CHIEFLINE

Colorado Department of Education
William J. Moloney, Commissioner

cde

April 25, 2003

"I might not last until May 7th!"
- Anonymous Legislator

I.   UPDATE ON CSAP RELEASE

As you know, next week is the release of the third grade CSAP reading results.

In this, our 12th test release since November 1997, we follow our familiar sequence. Here is the schedule for the upcoming release:

May 1st (Thursday)
All local districts should have their results by the end of this day. Should any last minute issues arise, I know you will directly contact our Assessment folks (303-866-6664), who have already sent you a good bit of material.

May 5th (Monday)
This is the day set aside for briefing key editorial boards. These boards, however, like everyone else, have had to agree to embargo this information until the official statewide release.

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.

May 6th (Tuesday)
The official release of the statewide results will be in the morning, at 11:00 a.m., in the Colorado Department of Education lobby.

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 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.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Moloney
Commissioner of Education

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