



Colorado Department of Education – Communications Office  
201 East Colfax Ave.  
Room 103  
Denver, CO 80203  
Phone: 303-866-3898  
Fax: 303-866-6938

**Nov. 21, 2008**

**News Release**

***Commissioner Dwight D. Jones Announces Progress In  
Development of Regional Service Areas; Feedback  
Welcomed on Proposed Boundaries***

Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones today announced steps to implement Senate Bill 08-038, which creates 12 regional service areas that will support local and regional initiatives to increase student achievement.

The legislation creates regional councils that will be comprised of representatives from K-12 school districts, postsecondary institutions, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), early childhood providers and local community and business representatives.

"It's important that all educational organizations and others interested in the success of our students are informed of the regional services initiative and understand the opportunities they'll now have to expand the scope and scale of their efforts through this collaboration," said Commissioner Jones. "The regional service area councils will be responsible in developing, monitoring and reporting to the Colorado State Board of Education their plans to address education needs of students in their regions."

To lead the implementation of S.B. 08-038, Commissioner Jones announced the appointment of Julie Siwanowicz as regional services area senior consultant. Siwanowicz previously worked as education specialist in the Arizona Department of Education, responsible for collaboration among the state's community colleges and K-12 education. Siwanowicz started with CDE in October.

In December, the regional services area map is scheduled to be presented to the Colorado State Board of Education. The proposed map is posted on the CDE Web site at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedserv/RSA.htm>

Accompanying the map is a list of educational organizations that have been identified within each proposed region. "Prior to the state board's review, we are seeking input from all interested stakeholders in the proposed boundaries," said Siwanowicz.

Comments about the proposed boundaries and organization list should be e-mailed by Friday, Dec. 5 to [siwanowicz\\_j@cde.state.co.us](mailto:siwanowicz_j@cde.state.co.us) or by calling 303-866-6196.

"The establishment of the regional service areas offers a tremendous opportunity to partner in the development of local and regional educational priorities and to maximize resources for the betterment of educational efforts throughout Colorado," said Dale McCall, Executive Director of the Colorado BOCES Association.

Following approval of boundaries for regional service areas, the next step is approval by EDAC (Educational Data Advisory Committee) of request for proposals that will begin the process of council formation and submitting regional education plans. In addition, informational meetings have begun across the state and will continue into next year.

**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>.

# # #