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News Release

**Note to editors (not for publication)* – We encourage all editors in outlying cities around the state to please consider running this story soon.

CDE Seeks Greater Participation in Online Survey For Definitions Surrounding Colorado Content Standards

The Colorado Department of Education is asking Colorado citizens to assist in defining 21st Century Skills and Abilities, Early School Readiness, Postsecondary Readiness and Workforce Readiness in a survey available through October 10, 2008 at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mMm4M3_2b7Rw6S0_2fV7VEJibQ_3d_3d

"We've had a terrific response to the definitions survey," said Jo O'Brien, Assistant Commissioner of Standards and Assessment. "More than 1,200 people have completed the survey, but we still need more feedback, particularly from those outside the Front Range. This is an issue of statewide importance and we need a diverse population to help the department define what skills and abilities must be included in the revision of these standards as the state prepares students for a modern workforce and a global marketplace."

Background

The process of reviewing and revising the state's model content standards—descriptions of what every student is expected to learn by subject and grade span—started in early 2008. CDE released a briefing paper that provided a review and analysis for definitions of 21st century skills, postsecondary readiness and career readiness. The analysis was conducted by WestEd, a nonprofit research, development and service agency.

Also in April, key stakeholders gathered for the first time to begin overseeing the review process. The department's Office of Standards and Assessment expects to deliver proposed new standards to the state board of education by December 2009.

Major Steps Ahead

CDE is currently accepting applications from Colorado citizens to review academic standards in Mathematics, Reading & Writing, Music, Theatre, Dance, Visual Arts, Science, Economics & Financial Literacy, Civics, History, Geography, World Language, and Physical Education.

Community members, parents, educators and students are invited to attend one of 13 community meetings being held around the state during the weeks of Sept. 15, Sept. 22 and Sept. 29 to gather ideas about definitions which will modernize our state's content standards. The meetings will be hosted by the Colorado Department of Education.

For more information on the standards review, visit

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/documents/OSA/stand_rev.html

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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