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## **News Release**

### ***Public Tour to Collect Feedback on Drafts of P-12 Colorado Academic Standards; Third-Phase of Tour Begins Oct. 5 in Grand Junction***

An eight-city tour of the state will begin in Grand Junction on Oct. 5 as part of the effort to gather feedback from parents and community members on the last set 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 of the standard revision tour began in May and included mathematics; music; reading, writing and communicating; and science. Phase II began in August and included civics; economics; geography; and history.

Phase III is the last phase and includes five subjects—dance; health and physical education; theatre, visual arts; and world languages. The drafts will be available online (no later than Oct. 5) at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/DraftStandards.html>

Concurrent to the content standards review, a subcommittee met to discuss the best options for English language development standards. The subcommittee plans to recommend to the Colorado State Board of Education the adoption of the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) standards. Descriptions of these world class standards are available online at: <http://www.wida.us/standards/elp.aspx>

The phase three tour will allow Coloradans to provide feedback on the recommended drafts for dance; health and physical education; theatre,

visual arts; and world languages, as well as the proposed recommendation regarding English language development standards.

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

- Monday, Oct. 5, Doubletree Hotel, 743 Horizon Dr., Grand Junction
- Tuesday, Oct. 6, Comfort Suites, 4755 Castleton Way, Castle Rock
- Wednesday, Oct. 7, Marriott Denver West, 1717 Denver West Blvd., Golden
- Thursday, Oct. 8, Telluride Conference Center, 580 Mountain Village Blvd., Telluride
- Monday, Oct. 12, Limon, Tyme Square Inn, 2505 Sixth Street, Limon
- Tuesday, Oct. 13, Marriott Pueblo, 110 W. 1st St., Pueblo
- Wednesday, Oct. 14, Ramada Plaza, 10 E. 120th Ave., Northglenn
- Thursday, Oct. 15, Hotel Boulderado, 2115 13th St. Boulder

The public can also provide comments via online feedback forms from Oct. 5 through Friday, Oct. 16.

Visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/PublicFeedback.html> to learn more about providing feedback online.

The drafts offer significant adjustments to the standards originally adopted in 1994. (Only mathematics and science have been revised since 1994.) 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 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 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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