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News Release

***Grant from Verizon Foundation Brings “Thinkfinity”
Online to Colorado Teachers***

The Colorado Department of Education, working with the Colorado Legacy Foundation through a grant from the Verizon Foundation, is providing “Thinkfinity” training to teachers across the state.

“Verizon Thinkfinity.org” is a free educational Web site that contains thousands of engaging educational resources that make learning fun. Lesson plans, videos and in-class activities can be found quickly and searched by grade level, keyword or subject. The lessons are standards-based and include many activities designed to develop 21st century skills.

Verizon Thinkfinity.org also offers a comprehensive professional development program that allows teachers to sign up for free online or face-to-face training to learn how to make the most of Verizon Thinkfinity tools.

The \$35,000 Verizon Foundation grant is expected to provide training for more than 250 teachers statewide. Since the training began in June, more than 150 teachers and administrators have been trained. Training is available through online courses which are offered monthly, hands-on classroom training or one-hour webinars.

"The grant from the Verizon Foundation is deeply appreciated," said Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones. "Verizon Thinkfinity.org is a terrific resource and teachers appreciate the wealth of materials, lesson plans and professional development."

"Thinkfinity.org content meets teachers' needs," said Dan Morris, director of educational technology and innovation at CDE. "The content is created and reviewed by content specialists and all the lessons tie to standards. The response from teachers has been nothing but enthusiastic."

Morris said the training is designed to allow teachers to improve lesson plans they have already developed or are in the process of creating. During the online course, educators develop a Thinkfinity Integration Plan and identify ways to use the online resources in the classroom.

The Verizon Thinkfinity.org Web site (www.thinkfinity.org) also provides free educational resources that can be used by students, parents and afterschool programs.

"Whether it's an English teacher looking for resources to spark a love of reading in a student, or a parent seeking a convenient and user-friendly educational activity to stimulate the mind of a young child, Verizon Thinkfinity.org will help them quickly and easily find the information needed to improve student achievement," said Tim McCallion, Verizon president for the west region.

Teachers, principals and other school administrators who are interested in the training may contact Dan Morris at dan.morris@coloradothinkfinity.org or by calling 303-229-8301.

About the Colorado Legacy Foundation

As part of the Colorado Department of Education's "Forward Thinking" plan, the privately-funded nonpartisan Colorado Legacy Foundation seeks to build ongoing statewide leadership capacity and support for aligning Colorado's P-20 education delivery system to meet the global demands of today's rapidly expanding, knowledge-centered economy.

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>.