

# COMMISSIONER'S RURAL EDUCATION COUNCIL



## January 2018 Highlights



The Commissioner's Rural Education Council hit the ground running in 2018 with a meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> in Peyton/Widefield. The Council toured Peyton School District as well as the MiLL, an amazing collaborative effort between Peyton and Widefield School Districts (seen on left). Agenda items included an overview of the rulemaking process, information on the administrative unit transfer process, and an update on the educator shortage action plan. Read more about the work of the Council below!

### Educator Shortage Action Planning

Over the summer of 2017, the Council began its work to inform the educator shortage action plan, a collaborative effort between the CDE and DHE. The entire agenda of the July meeting was dedicated to discussing strategies to address educator shortages in rural districts across the state. The feedback from the Council was used to inform the educator shortage plan, released in December. You can read more about the educator shortage action plan [here](#).

### Rural Consideration for Rulemaking

As CDE continually seeks ways to support rural schools and districts, the Rural Council was able to provide feedback for CDE's Rural Consideration for Rulemaking, guidance developed for internal use at CDE considering the rural perspective before rules are drafted. This guidance will help CDE staff consider the potential impact of proposed rules to rural districts. The document will begin circulating through applicable units at CDE in Spring of 2018.

Rural Consideration for Rulemaking

**Purpose**

To assist in the consideration of rural perspective as rule drafting is initiated. Investigate the implications the proposed rules have on the rural/small rural districts in regard to the following:

- Capacity
- Quality / Performance

Note: For rules which the State Board has significant policy discretion and where time permits, solicit feedback/input from the Rural Education Council as well as rural schools and/or districts from each of the eight regions the change in policy will impact prior to the Notice of Rulemaking. For all rulemaking, ensure the Commissioner's Rural Education Council receives a copy of the noticed rules and directions for submitting public comment.

**District Capacity**

Consider the size and geographic location of the district when thinking about capacity for implementation. Consider implications for district implementation using the following questions as a guide:

- Do the rules directly impact a rural district's capacity differently and/or does the school have the capacity to implement the required actions without additional support?
- How do the rules directly affect the roles of a) school leadership (especially those in a dual role), b) support staff (counselor, central office staff, etc.), and/or c) teachers?
- What supports will the CDE need to provide as far as training, on-site support, or additional resources to allow for successful implementation?
- What implications do these rules have on overall school and district budgets?
- Do the rules require use of a new tool or system for reporting? How might training be delivered or outreach extended to rural schools/districts that might need additional support?

November 2017 - CDE Work Product

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## January Highlights

At its January meeting, the Council heard from Toby King, Deputy Director of the Exceptional Student Services Unit, on the Administrative Unit transfer process. Council members were able to ask clarifying questions and provide feedback on the topic. Melissa Bloom, Senior Policy Associate, talked through the rather complex and lengthy rulemaking process and highlighted the Rural Consideration for Rulemaking process that will be utilized across all applicable units at CDE.

Dr. Allen Pratt, Executive Director of the National Rural Education Association, was on hand to discuss the national rural landscape and welcomed participation in the upcoming National Rural Forum that will be held in Denver on October 11-13<sup>th</sup>. You can find more information about the National Rural Forum [here](#).

The Council also welcomed newly-appointed members, Jeff Durbin, Superintendent of Stratton School District, and Chris Vance, Superintendent of Center School District.

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### Rural Education Council Facts

The Rural Education Council is comprised of superintendents representing each of the eight regions in Colorado; a rural principal; representatives from the Colorado Association of School Boards, the Colorado Association of School Executives and the Colorado BOCES Association; two rural board of education members and the Colorado Rural Schools Alliance. For a complete listing of Rural Education Council members, as well as agendas and other information, visit the Rural Education Council [web page](#).

The next meeting of the Rural Education Council will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> in DeBeque.

For questions or more information, contact Denille LePlatt, Director of Rural Services, at 720-520-5118 or [leplatt\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:leplatt_d@cde.state.co.us).

### Regional Presentations

In an effort to build partnerships and collaboration, regional presentations are part of every quarterly meeting. Over the summer, the Council heard a presentation from Council member Scott Cooper, Superintendent of Dolores School District RE-4 on their new Infant/Toddler center. This month, Council member and Superintendent of Peyton School District, Tim Kistler, provided a tour of both the Peyton School District's Vocational Academy, as well as the MiLL (pictured below), a collaborative effort between Widefield and Peyton School Districts. In April, Supt. Alan Dillon will be hosting the Council meeting at the DeBeque School District, where the Council will learn more about the District's initiatives.

