



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Robert K. Hammond
Commissioner of Education

Keith Owen, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner

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To: School Districts, BOCES, and Interested Parties

Re: State Board Rules Process and Timelines for the Colorado READ Act

The Colorado Reading To Ensure Academic Development Act (Colorado READ Act) was passed by the Colorado Legislature during the 2012 legislative session. The READ Act repeals the Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA) as of July 1, 2013, keeping many of the elements of CBLA such as a focus on K-3 literacy, assessment, and individual plans for students reading below grade level. The READ Act differs from CBLA by focusing on students identified as having a significant reading deficiency, delineating requirements for parent communication, and providing funding to support intervention. Other components include a competitive Early Literacy Grant and a resource bank of assessments, instructional programming, and professional development.

The READ Act requires the State Board to promulgate and adopt associated rules by March 31, 2013. Rules related to the Colorado READ Act include:

- Rules for implementing the Early Literacy Grant;
- Rules for approving independent third-party evaluator(s) to review reading assessments and instructional programming and PD programs;
- A list of approved reading assessments and advisory lists of instructional programming and professional development, based on recommendations of the department;
- Minimum reading competency skill levels in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, including oral skills, and reading comprehension for kindergarten and first, second, and third grades; and
- Time frames and procedures for reporting information concerning students' reading skills.

Due to the nature of the process involved for schools to complete a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Early Literacy Grant, the department has established two separate timelines for adoption of the State Board rules listed above. Notice of rulemaking and accompanying draft rules for implementing the Early Literacy Grant (one component of the READ Act) will be provided to the State Board in August 2012 followed by the rulemaking hearing in October and planned board approval in November. The notice of rulemaking for the remaining rules will be provided to the board in November 2012, with rulemaking hearings in January and February 2013 and board action scheduled for March 2013. Opportunities to provide input on both sets of rules will be provided throughout the process. Complete rulemaking timelines and dates/processes for public input can be

found on the READ webpage at
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/ReadAct/index.asp>.

For more information on the READ Act, contact Dian Prestwich at 303-866-6150 or
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