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News Release

Assessment Stakeholder Committee Will Meet Monday, Nov. 9 in Boulder

The Assessment Stakeholders Committee, working in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education will gather for the second time on Monday, Nov. 9 in the ongoing effort to redesign the assessment system that the state uses to measure student achievement and growth. This is the second of six meetings.

The meeting will be held at the St. Julien Hotel (900 Walnut St.) in Boulder from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Nov. 9 agenda includes:

- Presentation of National Academy of Education White Paper, "Standards, Assessments and Accountability"
- Group discussion
- Identifying general principles to guide the redesign effort—small group activity
- Group presentation and discussion of general principles
- Generating design features that build on general principles—small group activity
- Subcommittee discussion—subcommittee topics and charges for subcommittees

- Topics for next meeting

On Oct. 26, the Assessment Stakeholder Committee convened in Denver for their first meeting. At this initial meeting, stakeholders accepted the charge to provide advice to the commissioner of the education and state board of education concerning a redesign of the system of assessment in Colorado.

The work of this subcommittee will culminate in March 2010. According to Senate Bill 08-212, the state board will give approval for a plan to redesign assessments by Dec. 2010. The new statewide assessment system is expected to be implemented for the first time in the 2011-2012 school year and will follow the rollout of the new state model content standards.

In addition to incorporating the expectations of the updated state content standards, the new assessment system will also meet requirements of S.B. 08-212, which calls for establishing a seamless pathway from preschool into college or the workplace. S.B. 08-212 is also known as the "Preschool to Postsecondary Education Alignment Act" or the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K).

That legislation called for both school readiness and postsecondary and workforce readiness assessments.

The stakeholder advisory group is framing the issues related to the current state assessment system (the Colorado Student Assessment Program), identifying suggested improvements and defining the work of potential subcommittee groups.

Stakeholders include superintendents, chief academic officers, university professors, community members, business representatives, assessment directors, representatives from the early childhood community, military representatives, local board members and many others.

S.B. 08-212 is also the legislation that required the Colorado Department of Education to revise the content standards for 13 subjects. That process is nearing completion. Proposed standards are due to be presented to the Colorado State Board of Education in December 2009.

Note: The National Academy of Education White Paper “Standards, Assessments and Accountability” is posted online at the following link:
http://www.naeducation.org/Standards_Assessments_Accountability_White_Paper.pdf

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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