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News Release

New Report Highlights Findings of CAP4K Teacher Tour

Following the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K) teacher tour, the Colorado Department of Education today released a report that captures findings from all 13 stops. To read the report, visit:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/download/PDF/CAP4KTeacherTourreport.pdf>

Titled "CAP4K Teacher Tour, Aligning State-Level Support with Classroom-Level Needs," the report contains four main conclusions:

1. Teachers want to be engaged in Colorado's education reform.
2. Successful design and implementation of CAP4K will result in a true competency-based system where relevance and motivation have new meaning, for both teachers and students.
3. The impact of the next generation of standards and assessments on teaching and learning will be aligned systems, clear expectations and greater transparency around what it takes for all students to succeed after high school.
4. To implement the next generation of standards and assessments, education professionals must partner in new ways that deliver 21st century support for 21st century teaching and learning.

The 75-page report also highlights discussion, regional themes, next steps and contains meeting notes for each of the 13 locations.

In January 2009, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and the Colorado Education Association (CEA) initiated the 13-city teacher tour to engage teachers in a statewide discussion about CAP4K, its relevance to practice, its impact on teaching and learning and the kind of help that teachers would find useful for classroom implementation.

Between January and March, CDE and CEA visited with approximately 500 teachers in Denver, Lamar, Colorado Springs, Ft. Collins, Sterling, Limon, Durango, Alamosa, Pueblo, Telluride, Grand Junction, Eagle and Burlington.

Feedback from the tour is being used to help CDE organize professional development and other support for teachers related to CAP4K over the coming year. Specifically, it will guide and inform revised standards rollout and implementation, revised assessment design, the CAP4K cost study, design and implementation of a statewide system of accountability and support and Colorado's Race to the Top proposal.

Signed into law in May 2008, Senate Bill 08-212, also known as "Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids" or CAP4K, is a landmark education reform initiative that creates for the first time in Colorado a truly aligned preschool to postsecondary educational system.

With the purpose to improve Colorado's public education through alignment of preschool through postsecondary expectations, CAP4K will establish new standards and new assessments that enable all students to graduate high school with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in today's 21st century, globally competitive economy.

For more information on the report, teacher tours and S.B. 08-212, contact Samantha Long, Project Manager for S.B. 08-212 at long_s@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-3801, or visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdegen/SB212.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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