



# TOUCHING BASE

JANUARY 31, 2008

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

## CHANGES FOR READING FIRST

### From Education Week

The 2007-2008 federal budget bill was signed December 26, 2007 by President Bush.

The measure will provide \$13.9 billion to the Title I program for disadvantaged students, an 8.6 percent increase over the \$12.8 billion appropriated for the program in fiscal 2007.

By contrast, the Reading First program was cut significantly under the legislation, dropping from \$1 billion last year to \$393 million in fiscal 2008.

### From the Center for Education Policy

Despite problems with the federal administration of the Reading First program, the October 2007 Center for Education (CEP) report finds that the program is widely credited by state and local officials for lifting the achievement of students who receive Reading First services. Overall, more than three-fourths of states and two-thirds of districts with Reading First grants reported that the program's assessment and instructional

programs were important causes of gains in student achievement. Further, the report finds that Reading First's impact is felt far beyond the participating schools, with more than half of Reading First districts using elements of Reading First in non-Reading-First schools and in the upper grades. Similarly, states reported that more than 3,000 non-Reading-First districts participated in state-led Reading First professional development.

Deborah Spitz  
Reading First Team Leader  
U.S. Department of Education

### From the Colorado Department of Education Commissioner Jones

"Despite letters of protests, personal testimony and other input, it seems that federal funding for Title I (Reading First) will be considerably less than in years past. This is unfortunate due to the outstanding progress made by many youngsters in Title I schools across Colorado. Two Reading First schools were nationally recognized as "Title I Distinguished Schools" this year: Las Animas Elementary

School (Las Animas) and West Park Elementary School (Leadville). They are excellent examples of the many schools across the state doing great work on behalf of children."

"While federal funding of Title I has yet to be determined, one thing is certain: Colorado Reading First schools are teaching our youngsters to read and achieve at high levels."

### Implications for Colorado Reading First

Although the funding for Colorado for 2008-2009 will be decreased, Colorado is planning to extend support for Reading First for a fourth year in a more limited capacity.

The criteria for eligibility is being finalized. There will also be an "opt out" option for the 2008-2009 year for those schools who are no longer interested in participating in Reading First.

We will outline the Eligibility Criteria, application process and additional specifics in the upcoming Budget Webinar.

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Changes in federal funding for Reading First*
- *Important Dates*
- *Professional Development opportunities for 2008*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

IMPORTANT DATES 2



*"THE TEACHER IF  
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WISE DOES NOT  
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OF YOUR OWN  
MIND."*

*~KAHLIL  
GILBRAN*



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2007-08

### **Budget Webinar**

February 12, 10 a.m.

### **Action Planning Due**

#### **Dates:**

February 22, 2008

### **Regional Coach Training**

March 2008

### **Data Webinars**

March 19, 1 p.m.

April 2, 10 a.m.

### **DIBELS**

#### **Spring Benchmark**

April 7-18, 2008: DIBELS window

April 25: Data due

### **BEAR**

April 28-May 9, 2008: BEAR window

May 16, 2008: BEAR Data due

### **Data Conference Principals, Coaches and Regional Consultants:**

February 5, 2007:  
Colorado Springs

### **Spring CRF Conferences:**

April 16: Denver

April 17: Colorado Springs

April 18: Colorado Springs

We are very pleased to announce that Jo Robinson will be the featured speaker for our opening session at each of the April conferences. Ms. Robinson will also provide an additional break-out session targeted towards principals and administrators, both in the morning and afternoon.

Note: Due to the number of

CRF participants in the southern regions of the state, both April 17 and 18 conferences will be held in Colorado Springs.

The registration for the Spring Conference will be opening in February, date to be determined.

If you live in the Denver, or Colorado Springs area, please register to attend on either the April 16 or April 17 conference dates. This will allow those schools in the south and southwestern corners of the state, many of whom are not in regular school sessions on Friday, to attend on the Friday, April 18 date.

We are looking forward to a great Spring CRF conference and will be providing the agenda and biographical backgrounds for the presenters in future issues of Touching Base.

### **2007-08 Online Course requirements**

**Just a Reminder that all of the online courses have due dates! Coaches, please check with your teachers to make sure that all courses are being completed on time.**

### **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 - Due 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 - Due October 19, 2007

Fluency- Due January 18, 2008

Assessment - Due March 21, 2008

Course of choice - Due May 31, 2008

Please note that some of the above due dates have passed.

### **Anita Archer is coming to Colorado!**

Colorado Reading First is pleased to announce that Anita Archer is coming to Colorado for two days in October of 2008!

Ms. Archer will be leading in-depth discussions on Comprehension and Active Engagement.

The details surrounding her presentations, including locations will be part of the professional development activities planned for the 2008/2009 academic year.

Stay tuned for additional information in the coming weeks!

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Many of you have attended the Rocky Mountain Summer Institute over the last few summers, typically held in mid-summer. This summer the conference is scheduled for Sunday, June 22 through Wednesday, June 25 at Keystone Resort and Conference Center, Keystone, Colorado.

The sessions look especially relevant to our Reading First schools, and we have worked with the conference sponsors to focus on early literacy and other topics of specific interest to many of you. We encourage you to use your Reading First funds to cover the cost of registration, lodging and travel.

If you are interested in attending this conference, and have not contacted Colorado Reading First, please let us know how many people will be attending from your school. We will connect you with Sopris West for further details around registration.

Email Della Shorman, Communications Coordinator at [shorman\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:shorman_d@cde.state.co.us)

if you have not done so already.

Please see the end of this issue of Touching Base for the pre-conference agenda.

### Summer Reading Camps

Although summer is still six months away, summer school planning is in full swing right now!

Sopris West Educational Services is pleased to offer its highly successful Summer Reading Camp, an intensive summer school program that accelerates reading fluency and optimizes teacher instruction. When implemented with fidelity in a six-week program, the Camps raise reading levels an average of 1.6 years!

Summer Reading Camp is appropriate for students who will enter grades 2-8 in the fall of 2008. Materials are organized by skill level for targeted instruction. Every aspect of the Summer Reading Camp is classroom tested

with explicit and sequenced instruction.

Sopris West makes the Summer Reading Camp easy to implement and teacher-friendly. Teachers receive a two-day training. Also available are Summer Reading Camp teacher materials—Instruction Manuals, daily schedules, assessments, letters to parents—everything needed to make every minute of instruction count.

So, what are the options for establishing a Summer Reading Camp program in your district this summer?

1. Schedule a Summer Reading Camp training. Contact Janet Verwolf, Summer Reading Camp training coordinator, at (800) 547-6747, extension 301, or [janetv@sopriswest.com](mailto:janetv@sopriswest.com)
2. Call Sopris West Customer Service at (800) 547-6747 to contact a sales representative in your area or call Marty Masters, Project Director at 303-594-7821 or email [marty@m@sopriswest.com](mailto:marty@m@sopriswest.com) with any additional questions.



“THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE BEAUTY OF THEIR DREAMS.”

~ELEANOR ROOSEVELT



## CHANGES FOR READING FIRST

( continued from page 1)

The webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 10 a.m.

Thanks to each of you, Colorado Reading First is making a difference in the reading skills of children across our state.

We look forward to supporting you in Year 4.



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
COLORADO READING FIRST

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DIBELS COMPLETION

A big Thank You to all Colorado Reading First Principals, Reading Coaches and Teachers for your diligence in administering the DIBELS Winter benchmark testing. Thank you also for the additional time and effort required for inputting all scores into the DIBELS database.

We look forward to reviewing the outcomes of these important reading measures and sharing with all of Cohort 2 the progress being made in our schools across Colorado!

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!

## CRF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR

# February/early March 2008



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	S/SU
				1	2/3
4	5 Data Conference- Colorado Springs	6 Regional Consultants- Colorado Springs	7	8	9/10
11	12 Budget Webinar 10 a.m.	13	14	15	16/17
18 ★	19	20	21	22	23/24
25	26	27	28	29	March 1/2
3	4	5	6	7 Data Webinar 1:00 p.m.	8/9

Holiday  
Office  
Closures ★

February 18, 2008  
President's Day

May 26, 2008  
Memorial Day

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE

## SUNDAY, JUNE 22 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2008

THEME: RtI Practical Implementation strategies, Choose Interventions, PBS, Problem Solving, Math, Progress Monitoring

### SUNDAY, JUNE 22

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Institute Check-in
2:00 – 3:30 PM	Opening Keynote - Steve Kukic and Ed Steinberg
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Refreshment Break
4:00 – 6:00 PM	Spotlight Sessions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secondary Literacy - <i>Teaching for Background Knowledge</i>- Frank Smith</li> <li>2. RtI - <i>Seven Essential Strategies to Reduce Student Dropouts</i>– Steve Edwards</li> </ol>
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Welcome Reception

### MONDAY, JUNE 23

7:00 – 8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast
8:00 – 10:00 AM	Breakout Sessions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secondary Literacy - <i>Building Comprehension</i> - Frank Smith</li> <li>2. <i>Bridging the Gap for Teachers: Translating Assessment Results into Effective Instruction With Any Reading Program</i> – Carrie Hancock</li> <li>3. <i>RtI &amp; PBS: The Link Between Academics and Behavior</i> – Terry Scott</li> <li>4. Early Literacy – Debra Berlin</li> </ol>
8:00 AM – 3:15 PM	RtI “Survival” Camp and networking luncheon <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Steve Kukic &amp; George Batsche</li> </ol>
10:00-10:15 AM	Refreshment Break
10:15 AM-12:15 PM	Breakout Sessions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secondary Literacy - <i>Building Comprehension</i> - Frank Smith</li> <li>2. <i>Bridging the Gap for Teachers: Translating Assessment Results into Effective Instruction With Any Reading Program</i> – Carrie Hancock</li> <li>3. <i>Behavioral Strategies to Support Academic Achievement</i> – Terry Scott</li> <li>4. Early Literacy – Debra Berlin</li> </ol>
12:15-1:15 PM	Institute Networking Luncheon
1:15-3:15	Breakout Sessions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secondary Literacy - <i>Strategic Instruction In Vocabulary Development</i> - Frank Smith</li> <li>2. <i>Bridging the Gap for Teachers: Translating Assessment Results into Effective Instruction With Any Reading Program</i>– Carrie Hancock</li> <li>3. <i>Behavioral Strategies to Support Academic Achievement</i> – Terry Scott</li> <li>4. Early Literacy – Debra Berlin</li> </ol>

3:30 – 4:30 PM

CDE RtI Teams

**TUESDAY, JUNE 24**

7:00 – 8:00 AM

Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 10:00 AM

Keynote - RtI - George Batsche

10:00-10:15 AM

Refreshment Break

10:15 AM-12:15 PM

Breakout Sessions

1. *Non Responders: Use Academic Instruction to Deal With Behavior Issues* – Tina Pelletier
2. Progress Monitoring – Gail Adams
3. Math – John Woodward
4. RtI Problem Solving – George Batsche

12:15-1:15 PM

Institute Networking Luncheon

1:15-3:15 PM

Breakout Sessions

1. *Non Responders: Use Academic Instruction to Deal With Behavior Issues* – Tina Pelletier
2. Progress Monitoring – Gail Adams
3. Math – John Woodward
4. RtI Problem Solving – Batsche

3:30 – 4:30 PM

CDE Literacy Teams K-12 Planning – Facilitated by Tina Pelletier

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25**

7:00 – 8:00 AM

Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 11:30 AM

½ Day Workshops

1. Secondary Literacy: Vocabulary – Sheri McDonald
2. *Difficult Students – What's An Educator to Do? Grades K-8* – Kim Marcum
3. *Starting Out Right: Early Literacy Interventions* – Tina Pelletier
4. CDE RtI Teams Planning