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**Dec. 11, 2008**

## **News Release**

### ***Schools Invited To Apply For Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Assessment Pilot; Deadline is Jan. 15, 2009***

The Colorado Department of Education is inviting schools to apply for the statewide Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Assessment Pilot, an effort to identify the next generation of tests for students in grades eight through 11.

“The pilot will provide insight into which assessments generate the most useful information about postsecondary and workforce readiness,” said Holly Baker, principal consultant at CDE who is overseeing the pilot. “We look forward to working with schools from around the state on this important first step in shaping the future of the Colorado Assessment System.”

All Colorado schools serving grades eight through 11 (or any combination) are eligible to apply. Due to funding, only a limited number of schools will be accepted.

Schools will be selected on a first come, first served basis. However, some priority will be given to schools that are able to clearly articulate how information generated by the pilot will be shared with and used by the school and district leadership, teachers, parents and students. Additional consideration will be given to schools using a series of assessments in grades eight through 11.

As an incentive for participation, costs of the assessment will, in part, be covered by the state; schools will receive between \$1 and \$4 per student for each assessment.

Vendors and assessments have been pre-qualified for pilot eligibility. Schools are required to choose from a vendor list.

Schools may download the application from the CDE Web site at [http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/documents/HSAP/high\\_school\\_assessment\\_pilot.html](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/documents/HSAP/high_school_assessment_pilot.html).

Applications are due no later than Thursday, Jan. 15.

The pilot is being run as part of the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (Senate Bill 08-212). That legislation seeks to establish a seamless pathway for students from preschool into college or the workplace. Essential to that pathway is an understanding of what it means to be ready for education after high school or for the workforce and a plan to ensure that students take the necessary courses and master the content.

Within that context, the high school assessment pilot seeks to gauge the effectiveness of various assessment tools in evaluating student preparation. The pilot will evaluate assessments that include postsecondary and workforce planning and preparation beginning in eighth grade. Currently, the state of Colorado uses the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) as its summative measure of student achievement relative to Colorado Model Content standards in grades three through 10. In 11th grade, all students take the Colorado ACT.

Questions about the assessment pilot may be directed to Holly Baker at 303-866-3266 or [baker\\_h@cde.state.co.us](mailto:baker_h@cde.state.co.us).

**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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