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## **News Release**

### ***State Board of Education Meeting Recap—Thursday, Nov. 12***

The Colorado State Board of Education approved the following items from its regular meeting agenda, held Nov. 12.

The board approved dates for legislative update meetings with legislative liaisons. The board also approved two requests from the Colorado Talking Book Library—one for the annual FTE (full time equivalent) expenditure from the Mary Jones Trust and a related special request from the same trust for heating, ventilation and air conditioning and other energy building maintenance needs.

The board also approved the Teach for America Alternative Licensure program as a statewide program.

In an issue related to rulemaking, the board adopted proposed amendments to the rules for the administration of 1CCR 301-45, the Protection of Persons from Restraint Act. The purpose of these amendments is to better align rules, originally promulgated in December 2000, to the Protection of Persons from Restraint Act (C.R.S. 26-20-108), to add clarifying language and to reorganize these rules to provide enhanced clarification for implementation.

In another rulemaking matter, the board adopted proposed rules for the administration of the Colorado School Children's Asthma, Food Allergy, and Anaphylaxis Health Management Act (C.R.S. 22-1-119.5) and the Colorado School Children's Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act (C.R.S. 22-2-135).

In other action, the board:

- Approved requests for emergency renewal authorizations (five total).
- Approved requests for initial emergency authorizations (11 total)
- Requested a formal hearing for the revocation of license charges No. 2009EC11 and No. 2009EC12
- Voted on an appeal in OAC Case No. ED 2008-2008, CDE Charge No. 2006-EC-11
- Voted on an appeal in OAC Case No. ED 2008-2009, CDE Charge No. 2006-EC-10 and 2008-EC-18
- Approved emergency rules governing the Closing the Achievement Gap pilot initiative.
- Called the first meeting of the State Advisory Council on Parent Involvement in Education

### **Legislative Priorities**

The board approved its legislative priorities for 2010. They are:

- **School Finance**—Support efforts to improve the long-term financial stability of education funding and develop a comprehensive school finance solution.
- **Great Teachers and Leaders**—Support legislation that will align state policies and practices to support educator effectiveness.
- **Statewide System of Accountability and Support**—Continue to develop a consistent and comprehensive statewide system of support that helps schools and districts build the capacity needed to achieve ambitious student outcomes.
- **Closing the Achievement Gap**—Continue efforts and funding to implement proven, evidence-based programs and strategies for closing the achievement gap.
- **Standards and Assessments**—Continue statewide transition to and implementation of internationally benchmarked standards and aligned assessments that provide a clear path to postsecondary and workforce readiness.

- **Innovation and Choice**—Support legislation enabling the state to assure a high-quality public school choice for every student in Colorado.
- **Early Childhood Education**—Support efforts to increase access to family literacy and high-quality, voluntary, early-childhood education.
- **Data Collection and Access**—Support approaches to measuring postsecondary and workforce readiness beyond student scores on state assessments.
- **CDE Fiscal Management**—Support legislation that will increase the department’s ability to deliver operational excellence, research and development, while decreasing the constraints associated with federal resources.
- **State Board Authority**—Support the Colorado State Board of Education’s constitutional responsibility for public schools through collaboration opportunities with the legislative and executive branches and with the private sector and through designation of the rulemaking authority rather than prescriptive statute.

### **Race to the Top—Briefing**

Lt. Gov. Barbara O’Brien briefed the state board this week on Colorado’s effort to prepare an application for funds under the federal Race to the Top competitive grant process.

Lt. Gov. O’Brien told the board that final guidelines issued by the federal government (guidelines released the morning of Thursday, Nov. 12) show Colorado’s population places in a tier of states that will be eligible for a grant in the \$60 to \$175 million range. Previous expectations were double that amount—or higher.

The smaller amount is “clearly not the amount we thought we were shooting for,” said Lt. Gov. O’Brien. “We’ll just have to adapt to that reality.”

She added that overall “we’re very encouraged” about the final R2T guidance and reiterated what she has said for months, that Colorado’s existing education reform initiatives are in alignment with the U.S. Department of Education is seeking in partners.

Lt. Gov. O’Brien praised the discussions that have been held by each of the four committees developing ideas for the application. “We had the most open public input process of any state in the nation,” she

said. "We had to build consensus around the state that this is Colorado's blueprint, win or lose."

**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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