enrollment, Gifted and Talented, etc) and gather supporting documentation
 - Begin correcting any data errors for the Student October Count submission
- 9/15/2014:
 - Alternative Count Day Requests due to FAST
- 9/24/14:
 - October Count Window opens
 - Ensure accurate attendance taking
- 9/30/2014:
 - ALPs created for first time early access kindergartners and 1st graders

At-Risk Count:

- 7/1/2014 – 10/31/2014:
 - Generate and review Direct Certification lists
 - Receive and review Free and Reduced Lunch applications and Family Economic Survey forms
- 8/1/2014 – 10/31/2014:
 - Identify homeless, migrant, foster, runaway, head start, and all 'free lunch' qualified Students
 - Gather and maintain supporting documentation

Transportation:

- 8/1/2014 – 9/1/2014:
 - Identify routes and maintain descriptions for each route, as well a route miles
 - Obtain calendars for each route, district or otherwise, and make note of any cancelations throughout the year
- 8/15/2014:
 - CDE-40 was due to CDE

Where can I learn more?

- Visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/auditunit>
- Email us at audit@cde.state.co.us