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News Release

State Board of Education Grants Waiver for Teacher-Led School in Denver

The Colorado State Board of Education yesterday approved a waiver that will allow the new Math and Science Leadership Academy in Denver Public Schools (DPS) to be led by an educator who does not carry a principal's license. The school was developed in partnership between DPS and the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA).

The waivers approved by the state board cover a variety of functions normally assigned to the principal.

The school's organizational design calls for a "lead teacher" who will fulfill the responsibilities of the principal. Under the school plan, the teacher evaluation process will be conducted by the lead teacher using procedures that vary from the school district's established personnel evaluation system.

The authority to suspend students will also be assigned to the lead teacher and all teachers in the school will be asked to sign a waiver acknowledging that they recognize the evaluation will be conducted using peer assistance.

The Denver Board of Education earlier had passed a resolution supporting the waiver request.

Other Action:

In other action, the state board of education approved:

- A request for a waiver from certain statutes by the East Grand School District on behalf of Indian Peaks Charter School.
- Notice of rulemaking pertaining to 1 CCR 301-3, Food and Nutrition Services
- Approval of notice of rulemaking for the administration of Individual Career and Academic Plans.
- A notice of rulemaking with approval of a hearing in November for the proposed rules for the administration of the Colorado Schoolchildren's Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act, 1 CCR 301-68. The proposed rule states that the "management of food allergies and anaphylaxis in the school setting shall be a collaboration between the school district, parents, Healthcare Provider, and student as appropriate."
- Revision to the rules governing Career and Technical Education Licensing, 1 CCR 301-37.
- Replacement members of the Educational Data Advisory Committee due to terms ending and an unexpected resignation.
- Funding to administrative units for special education programs under the Exceptional Children's Educational Act, 2009-2010.
- Requests for renewal emergency authorizations (four total).
- Initial emergency authorizations (six total).
- New Instructional Technology Endorsement Teachers Preparation Program from the Colorado State University-Pueblo.
- New Literacy Instruction Authorization Teacher Preparation Program submitted by Colorado State University.
- Teacher induction program submitted by the Academy Charter School.
- Authorizing the staff and attorney general to file necessary documents to request a formal hearing for revocation of the educator's license in disciplinary proceedings concerning license charge No. 2009EC07 and No. 2009EC08.

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

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