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News Release

CDE Seeks Vendors for New Postsecondary Workforce Readiness Assessment Pilot

The Colorado Department of Education today released a request for information (RFI) for the Postsecondary Workforce Readiness Assessment pilot.

The pilot of postsecondary and workforce readiness assessments for grades eight through 11 is called for under the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K) approved by the Colorado State Legislature in 2008.

The purpose of the RFI is to gather information from vendors that may be interested in participating in the pilot program. The RFI is posted at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/documents/HSAP/high_school_assessment_pilot.html

"CDE is particularly interested in vendors with the capacity to provide a system of assessments that are aligned and that demonstrate a student's academic growth through all four grades we are evaluating," said Holly Baker, manager for the pilot program.

Currently Colorado uses the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) as its summative measure of student achievement in grades three through 10. In 11th grade, all students currently take the Colorado ACT, which is used for college entrance. Building on the

state's comprehensive assessment system, the CAP4K legislation expands the view of student achievement to include those skills and abilities that are necessary for students to succeed past high school graduation, regardless of whether they are planning on attending college, enrolling in technical training or joining the workforce.

The pilot program assessments for postsecondary planning, preparation and readiness will be administered to students in grade 8—11 in 2009. The pilot program assessments must, at a minimum, test in the areas of reading, mathematics and science and be effective and relevant to student planning and preparation for postsecondary options.

Proposals must be received by the Colorado Department of Education by Friday, Dec. 5.

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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