



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

May 4, 2009

News Release

Closing The Achievement Gap Pilot is Focus of District Visits This Week for Commissioner Jones

Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones will visit districts around the state this week that are involved in a pilot effort to close achievement gaps associated with race and income.

The pilot was funded in 2008 by the Colorado State Legislature, which allocated \$1.8 million for development of a three-year pilot program to assist school districts in their efforts.

Commissioner Jones will visit five of the districts this week—Eagle County School District 50J, Greeley-Evans School District 6, Roaring Fork School District, St. Vrain Valley School District and Summit School District. The sixth district is Yuma School District-1; Commissioner Jones is tentatively scheduled to visit Yuma on Tuesday, May 19.

All six districts met the required criteria to be included in the initiative. First, achievement gaps in all six districts are larger than the state average, and second, district leadership in all six districts demonstrated willingness and capacity to take on the project.

The three-year pilot began last fall with comprehensive appraisals of district improvement needs, identification of resources to meet these needs and the development of comprehensive plans.

Each of the districts has been provided with an achievement gap consultant, instructional programming and professional development.

Through a request for proposals process, CDE has identified providers with proven records of assisting districts in closing achievement gaps associated with race and income.

The schedule for districts visits involved with the achievement gap pilot is:

Tuesday, May 5

- 7:30 a.m. Eagle County School District 50J
- 10:30 a.m. Summit School District
- 2:00 p.m. Roaring Fork School District

Wednesday, May 6

- 7:30 a.m. Greeley-Evans School District 6
- 10:30 a.m. St. Vrain Valley School District

Other events on Commissioner Jones' schedule this week:

Monday, May 4

Commissioner Jones will attend a School District 11 wellness celebration. Location: TESLA Opportunity Center, 2560 International Circle, Colorado Springs. Time: 5 p.m.

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>.

#