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News Release

Districts Encouraged To Apply For Funds To Develop Alternative Plans for Teacher Compensation; Deadline Is Jan. 30, 2009

The Colorado Department of Education is inviting school districts, Colorado Charter School Institute, the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to apply for funds to develop plans to alternatively compensate teachers. The program is designed to reward teacher excellence and to encourage creative and innovative approaches to helping improve the academic performance of all Colorado students.

“We are excited to be able to implement this important piece of legislation,” said Jami Goetz, Executive Director of the Office of Professional Services. “The goal for the program is to decrease the drop-out rate, close achievement gaps and increase the number of postsecondary degrees and certificates awarded to students.”

The program will allow districts to develop their own individual plans to alternatively compensate educators. A result of the passage of House Bill 08-1388, CDE’s Office of Professional Services will manage the program, with money appropriated from the Colorado Education Fund.

A total of \$980,000 is available for distribution. There is no maximum that any applicant may request. However, a strong justification for the amount being requested is required.

Funds should be used to support the creation of the district’s plan to alternatively compensate teachers. Support may include:

- Identifying various methods of assessing student achievement and teacher effectiveness
- Forecasting future costs of the plan to assure sustainability
- Strategies for recruiting and supporting highly effective teachers in struggling schools
- Linking the plan to alternatively compensate teachers with the overall school district instructional improvement strategy and Colorado's educational goals

Applications are due Friday, Jan. 30, 2009 and can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/ALTCOMP.htm>. Applicants will be notified of awards by Friday, Feb. 6. Awarded school districts will be required to submit a project completion financial report to CDE for the State Legislature before Tuesday, Sept. 30, following completion of the program planning process.

Questions regarding writing of the proposals should be directed to Jacki Paone at jacki.paone@gmail.com or by calling 303-868-0420. Questions regarding submissions should be addressed to Anne Marie Roberts at 303-866-6648 or roberts_a@cde.state.co.us. Questions regarding the budget portion of the plans should be addressed to Steve Mayfield at 303-866-6868 or mayfield_s@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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