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News Release

Commissioner Of Education Dwight D. Jones Lauds “Race To The Top” Grant Application

Colorado Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones joined Gov. Bill Ritter and Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien at East High School in Denver today to celebrate the completion of Colorado's application for a federal "Race to the Top" grant.

Colorado's application, delivered today to the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C., seeks \$377 million to fund education reform initiatives that will bring 21st century standards and assessments to Colorado classrooms, provide cutting-edge data systems, yield effective teachers who are prepared and trained under proven methods and improve performance at struggling schools.

"We are not chasing a shiny penny," said Commissioner Jones. "I think it's the right work...It supports the reform agenda Colorado has already been supporting."

Commissioner Jones noted that the application, through local school district participation, represents more than 94 percent of the students in the state. He also lauded the bipartisan support from members of the Colorado State Legislature, Colorado State Board of Education and teamwork from the Colorado Education Association, Colorado Association of School Boards, Colorado Association of School Executives and the business community. "We are a united front," said Commissioner Jones.

Finalists for the first phase of Race to the Top are expected to be announced in March. Successful applicants will be named in April. Funds will be available for the 2010-2011 school year.

To read a summary of Colorado's proposal, visit <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/OIT-2/OIT2/1240228834570>

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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