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News Release

Schools Identified for Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Assessment Pilot

The Colorado Department of Education today named the 42 middle and high schools that will participate in 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 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. The state of Colorado continues to use 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.

The pilot is 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.

The assessments to be evaluated in the spring grades eight through 11 and the fall grade eight pilot include:

- NWEA's MAP assessments of reading, language usage, mathematics and science

- ACT's EXPLORE Assessment of English, reading, mathematics and science

Student performance data will be provided to CDE directly from the vendors by June 1, 2009 for the spring assessments, and by Nov. 6 for the fall administered assessments. In addition to the assessments, schools, parents and teachers will have an opportunity to provide input on their perspective relative to the effectiveness and relevance of the assessments.

The 42 schools are: Adams City High School (Adams School District 14); Clear Lake Middle School (Adams School District 50); Campus Middle School, Challenge School, Falcon Creek Middle School, Fox Ridge Middle School, Horizon Community Middle School, Laredo Middle School, Liberty Middle School, Prairie Middle School, Sky Vista Middle School, Thunder Ridge Middle School, West Middle School (Cherry Creek School District); Denver Venture School and Ridge View Academy (Denver Public Schools); Legend High School (Douglas County School District); L.W. St. John's Middle School (Garfield County School District 16), Holyoke Junior Senior High School (Holyoke School District RE-1J), Achieve Academy, Clayton Partnership School, Global Leadership Academy, Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts, Meadow Community School, Monterey Community School, Valley View, York International (Mapleton Public Schools); Monte Vista High School (Monte Vista C-8 School District); Estes Park High School and Estes Park Middle School (Park County R-3 School District); Revere Jr. Sr. High School (Platte Valley School District RE-3); Central High School, East High School, Freed Middle School, Heaton Middle School, Keating High School, Pitt Middle School, Risley Middle School, Roncalli Middle School and South High School (Pueblo City Schools); Ridgway Middle School (Ridgway School District RE-2) and Swink Jr. Sr. High School (Swink School District 33).

"We appreciate the willingness of these schools to participate in the pilot and helping 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.

As an incentive for participation, costs of the assessment will, in part, be covered by the state; schools may receive up to \$8 per student for each assessment.

School applications for assessments to be administered in grades nine through 11 in fall 2009 will be reconsidered upon the decision of House Bill 1046, which provides for the pilot assessment to be administered at anytime during the academic year, not just the spring semester.

Questions about the assessment pilot may be directed to Holly Baker at 303-866-3266 or 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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