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July 21, 2009

News Release

CDE Invites Public Comment On State Waivers for Title I ARRA Funds

The Colorado Department of Education is asking for public input regarding waivers for several provisions of No Child Left Behind Title I, Part A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds.

CDE will request waivers from the U.S. Department of Education for the following provisions pertaining to Title I, A ARRA funds:

- Twenty percent set-aside for choice transportation and supplemental educational services
- Ten percent set-aside for professional development for local education agencies identified for improvement
- Ten percent set-aside for professional development for schools identified for improvement
- Calculating the per-pupil maximum allocation for supplemental educational services

If granted, these waivers will provide local education agencies more flexibility for using the Title I-A ARRA funds. CDE is applying for these waivers on behalf of all local education agencies in the state. Once CDE receives approval from the U.S. Department of Education, local education agencies (LEAs) will need to apply to CDE for approval in implementing the waiver. More information on how LEAs will apply will be forthcoming.

Using its authority under the Education Flexibility Partnership Demonstration Program, Colorado has already issued a statewide waiver for the fiscal requirements of NCLB to permit a local education agency to carryover more than 15 percent of its total 2009-10 Title I-A allocation, including its ARRA funds, into the 2010-2011 fiscal year and permit such carryover even if a local education agency had obtained a carryover waiver in the past three fiscal years.

Colorado will also apply for waivers from the following NCLB related regulations pertaining to regular Title I, Part A funds:

- Prohibiting local education agencies on improvement from being supplemental educational service providers
- Requiring local education agencies to provide 14 days notice for public school choice

CDE is accepting comments on the waivers until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29, 2009. Send comments to nclbcomments@cde.state.co.us. Any comments submitted will be included, without identifying information, in the waiver application to the U.S. Department of Education.

For more information on these waivers and to reference the legal citations, visit:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/consapp/index.asp>

For technical assistance, contact Cheryl Miller at 303-866-6214 or via e-mail at miller_c@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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