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News Release

Just Two More Stops in Nine-City Tour to Collect Feedback on New, Draft P-12 Colorado Academic Standards

A nine-city tour of the state will conclude in Littleton and Frisco next week as part of the effort to gather feedback from parents and community members on the first sets of revised draft P-12 Colorado Academic Standards that will replace the current K-12 Colorado Model Content Standards.

The state mandated review of all 13 content areas has been divided into three phases. Phase I includes four subjects – mathematics; music; reading, writing and communicating; and science. The drafts are available online at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/DraftStandards.html>

The public can also provide comments via online feedback forms until Wednesday, June 10, available for mathematics, reading, writing and communicating and science. A feedback form for music will be available soon. Visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/PublicFeedback.html> to learn more.

Phase II includes civics; economics; geography; and history. Phase III includes dance; health and physical education; theatre; visual art; and world language. Regional tours following each phase will offer opportunities to provide feedback.

Meetings during the phase I tour will begin at 5:30 p.m. The schedule is:

- Monday, June 1, Lone Tree Golf Club & Hotel, 9808 Sunningdale Blvd., Littleton
- Tuesday, June 2, Best Western Lake Dillon Lodge, 1202 Summit Blvd., Frisco

The drafts offer significant adjustments to the standards originally adopted in 1994. Only mathematics and science have been revised since then. The proposed overhaul of state academic standards:

- Organizes standards grade-by-grade instead of by groups of grades
- Incorporates 21st century skills
- Spells out fewer, but clearer and higher standards
- Adds early childhood and postsecondary and workforce readiness expectations (P-13)
- Calls for students to master concepts and skills rather than just facts

The draft standards have been weighed against other countries and states that have higher college graduation rates than Colorado. Finland and Singapore served as the international benchmarks; Massachusetts and Virginia provided national points of comparison.

The Colorado State Board of Education will adopt the new Colorado Academic Standards by December 2009. In 2007 the state board recommended a comprehensive revision to the Colorado Model Content Standards. Senate Bill 08-212 (also known as CAP4K – the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids) affirmed revisions and expanded outcomes should include a seamless pathway from preschool into postsecondary education or the workforce.

For more information about the Colorado Model Content Standards review process, visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/index.html>

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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