



Colorado Department of Education – Communications Office
201 East Colfax Ave.
Room 501
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-866-3898
Fax: 303-866-6938

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News Release

Certification Application Available for Multi-District Online Programs; Training Workshops Scheduled

The Unit of Online Learning today announced a new certification process for multi-district online learning programs. Applications for certification are due by April 1, 2008.

By state law, any on-line learning program that enrolls more than 10 students from outside an authorizing district is considered a multi-district online program and must be certified.

"The certification is a positive step for online programs and authorizers, allowing them to demonstrate how they meet quality standards," said Director of Online Learning Pamela Ice. "For parents and students, certification will provide assurance that an online program represents a high-quality educational choice."

During the 2007 session, the Colorado General Assembly passed legislation calling for the Colorado Department of Education to oversee online learning programs.

The legislation created a division within CDE—the Office of Online Learning—to promote quality programs and to assure that online schools are accountable for their instruction and management practices. The legislation included a directive to develop and implement a process for certifying multi-district online programs.

Only multi-district online programs must be certified by the Office of Online Learning. Certification is not required for single district online programs or supplemental online programs.

The Unit of Online Learning has scheduled three workshops to provide technical assistance on the certification process. Both current or potential online programs and authorizers are welcome to attend. It is recommended that both authorizers and online programs attend, if possible.

Workshops will be held:

- March 7, 2008, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Philip S. Miller Library, CR Bank Room East
100 S. Wilcox
Castle Rock, CO 80104
- March 11, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – noon
Daniels Fund
101 Monroe Street
Denver, CO 80206
- March 18, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – noon
Conference Center at Adams 12, Five Star School/Juniper Room
1500 E 128th Avenue
Thornton, CO 80241

To reserve your space, contact Rosana Hinojosa at 303-866-6897 or e-mail Hinojosa_r@cde.state.co.us.

To download the application for certification, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/onlinelearning/application.htm>. Applications are due April 1, 2008.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications.

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