



# TOUCHING BASE

NOVEMBER 1, 2007

PUTTING PROVEN METHODS OF READING RESEARCH IN THE CLASSROOM  
TO INCREASE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT ACROSS THE NATION

## CDE AND STAYING IN TOUCH

### Stay in touch with the Colorado Department of Education

The new communications office at CDE is open for business. Please pass the word about how to stay in tune with the latest information about the Department of Education. Sign up today and receive news, updates and announcements along with the Board of Education agendas and meeting reports.

Visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html> and fill out the brief e-mail subscription form at the bottom of the page. Follow the verification steps and you will be set to receive information from CDE on a timely basis.

### Colorado Odyssey XXI 2007-2008

The Colorado Odyssey Project is a joint outreach effort of the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities. Odyssey is organized and ready to provide an exciting learn-

ing experience for teachers across the state. Three regional meetings and a summary conference in the spring will deliver the theme for this year: *Each Child by Name and Need: Literacy Instruction based on Individual Data.*

One credit hour is available from Adams State for \$45. The summary conference fee will be \$55 which includes all handouts, breakfast, and lunch.

Odyssey study group facilitators will provide information to build a framework to address the needs and supports for struggling readers. The focus of learning will be word study and the form and function of continuous progress monitoring techniques to support increased achievement for all students. Participants will be actively involved in learning a number of strategies at each session and then will be ready to implement these strategies in the classroom.

There are two remaining sessions at local sites: January 28 and March 10. The dates and times may vary from site to site.

The Summary Conference will be held Saturday, April 19, 2008, at The Westin, Westminster. The keynote speaker will be Jo Robinson.

Please see the attachment sent as a separate document with this issue of Touching Base to call your local facilitator for additional registration information.

### From the U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings

“Reading First is helping nearly two million children, many from low-income families, to read by the end of the third grade. It is also enabling states to build the infrastructure to sustain sound instruction well into the future.”

Please see a summary of the successes Reading First is accomplishing at the end of this Touching Base.

For more information about the President’s Reading First Program, please visit the U.S. Department of Education’s web site at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/readingfirst/index.html>.

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Colorado Department of Education information*
- *Important Dates*
- *Online Updates*
- *PD Opportunity*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

IMPORTANT DATES 2

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## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2007-08

### DIBELS

#### Winter Benchmark

January 7-18, 2008: DIBELS window

January 25, 2008: Data due

#### Spring Benchmark

April 7-18, 2008: DIBELS window

April 25: Data due

### BEAR

April 28-May 9, 2008: BEAR window

May 16, 2008: Data due

### Action Planning Due Dates:

February 22, 2008

### Regional Coach Training

November 2007

March 2008

See Calendar for details

### Regional Principal Training

November 27-30

December 11

See Calendar for details

### Principals, Coaches and Regional Consultants:

February 5, 2007: Colorado Springs

### Spring CRF Conferences:

April 16: Denver

April 17: Colorado Springs

April 18: Pueblo

“THE GREAT TEACHER IS NOT THE MAN WHO SUPPLIES THE MOST FACTS, BUT THE ONE IN WHOSE PRESENCE WE BECOME DIFFERENT PEOPLE.”  
~RALPH WALDO EMERSON

## ONLINE COURSES REQUIREMENTS AND UPDATES

### 2007-2008 online course requirements

#### 1st Year CRF Teacher Online Courses

Courses should be taken in the order listed.

The courses may be taken earlier, but not later.

#### **K and 1st Grade:**

Phonemic Awareness - Past due date October 19, 2007

Phonics - Due January 18, 2008

Assessment - Due March 21, 2008

Course of choice - Due May 31, 2008

#### **2nd and 3rd Grade:**

Phonics - Past due date October 19, 2007

Fluency - Due January 18, 2008

Assessment - Due March 21, 2008

Course of choice - Due May 31, 2008

#### All CRF Teachers

The Reading Process - Due May 31, 2008.

#### **To register for Colorado Reading First Online Courses, please send the following information to:**

[onlinelearning@cbooces.org](mailto:onlinelearning@cbooces.org)

- name
- district
- school
- work mailing address
- work phone number
- job title including grade level (be specific please)
- email
- last 4 digits of your social security number
- CRF courses in which you wish to be enrolled

#### **Completion Process**

Centennial BOCES runs CRF

completion reports on the 15th of every month. The certificates are then sent to school principals by the end of each month.

#### **New Online Course Moderator**

Colorado Reading First will be moderating the online courses for the remainder of 2007-2008.

Deborah Usrey is the new facilitator for courses and will be checking for completion of all assessment questions and successful scoring on quizzes (80% passing score). She will also be our “Ask an Expert” contact for content questions you may have as you complete the online courses.

Look for the Ask an Expert link on the left navigation bar as you work in the online courses.



## ONLINE COURSES FOR CREDIT

All of the CRF online courses now have the credit information on the updates page, the second page of the introduction to the course and a reminder on the final assessment page for each course.

As of October 15, 2007, participants will need to choose their credit option for each course before completing the final assessment.

### Professional Development Credit:

Professional development credit is available for all courses at no additional cost.

If CBOCES does not receive an email requesting ASC or UNC credit, participants will receive the Professional Development credit.

### Adams State College Credit:

The following are classes eligible for Adams State College (ASC) credit:

- The Reading Classroom

- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonics
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension
- Assessment
- The Reading Process

The cost is \$45.00 per credit and \$22.50 for .5 credit. After choosing ASC credit, the registration information will be emailed to participants.

### University of Northern Colorado (UNC) College Credit:

The classes that are eligible for UNC college credit include:

- Phonemic Awareness,
- Phonics
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension (2 credits per course).

There is additional course

work required to receive UNC credit.

The cost is \$95.00 for a CRF Participant; \$185.00 for NON-CRF Participant.

Interested participants must contact UNC directly to register. Please visit the website at: <http://www.unco.edu/extendedstudies/professional/conferences.html> or phone: 1-800-232-1749. Participants must contact UNC to complete this credit option.

### For all Credit Options:

Participants must email [onlineclearing@cboces.org](mailto:onlineclearing@cboces.org) before completing the final assessment of their courses. The email should include name, username, course title, and credit choice.

### For all Courses:

Completion reports are run on the 15th of each month. Certificates are then mailed by the end of that month to your school principal.



NEW READING FIRST RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE IN YOUR SCHOOLS. PLEASE SEE YOUR READING COACH TO CHECK OUT THESE NEW MATERIALS! SEE THE END OF THIS TOUCHING BASE FOR A COMPLETE LIST.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Pamela Nevills: Building the Reading Brain

**Location:** Adams State College Student Union  
Carson Auditorium  
Alamosa, CO

**Date:** December 14, 2007

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Continental breakfast and lunch provided along with all course materials.

**Cost:** \$100 per person out-

side the SLV CRF Consortium; free for SLV CRF Consortium K-3 teachers; and \$75 per person for 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers within the SLV CRF Consortium

**Registration Deadline:** November 30, 2007 (checks or POs accepted)

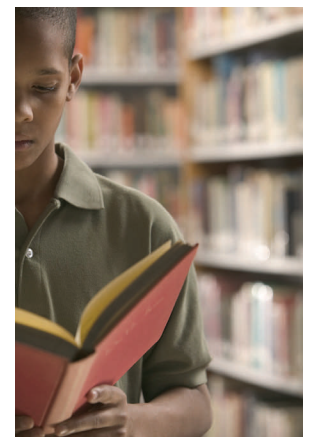
**Sponsored by:** the San Luis Valley Colorado Reading First Consortium and the San Luis Valley BOCES

### Credit Available:

Adams State College credit will be available (.5 credit hour for \$27.50) or a certificate of contact hours will be available for \$10.00.

Please see the attached flyer at the end of this issue of Touching Base for registration information.

For any questions, please call Joy Werner at 719-587-5423.





COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
COLORADO READING FIRST

Competitive Grants and Awards  
Colorado Reading First  
1560 Broadway, Suite 1450  
Denver, CO 80202-5149

Phone: 303.866.6756  
Fax: 303.866.6647

E-mail: [shorman\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:shorman_d@cde.state.co.us)

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://WWW.CDE.STATE.CO.US/  
CDECOMP/RF\\_HOME.HTM](http://www.cde.state.co.us/CDECOMP/RF_HOME.HTM)

PUT **READING** FIRST!

## NOMINATIONS WELCOMED TO HONOR ACCOMPLISHED TITLE I TEACHERS

Each year the Colorado Department of Education recognizes teachers from Title I schools who demonstrate outstanding commitment and excellence in teaching. In addition to recognition as distinguished teachers, each of the two award recipients will receive \$5,000 in honor of their achievement.

Nominations are due to CDE by Monday, Nov. 5. Applications are available at: [www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/awards/index.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/awards/index.asp).

Title I, which is part of *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*, supports school and district programs to improve the learning of children. The U.S. Department of Education provides Title I funds to states to give to school districts based on the number of children from low-income families in each district.

Contact Lisa Medler ([medler\\_l@cde.state.co.us](mailto:medler_l@cde.state.co.us); 303-866-6993) with additional questions regarding the nomination process.

**Nominate a Distinguished Title I teacher today!**

## CRF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR

# November 2007



| MON | TUE  | WED  | THU   | FRI | S/SU  |
|-----|--|--|---|-----|-------|
|     |  |  | 1   | 2   | 3/4   |
| 5   | 6  | 7  | 8   | 9   | 10/11 |
| 12  | 13 Regional Coaches Meetings: Northcentral-Scott; Southeast:-Eckhart | 14 Regional Coaches Meetings: Pikes Peak-Webster             | 15  | 16  | 17/18 |
| 19  | 20   | 21   | 22-23 Thanksgiving Holiday<br>CDE Offices closed                  |     | 24/25 |
| 26  | 27   | 28 Regional Coaches Meetings: West Central/Southwest #1-Mesa | 29 Regional Coaches Meetings: West Central/Southwest #2-West Park | 30  |       |

### Regional Principal Training

November 27:  
West Central/  
Southwest #2-  
Cedaredge

November 28:  
North Central/  
Metro-Dupont

November 29:  
Southeast-Park  
View

Nov 30: Pikes  
Peak Region-Pike  
Elementary

December 11:  
West Central/  
Southwest #1-  
Marsh



## Reading First: Student Achievement, Teacher Empowerment, National Success

April 2007

*“Reading First is helping nearly two million children, many from low-income families, to read by the end of the third grade. It is also enabling states to build the infrastructure to sustain sound instruction well into the future.”*

--Secretary Margaret Spellings

Over the decades, millions of children in America have been denied the opportunity to learn to read. Popular but misguided learning fads caught on in many school districts, which were not held accountable for results. To help solve this problem, the Reading First program was created. Reading First builds on a solid foundation of scientifically based research and provides struggling students in the nation's highest need schools with the necessary resources to make significant progress in reading achievement.

**Reading First is the academic cornerstone of the bipartisan No Child Left Behind Act.**

- Reading First provides grants to states to help schools and school districts improve children's reading achievement through scientifically proven methods of instruction.
- The program funds professional development, scientifically based instructional programs, materials, and strategies, valid and reliable screening, diagnostic and ongoing classroom assessments, and statewide accountability and leadership structures.
- Reading First is designed to help needy students in K-3, while Early Reading First helps children in preschool.

**President Bush and Congress are providing record funding for scientifically proven reading programs.**

- Under No Child Left Behind, State Educational Agencies (SEAs) have received over \$4.8 billion in Reading First grants.
- President Bush's proposed budget for FY 2008 includes \$1.1 billion for Reading First and Early Reading First.

**Reading First is working.**

- Reading First is the largest and most effective federal early reading initiative in our nation's history.
- New achievement data reported by the States shows that Reading First students from nearly every grade and subgroup (Hispanic, African American, Disabled, English language learners, and economically disadvantaged) have made impressive gains in reading proficiency.
  - On average, the 26 States with baseline data increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding proficiency on fluency outcome measures:
    - 16% average gain for 1<sup>st</sup> graders
    - 14% average gain for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders
    - 15% average gain for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders
  - On average, the 26 States with baseline data increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding proficiency on comprehension outcome measures:
    - 15% average gain for 1<sup>st</sup> graders
    - 6% average gain for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders
    - 12% average gain for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders

For more information, visit [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) or call 1-800-USA-LEARN.

- Children in Reading First schools receive significantly more reading instruction – almost 100 minutes more per week on average – than those in non-Reading First Title I schools, according to the *Reading First Implementation Evaluation: Interim Report*.
- According to the Center on Education Policy, 97% of participating school districts that reported increased student achievement credit Reading First as an important factor.

**Just like every other aspect of No Child Left Behind, states and local communities maintain control.**

- States and local schools have the flexibility to determine how reading programs are selected, as long as the selected program is grounded in scientifically based reading research.
- There is no federally prescribed reading program.
- States are responsible for the quality of the local programs they fund, and for ensuring that these programs rely on scientifically based reading research.

**Reading First is designed to help the children who need it the most.**

- The Department distributes funds by formula, taking into account the number of children living below the poverty line in that state.
- State educational agencies (SEAs) then competitively subgrant funds to eligible school districts to establish scientifically based reading programs in schools with the greatest need to improve student achievement. At the local level, LEA eligibility is based, in part, on student reading achievement and poverty.

Thanks to Reading First, schools and teachers finally have the technical knowledge and the practical training to ensure every child gets the help he or she needs to excel in reading. As a direct result of Reading First grants, more than 100,000 teachers across the country from kindergarten through grade 3 have been trained to implement high-quality, scientifically based reading programs. Their efforts are reaching more than 1.8 million students

**National Reading Panel: Origins of Reading First**

- The Reading First initiative builds on the findings of years of scientific research, which, at the request of Congress, were compiled by the National Reading Panel.
- In 1997, Congress asked the Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) at the National Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to convene a national panel to assess the effectiveness of different approaches used to teach children to read.
- The 15 members of the panel were selected from among nearly 300 persons who were nominated by a wide variety of public sources. The final panel members were selected by the NICHD in consultation with the US Department of Education.
- The National Reading Panel included prominent reading researchers, teachers, child development experts, leaders in elementary and higher education, and parents.
- Reviewing over 100,000 studies on reading, The National Reading Panel (NRP) found five components essential to a child's learning to read: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

For more information about the President's Reading First Program, please visit the U.S. Department of Education's web site at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/readingfirst/index.html>.

**Pamela Nevills**  
**Building the Reading Brain**

**Sponsored by**  
**The San Luis Valley Colorado Reading First Consortium**  
(Del Norte, Sargent, Mountain Valley, Centennial, South Conejos and Creede)  
**And**  
**The San Luis Valley BOCES**

**At**  
**Adams State College Student Union**  
**Carson Auditorium**  
**Alamosa, CO**

**December 14, 2007**  
**8:00am to 4:00pm**

**Continental Break and Lunch Provided**  
**Materials included**

**Cost: \$100 per person outside the SLV CRF Consortium**  
**\$75 per person for 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers within the**  
**SLV CRF Consortium**  
**Free for SLV CRF Consortium K-3 teachers**

**Registration Deadline: 11/30/2007 (checks or POs accepted)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit from Adams State College will be available (.5 credit hour for 27.50) or a certificate of contact hours will be available for \$10.00.**



New Learning Resources now available at all Colorado Reading First schools:

- LETRS 12 Modules
- CORE Reading Source Book
- CORE Assessing Reading
- CORE Vocabulary Handbook
- Powerful Designs
- FCRR Center Binders
- Results Now
- Reading First and Beyond
- Making Sense of Phonics
- Questioning the Author