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March 7, 2008

News Release

Colorado Will Identify Providers to Assist in Closing the Achievement Gap

The Colorado Department of Education announced today a process for identifying educational service providers with a proven track record of assisting schools and districts to increase student academic achievement and eliminate race and income achievement gaps. Proposals are due March 31, 2008.

Closing the Achievement Gap associated with race and income is non-negotiable in CDE's "Forward Thinking" initiative. As a service to the field, CDE will develop a list of effective providers with experience in closing the achievement gap.

"This process is about identifying and bringing in talented providers that can offer their expertise in reaching and improving achievement for all students," said Commissioner of Education Dwight Jones. "Our plan for Colorado districts is modeled after schools that have used components of success to bridge their own achievement gaps."

Proposals will be reviewed by a team of readers with experience in leadership, curriculum and assessment. Once the proposals have been selected and approved, educational service providers will be included in the 2008-2009 Closing the Achievement Gap Provider list. This list will be posted on the CDE Web site no later than May 15, 2008. The list will be updated annually and each year new providers will have an opportunity to apply and be added to the list by demonstrating that their organization and services meet the eligibility requirements.

The Request For Information can be found at
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/download/PDF/Closingthe%20AchievementGapRFI.pdf>.
Proposals are due March 31, 2008.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, 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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