



# 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)

**Dwight D. Jones**  
Commissioner of Education

**Robert K. Hammond**  
Deputy Commissioner

**Kenneth R. Turner**  
Deputy Commissioner

## Colorado Literacy Council

Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2009

### Members of the Colorado Literacy Council (CLC):

#### Co-Chairs – Colorado Department of Education:

- 1) **Kenneth R. Turner, Ed.D.**, Deputy Commissioner, Learning and Results
- 2) **Jeanette P. Cornier, Ph.D.**, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Teaching and Learning

#### Staff from the Colorado Department of Education:

- 3) **Debora L. Scheffel, Ph.D.**, Director, Colorado Reading First
- 4) **Barbara Medina, Ph.D.**, Assistant Commissioner, Innovation and Transformation
- 5) **Jami M. Goetz, Ph.D.**, Executive Director, Professional Services and Licensing

#### Membership from the field:

- 6) **Patricia J. Hagerty, Ed.D.**, Representative from the CCIRA  
Immediate Past President, Colorado Council of the International Reading Association
- 7) **Eugene P. Sheehan, Ph.D.**, Chair of the Colorado Council of Deans of Education  
Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, University of Northern Colorado
- 8) **Timothy Shanahan, Ph.D.**, Nationally recognized faculty member with literacy expertise  
Professor, College of Education, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Director, Center for Literacy, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 9) **Nella B. Anderson, Ph.D.**, Dean of a four-year western slope college of education  
Director of Teacher Education, Western State College
- 10) **Jill Ritter**, Rural district literacy representative  
Elementary Reading Coach, Rocky Ford School District R-2
- 11) **Kathleen DeVries, M.A.**, Community college representative  
Early Childhood Education Coordinator, Red Rocks Community College

**CLC Members Present:**

Kenneth Turner  
Jeanette Cornier  
Debora Scheffel  
Barbara Medina  
Patricia Hagerty  
Jill Ritter  
Nella Bea Anderson  
Eugene Sheehan  
Kathleen DeVries  
Timothy Shanahan

**CLC Members Absent:**

Jami Goetz

**Other CDE Support Staff Present:**

Mary Spencer  
Pam Hitt  
CJ Grace

**Public Attendees**

No public attendees were present.

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**Proceedings:**

The fourth meeting of the Colorado Literacy Council (CLC) was held on April 30, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Boulevard, Arvada, Colorado.

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

- (1) CDE / CLC member welcomed everyone and introductions were made.
- (2) CDE / CLC member reviewed Meeting Agenda and asked CLC members if other agenda items were needed.
  - CDE / CLC member suggested an agenda item related to reviewing the process for granting Colorado licenses to out-of-state applicants seeking Colorado licensure and employment as an educator. CLC members decided to table this item for discussion.

**II. Review the Charge and Goals of the Colorado Literacy Council (CLC)**

- (1) The charge of the Colorado Literacy Council is to advise the Colorado Department of Education on literacy initiatives including:
  - Systems for the review of literacy content in educator preparation programs;
  - Revision of the Program for Licensing Assessment for Colorado Educators (PLACE test);
  - Topics for research forums and professional development with higher education;
  - Innovative literacy preparation programs (both pre-service and in-service).
- (2) The Charge was read aloud to the CLC members with an invitation to edit as necessary.
- (3) Group Consensus: No edits were requested by the members.

**III. Review Operating Agreements for Colorado Literacy Council Meetings**

- (1) The Norms for Interaction are:
  - The Colorado Literacy Council (CLC) meeting minutes will reflect summary statements of what is discussed, both agreed and not agreed upon by the group, including individual opinions.
  - The CLC members will utilize a consensus process versus a voting process when making decisions. Consensus is defined as the "will of the group."

- There will be an official agenda and minutes for each CLC meeting.
  - The CLC meetings are meetings held in public but do not include public participation.
- (2) The "Norms for Interaction" for CLC meetings were read aloud. No changes were suggested or made.

#### **IV. Updates and News from CDE**

##### **(1) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)**

- CDE / CLC member provided CLC members with an update on the ARRA, including the role of the Colorado Governor's office as the administrator of these federal dollars. The CO Department of Education (CDE) has submitted a proposal to the Governor's office outlining PK-12 priorities. Specifically, CDE is seeking financial support from the ARRA and the Governor's office to support longitudinal data system development and administration. Within the CDE proposal, CDE has also advocated for financial support for state institutions of higher education. CDE seeks to partner with other entities in applying for innovation grants under the ARRA.
- The CDE is working with the Governor's office to develop an application for the Race to the Top funds.
- Title One Stimulus Funds:
  1. The CDE is currently developing Title One formula grant applications. It is expected that Title One applications are expected to be posted on the CDE website in May, 2009.
  2. The CDE is encouraging school districts who have implemented innovative and effective Title One models to share their implementation models with other districts seeking to strengthen collaboration across the state.
- Other Discussion Items:
  1. Positioning CDE in nationwide partnerships with other states
  2. Developing induction programs that utilize technology to facilitate professional development delivery systems
  3. Creating a regional research to practice center that utilizes technology, provides resources for educators, provides professional development and partners with institutions of higher education, school districts and the private sector to study the effectiveness of various professional development delivery systems.

##### **(2) Standards Review Update**

- CDE / CLC member announced that CDE will be releasing draft versions of the new reading, writing, music and mathematics standards on May 7, 2009.
- The new social studies standards will be the next set of standards to undergo revision, with the remaining content standards to be revised shortly thereafter.
- All content standards revisions will incorporate "school ready" and "workplace ready" structures.
- CDE has hosted and will continue to host focus groups to solicit public feedback on the content standards revisions.
- Other Discussion Items:
  1. National content standards
  2. The organization "Achieve" has developed literacy standards through the high school level

##### **(3) Authorization Committee Update**

- CDE / CLC member informed the members that the CDE and the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) have co-convened a committee to develop suggestions for a revision of the re-authorization process. This committee is also exploring how the CDE and CDHE can provide support to institutions of higher education (IHEs) that are working to gain accreditation through Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).
- Other Discussion Items:

1. Discussion ensued around the benefit of soliciting feedback from the CLC members on additional refinements to the educator preparation program review process.
  2. CDE / CLC member suggested that it might be beneficial to develop site visit scoring rubrics and/or request that IHEs conduct self-studies.
  3. CLC members requested that CDE provide explicit communication regarding the details of how reviews are conducted (e.g., describe the “80% rule” that CDE uses to determine whether IHEs and designated agencies provide sufficient evidence of addressing the standards and elements delineated in the Colorado Teacher Performance Based Standards, Standard One: Knowledge of Literacy).
- (4) Higher Education Opportunity Act
- Discussion ensued around developing data / teacher identifier systems for tracking the performance of teachers and principals and linking this data to student achievement. The main goal is to collect data regarding the perceived “teacher-gap” (less experienced teachers working with poor or minority students). Districts could use the information to reassign teachers or provide more professional development.

## **V. Literacy Content Review Status**

### **(1) New Literacy Content Checklist**

- CLC member relayed feedback she received regarding the quality of the new Colorado Teacher Preparation Program Approval Rubrics and Checklists (a.k.a., “rubrics and checklists”). This member conveyed to the members that IHEs have commented favorably on the revisions. CDE and Dr. Shanahan expressed how the new versions of the “rubrics and checklists” will help align teacher preparation, Colorado Model Content Standards, and new literacy initiatives tied to evidence-based practices.

## **VI. Higher Education Research Forums**

### **(1) Suggestions for 2009 – 2010 year focus**

- Research to Practice. CDE / CLC member reviewed the purpose of the research forums (i.e., a venue for discussing how to bridge research to instructional practice, and the implications of research on developing high quality educator preparation programs)
- Other topics / presenters
  1. CLC members mentioned various individuals as possible future speakers
  2. CLC members mentioned a possible Response to Intervention (RtI) focus.
    - a. CDE / CLC member mentioned the timeliness of this considering Colorado already has implemented RtI through initiatives like Reading First and Positive Behavior Support models.
  3. CDE / CLC member requested that CLC members submit suggestions for speakers and topics directly to CDE.
- CDE / CLC member asked the members if the format of the forums should change, for example, to more of a professional development workshop, or to work session formats where IHE faculty have opportunities to develop syllabi.
  1. CLC members agreed that it would be beneficial to survey IHEs in regards to their suggestions for research forum topics, formats and speakers. It was suggested that the survey be channeled through the Colorado Council of Deans of Education (CCODE).

### **(2) Update of future meetings**

- CDE will communicate with members to schedule the next CLC meeting for June or July, 2009.
- Future agenda items include:
  1. discuss Model Content Standards
  2. innovative alternative and IHE teacher preparation programs
  3. certification requirements for out-of-state applicants seeking CO licensure
  4. discussion regarding the internal educator preparation program review process.

**VII. Innovative Literacy Preparation Programs**

(1) This item was tabled to the next CLC meeting, to be held in summer, 2009.

**VIII. Concluding Items Needing Consensus**

(1) No remaining items were in need of consensus.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned at 1:10 p.m.**

Colorado Literacy Council Website: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/edprepprogram/CLCIndex.htm>