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News Release

New State Report Shows Graduation Rate For Students With Disabilities Increased by 4.83 percent

The Colorado Department of Education announced today the availability of the "2007-08 State Performance Plan," designed to improve the educational and functional outcomes for children with disabilities.

Key findings include:

- The graduation rate for students with disabilities increased by 4.83 percent.
- The dropout rate for students with disabilities decreased by 1.01 percent.
- No district or BOCES had significantly discrepant rates of suspensions/expulsions greater than 10 days for students with disabilities.
- Eighty-five percent of students with disabilities, one year after high school were competitively employed (defined as making at least minimum wage or serving in the military), enrolled in post secondary education or both.

The state plan must encompass baseline data, projected targets and activities to achieve those targets. It looks at the graduation and drop out rates of students with disabilities and how students with disabilities performed on the CSAP and CSAPA tests along with several other indicators.

A second report titled "Annual Performance Report" is CDE's report to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and reflects on how the department has performed on targets set in the State Performance Plan.

The two reports involved stakeholders and determined annual targets.

The State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report for 2007-08 can be found at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/stateimprovement.asp>.

For questions about the reports or for a copy of either the State Performance Plan or the Annual Performance Report, please contact Sarah Cannon, SPP/APR coordinator at 303-866-6749 or

cannon_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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