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News Release

Colorado Department Of Education Announces Initial List Of Approved Educational Service Providers To Assist with School Transformation And Turnaround

The Colorado Department of Education today released an initial list of 19 educational service providers that are eligible to assist with school transformation and turnaround efforts statewide.

School improvement is required for chronically low-performing schools in Colorado under both federal guidance and state law. Federal guidance for Title I School Improvement Grants requires recipients to implement one of four school intervention models as appropriate for the needs of the school and resources available.

The four intervention models are turnaround model, restart model, school closure or transformation model. Colorado's Education Accountability Act of 2009 includes similar expectations for those schools identified as chronically low-performing.

The 19 providers identified in the department's initial list will focus primarily on school turnaround and transformation efforts, but they also may assist with more intensive interventions. These providers will assist schools and school districts in five areas including organizational management and leadership, academic performance, learning environment, financial management and operations and comprehensive planning.

Three of the providers identified in the initial list were approved to work with schools on the full spectrum of potential needs. The remaining providers were approved to work in one or a combination of the specified areas.

“We strongly encourage schools to avail themselves of the providers and the research-based, proven methods they offer,” said Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones. “The department is committed to partnering with schools and districts in the development of comprehensive turnaround plans and to assist in the effort to improve student achievement for all. This is urgent work.”

The providers will be invited to demonstrate their approaches and expertise during a two-day fair to assist districts in becoming knowledgeable choosers of reform models. The conference is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 8 and 9. Precise times and locations have yet to be announced. Districts and schools will select the provider or providers they wish to work with from the list, subject to CDE approval.

In all, the grant program anticipates spending \$37.7 million over the next three years. Funds are being made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The U.S. Department of Education announced an opportunity for states and school districts to access unprecedented resources for reforms that increase graduation rates, reduce dropout rates, improve instructional quality and create a challenging learning environment where students excel academically.

Selected Providers:

There are three providers approved to assist schools with all five areas of expertise (Academics, Learning Environment, Operations, Leadership and Planning).

Those three providers are:

- EdisonLearning
- Global Partnership Schools/Consortium on Reading Excellence (CORE)
- Pearson K-12 Solutions

The remaining 16 providers are:

- America’s Choice (Academics, Learning Environment, Leadership, Planning)
- Cambium Learning (Academics, Learning Environment and Leadership)
- Cambridge Education (Learning Environment)
- CTB-McGraw Hill (Academics)
- Curriculum Leadership Institute (Academics)
- Evans Newton (Academics, Learning Environment, Leadership, Planning)

- Focal Point (Academics, Learning Environment, Leadership, Planning)
- Just ASK Publications and Professional Development (Academics, Leadership)
- Lindamood-Bell (Academics)
- McREL (Academics, Learning Environment, Leadership, Planning)
- Mosaica (Academics, Learning Environment, Leadership, Operations)
- National Literacy Coalition (Academics, Leadership, Planning)
- RMC Research Corporation (Leadership, Planning)
- Success for All Foundation (Academics, Learning Environment, Planning)
- The Flippen Group (Academics, Learning Environment)
- WestEd (Academics, Learning Environment and Leadership)

Eligible Schools

The list of Tier I, Tier II and Tier III schools will be published soon by the Colorado Department of Education.

“We received updated guidance from the U.S. Department of Education as recently as yesterday about how schools in all three tiers should be identified,” said Commissioner Jones. “We need to take the time to ensure we match these resources with the schools and students that need them the most.”

About The Four Interventions

Federal guidance requires states to prioritize school improvement grants for school districts and local education agencies with the greatest need and the strongest commitment to implement one of the four intervention models.

The four intervention options are:

1. Turnaround includes, among other actions, replacing the principal and at least 50 percent of the school’s staff. This approach also includes adopting a new governance structure and implementing a new or revised instructional program.
2. Restart means that the local school district closes or phases out the school and reopens it under the management of a charter school operator or other education management organization following a rigorous review process.
3. Closure (students reassigned in higher achieving schools).
4. Transformation addresses four specific areas—teacher and school leader effectiveness; comprehensive instructional reform strategies; extended learning time and community-oriented schools; operating flexibility.

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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