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News Release

New Statewide Shows English Language Learners Progress in English, Struggle with Content

The Colorado Department of Education today released the final determinations for the 2007-2008 annual measurable achievement objectives, the accountability measure for the Title III program under No Child Left Behind.

Title III provides funding to support English language learners in attaining English language proficiency and content knowledge. The Federal Programs office at the Colorado Department of Education distributed about \$9 million in Title III funds to 57 grantees in the 2007-2008 school year.

Among the 57 grantees, 47 are individual school districts and 10 represent multiple school districts. In all, 114 of the state's 178 school districts receive Title III funds. Any district with students classified as non-English proficient or limited English proficient are allocated Title III funds. Districts allocated less than \$10,000 join a group of schools to accept the funds.

Districts that receive Title III funds are responsible for meeting their annual measurable achievement objectives, or AMAOs. The objectives are used to measure the effectiveness of language instruction programs.

There are three specific AMAO targets. Two of the targets concern students gaining proficiency with the English language. The third

target concerns students gaining proficiency in reading and mathematics.

In the 2007-2008 school year:

- All 57 grantees met their AMAO 1 target (Making Progress in Learning English). That rate is the same as 2006-2007.
- Fifty-five of 57 grantees met their AMAO 2 target (Attaining English Proficiency). That rate also matches 2006-2007.
- Thirteen of the 57 grantees met their AMAO 3 target (Making Adequate Yearly Progress for the English language learner subgroup). That is down from 21 grantees reaching this target in 2006-2007. Last Year, Adequate Yearly Progress targets were raised under an ongoing schedule designed to yield 100 percent proficiency rates by 2014.
- Thirteen grantees in the state (representing 44 schools in all) met all of their AMAO targets. Those 13 grantees include the Charter School Institute, which represents 16 schools, and four groups of schools, which represent 20 schools in all.

"Like most states, Colorado faces a significant challenge in educating our English language learners, especially in the content areas," said Colorado Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones. "While Colorado continues to improve practice, assessment and accountability in academic achievement of English language learners, we clearly have a long way to go to ensure that these students are grasping the content they need to be successful."

No Child Left Behind

Under No Child Left Behind, each state must develop annual measurable achievement objectives for limited English Proficient children served under Title III that relate to children's development and attainment of English proficiency while meeting challenging state academic content and student academic achievement standards.

Annual measurable achievement objects are required to include:

1. At a minimum, annual increases in the number or percentage of children making progress in learning English.

2. At a minimum, annual increases in the number or percentage of children attaining English proficiency by the end of each school year.
3. Making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for limited English proficient children.

In Colorado, the first objective above is met when 60 percent of students who take the Colorado English Language Assessment (CELA) test to demonstrate proficiency. (CELA is used to determine a students' level of English proficiency in terms of speaking, listening, reading and writing.)

The second objective is met when 25 percent of students who take CELA (and were one level below proficient in the prior year) attain proficiency.

The third objective is for the English language learner subgroup in each district (or group of districts) to meet requirements for achievement on Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP), CSAPA (for students who take the alternate assessment), the Spanish-language Lectura (reading) and the graduation rate.

School Districts That Reached All AMAO Targets

The individual school districts that reached all of their AMAO targets in 2007-2008 were Englewood School District 1, Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8, Cheyenne Mountain School District 12, Academy School District 20, Garfield County School District 16, Park County School District R-3 (Estes Park), Aspen School District, Keenesburg School District Re-3 (J), Rocky Ford School District R-2, Holly School District Re-3, Holyoke School District Re-1J, Julesburg School District Re-1, Akron School District R-1, Wray School District RD-2, Sangre De Cristo RE-22J, Salida School District R-32, Sanford School District 6J, S. Conejos School District RE-10, Sierra Grande School District R-30, Del Norte School District C-7, Sargent School District 33J, Moffat School District 2, W. Grand School District 1-JT, E. Grand School District 2, N. Park School District R-1, Hayden School District RE-1, Steamboat Springs School District RE-2 and S. Routt School District RE-3.

Results are available at the following Web link:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/scripts/districtprofiles/index.asp>. (Look for "District Title III Accountability Report" under each district's Accountability Data section.)

More details about AMAOs can be found at:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cde_english/elau_amaosinfo.htm

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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