



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

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News Release

Assistant Commissioner Clarifies IDEA Determination In Letter to Colorado Education Community

Colorado Department of Education Assistant Commissioner Ed Steinberg today released a letter addressed to parents, taxpayers and the education community of Colorado clarifying a June 1 U.S. Department of Education annual state determination on implementation of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The determinations are a measure of each state's effort to implement the act based on data collected by each state during the 2007-2008 school year. Colorado's determination was ranked among those states that "Needs Intervention."

To read the letter, visit www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/

Steinberg's letter briefly describes the determination process and the reasons for Colorado being placed in the "Needs Intervention" category. The sole reason for Colorado's "Needs Intervention" determination was that, for 2007-08, the state did not meet the data collection requirement for Indicator 12 of the State Performance Plan.

In short, CDE has already corrected the factor that resulted in the "Needs Intervention" determination.

"The department will continue to work collaboratively with local special education directors to provide support and technical assistance," said Steinberg. "The department will also be initiating greater outreach to

superintendents and BOCES executive directors as a means of enhancing understanding regarding Colorado's performance under IDEA and its increased accountability provisions."

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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