



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

Feb. 12, 2009

News Release

CDE Issues Request for Information from Providers of Formative Assessments

The Colorado Department of Education today released a Request for Information (RFI) from providers of formative assessments. This is a non-competitive, non-binding RFI and is issued for information and planning purposes.

The RFI is the first phase of a two-phase exploration of the use of formative assessments. The first phase involves identification of proven commercial tools. The second phase will expand to include teacher-developed assessment tools.

The intent of the RFI is to identify providers that deliver and support the implementation of proven formative assessment systems. In this context, the term “formative assessment” refers to interim assessments, benchmark assessments, or any other similar tools that are designed and used to gauge the academic progress students make during a school year.

“In Forward Thinking we committed to providing support and service relentlessly focused on student achievement,” said Jeanette Cornier, assistant commissioner for teaching and learning at CDE. “One of our goals is to identify model curriculum and assessment tools. This is a step in that direction.” Forward Thinking is the department’s plan to improve support and service to Colorado schools and school districts.

The aim of these formative assessment tools is to increase student achievement in the following ways:

1. Expand the capacity of low performing school districts to use results from formative assessments;
2. Use results to guide teachers' instructional decisions and monitor student progress; and
3. Enhance the Colorado Growth Model by integrating formative results.

Once assessment providers have been identified, they may be eligible for participation in future initiatives.

Proposals will be due on Monday March 2, 2009. To access the RFI, please visit the following link: http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_cga.htm

For more information about the RFI from formative assessment providers, please contact Lynn Bamberry, director of competitive grants and awards, 303-866-6813 or bamberry_l@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>.

#