

CHIEFLINE

Colorado Department of Education
William J. Moloney, Commissioner



*"Down from the Idle Hill of
Summer."*

- *A.E. Housman (1859 - 1936)*
- *A Shropshire Lad*

July 17, 2006

I. UPDATE ON CSAP RELEASE

Summer is not always as "idle" as some may think, though I hope yours has been a good one including some well-deserved R & R.

As you know, we approach our major release of CSAP test results.

In this, our tenth year of test releases, we follow our familiar sequence. Here is the schedule for the upcoming release:

July 21st (Friday)

All local districts should access and download their results from the CTB website by the end of this day. Should any last minute issues arise, please directly contact Dianne Lefly (303-866-6997) for data concerns and Jim McIntosh (303-866-6979) for other matters. As you know, they have already sent you a good bit of material.

July 27th (Thursday)

This is the day set aside for briefing key editorial boards.

IMPORTANT: Please note that we are giving districts 11 days between your receiving results and our statewide release. Preparing this volume of results for your various audiences is no small task.

The editorial boards, like everyone else, have had to agree to embargo this information until the official statewide release (embargoed until Noon on August 2, 2006). Please stress this fact with any local media with whom you deal.

It should be noted that when we provide results to the newspaper, they get fully disaggregated scores just as you do. As you know, however, a large proportion of these folks prefer to use the simpler aggregated

numbers. With the media, simple commonly trumps complex. Hopefully, you can give a broader picture to your local press.

August 2nd (Wednesday)

The official press conference and release of the statewide results including CSAP, CSAPA, and CO ACT will be in the morning, at 10:00 a.m., in the Colorado Department of Education lobby. Please do not release your official information until the lifting of the embargo at Noon.

I would reiterate what have been key priorities through every release:

1. Our highest priority will be to ensure that local districts receive their results prior to any media release or statewide release.
2. At both the state and local levels, we need to represent these results in the most honest and positive manner.
3. As important as the results themselves, will be describing how we are meeting the challenges they represent. In that regard, one of the strongest arguments will be the striking progress we are seeing in so many areas.

II. UPDATE ON 11th GRADE COLORADO ACT REPORTS TO DISTRICTS

As in the past, Colorado high schools received their *High School Reports* from ACT, Inc. earlier this past spring, between May 24 and June 12, 2006. These reports include individual student results from juniors who tested this past spring, on either April 26 or May 10.

July 25th (Tuesday)

To coincide with the state release of all state test results, *Colorado State Test Results Summary* reports are being mailed to high schools and District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) from ACT, Inc. starting July 25. All schools and DACs should have the summary reports by July 28. The reports and data represent the grade 11 students from this spring's administration of the CO ACT Assessment. In addition to copies of summary reports for the district, each DAC will also receive a CD-ROM of individual student data representing all students tested in the district. For answers to specific questions regarding the CO ACT release of scores, contact Fabian Maes (303-866-6877).

Sincerely yours,

William J. Moloney
Commissioner of Education

cc: Governor Owens, General Assembly, State Board of Education, CDE Cabinet, CDE Staff, BOCES, CASB, CASE, CEA, and CFT