



Colorado Department of Education – Communications Office
201 East Colfax Ave.
Room 505
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-866-3898
Fax: 303-866-6938

Jan. 7, 2008

News Release

State Board of Education and Commissioner Dwight Jones Host Discussion on Model Content Standards Monday, Jan. 14 in Northern Colorado and Wednesday, Jan. 16 in Aurora

The business community is invited to a meeting in northern Colorado on Monday, Jan. 14 and the education community, business community, parents and students are invited to a meeting in Aurora on Wednesday, Jan. 16 to offer their perspective about the state's model content standards.

The meeting on Jan. 14 will be hosted by the Colorado State Board of Education, vice chairman Bob Schaffer and Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones. The meeting will be held from 4:00—5:30 p.m. at The Ranch, McKee-4H Building. To reach The Ranch, exit I-25 at Crossroads Blvd. (Exit 259), go east one mile to Fairgrounds Ave. (County Road 5) and go north to the McKee Building.

The meeting on Jan. 16 will be hosted by board member Karen Middleton and Commissioner Jones at the Community College of Aurora. The meeting will be held at the Fine Arts Building in the Forum Room, F100, 16000 E. Centre Tech Parkway in Aurora. This meeting will run from 7:00—8:30 p.m. Please call 303-866-6817 if you have special needs so that arrangements can be made.

In September, the state board and Commissioner Jones announced that the state's model content standards will be evaluated for the first time in 13 years to ensure that students are given the necessary skills to fully participate in the fast-changing world, whether they enter

college, join the workforce or find some other means of contributing to society.

Questions to be asked include:

- How will the 21st century shape new academic needs and skills?
- What do you know about the business work of today we must consider in order for you to be well served?
- What are the fundamental skills you consider critical for success in your industry for today's job candidate?
- What should it mean to be a high school graduate? What should it mean to be "college ready" or "technically prepared?"
- What are the new minimum requirements for students to be competitive globally?
- What are your non-negotiables for new employees?
- What type of training do you have in place to prepare new employees or to retain existing employees?

Participants interested in the northern Colorado meeting (near Loveland) should RSVP by Thursday, Jan. 10. RSVPs are also encouraged for the Aurora meeting. Please contact the board of education office, 303-866-6817, or by send an e-mail to reinwald_m@cde.state.co.us.

To review the current standards, visit the CDE Web site:
http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/documents/olr/k12_standards.html

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Tanya Price, 303-866-6397, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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