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Corrections to Associated Press Story

The Colorado State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones today corrected significant errors in an article distributed by the Associated Press about how details of teacher disciplinary cases are made available to the public.

- The Associated Press story suggests that a conversion to an electronic agenda format altered how the public can access information about teacher disciplinary cases. This is incorrect. The educator licensing unit at the Colorado Department of Education has provided the same information to the public about final disciplinary actions of teachers and all license holders since 1997. In 2005, the board converted to an electronic agenda to save on costs and to increase Web-based access to the board's business. Board minutes are posted on the board's Web page and files of cases with final agency action may be reviewed at the department offices.
- The Associated Press story suggests that a group of disciplinary cases was "affected" by the move to the new agenda system. This is incorrect. The cases referenced in the story were posted shortly after that meeting, held Feb. 14, 2008.
- The Associated Press story suggests that over the past two years only the results of only one disciplinary case has been posted. This is incorrect. Any time the board approves a final agency action against a teacher, the name and information about the case is posted for public review.

The public can access the minutes on any given teacher disciplinary matter by doing the following:

- Go to CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/>

- Click on State Board of Education and then the link for “eBoard”
- Click on Meetings in the upper left hand corner
- Once you have located any regular board meeting date, go to the upper right hand corner and click on Minutes

As a point of information, final disciplinary actions are reported to the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, a national registry of state disciplinary actions against holders of educator certificates and licenses, so that the licensing authorities of every state will know that the disciplinary action was taken against the teacher.

The Colorado State Board of Education and the Colorado Department of Education continue to look for ways to improve public access to educational documents, data and pending issues. Commissioner Jones has asked the communications office to upgrade the department’s Web site with the aim to improve access to all public documents.

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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