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News Release

Eight School Districts And Charter School Institute Receive Nearly \$1 Million To Create Plans To Alternatively Compensate Teachers

The Colorado State Board of Education yesterday approved grants to create plans to alternatively compensate teachers. This was the final approval needed to distribute \$980,000 among eight school districts in Colorado and the Charter School Institute.

The Charter School Institute was awarded \$59,350; Weld RE-8 School District, \$23,059; Colorado Springs School District 11, Ellicott School District 22 and Florence RE-2 School District (as a consortium), \$81,750; Jefferson County Public School District R-1, \$465,156; Lake County R-1 School District, \$38,360; Eagle County School District RE-50, \$295,325; and Pueblo School District 70, \$17,000.

"We are excited to see what will come from the work that these grants will set in motion," said Jami Goetz, executive director of CDE's Office of Professional Services. "We hope these plans will ultimately lead to significantly improved student achievement and create strategies for recruiting and supporting highly effective teachers in struggling schools."

A summary of the expenditures, goals and key components of the Alternative Teacher Compensation Plan from each district will be included a subsequent report to the State Legislature.

Background

In 2008, the Colorado Legislature passed House Bill 08-1388 to allow school districts the ability to develop Alternative Teacher Compensation Plans to “serve as a mechanism for rewarding teacher excellence and encouraging creative and innovative approaches to helping Colorado improve the academic performance of all students and meet its education goals which include, but are not limited to, decreasing the dropout rate, closing the achievement gap and increasing the number of postsecondary degrees and certificates awarded to Colorado students.”

Through passage of the bill, \$1 million was set aside from the State Education Fund to become the Alternative Compensation of Teachers Grant fund. CDE’s Office of Professional Services wrote the grant with help from the Title II Office, interested stakeholders and the Grants and Fiscal Management Office.

Grant applications were released Dec. 16, 2008, after being approved by the Educational Data Advisory Committee (EDAC). Grant applications were due Jan. 30, 2009. Eleven districts applied for funding, three of which combined for a joint application. The total amount requested was \$1,368,981. Before funding determinations could be made, Senate Bill 09-213 was passed by the state legislature which delayed the funding of the grant.

On Sept. 11, 2009, the governor’s office notified CDE that funding for the program would come from a grant from Colorado’s share of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds.

The grant committee included Jami Goetz, executive director of the Office of Professional Services; Todd Fukai, Cherry Creek Schools; Lynn Bamberry, director of the Office of Competitive Grants and Awards; and David Lyon, principal consultant, Grants and Fiscal Management.

The grant committee reviewed the applications and decided to fund seven applications, for a total of \$980,000. CDE retains \$20,000, per the original statute, to administer the grant and maintain the ARRA fund federal paperwork, which is now required.

For more information, visit
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/ALTCOMP.htm>

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

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