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News Release

***Colorado State Board Of Education Will Hold
Rulemaking Hearing Wednesday, March 10 On
Education Accountability Act Of 2009***

The Colorado State Board of Education will hold a hearing Wednesday, March 10 at 2 p.m. on proposed rules for the Education Accountability Act of 2009.

The Education Accountability Act (Senate Bill 09-163) unifies the state's approach to school accountability and ushers in a new era of measuring school performance built around the Colorado Growth Model and expectations for all students reaching readiness for postsecondary and workforce success.

Technically known as "Rules for the Administration of the Accreditation of School Districts," the rules spell out a clear state role for intervening in districts when accreditation scores are poor for five consecutive years. The rules also establish a new system that gives districts with high performance greater autonomy and gives districts with higher needs more intervention and support.

As the introduction to the proposed rules state:

"The basic purposes of the Education Accountability Act of 2009 Colorado Accreditation Program are:

- To provide a process for the state board of education to fulfill its constitutional responsibility for supervising the public schools of the state;

- To focus the attention of educators, parents, students and other members of the community on maximizing every student's progress toward postsecondary and workforce readiness and post graduation success;
- To report information concerning performance at the state level, school district or institute level and individual public school level that is perceived by educators, parents and students as fair, balanced, cumulative, credible and useful;
- To provide more academic performance information and fewer labels, to move from a punitive accountability system to one that is positive and focused on learning and achieving high levels of academic performance;
- To hold the state, school districts, institute and individual public schools accountable for performance on the same set of indicators and related measures statewide;
- To ensure performance indicators and measures are aligned through a single accountability system to the extent possible that objectively evaluates the performance of the thorough and uniform statewide system of public education for all groups of students at the state, school district or institute and individual public school levels and, as appropriate, reward success and provide support for improvement at each level;
- To employ a differentiated approach to state intervention based on performance and need, whereby demonstration of high performance results in greater autonomy and demonstration of high need results in greater support and intervention."

The proposed rules go on to define the accreditation process and categories for school district accreditation—accredited with distinction, accredited, accredited with improvement plan, accredited with priority improvement plan, accredited with turnaround plan and unaccredited.

The proposed rules require the state board to annually review the performance of each school district based on four key performance indicators including student longitudinal growth, student achievement level, extent of growth and achievement gaps and postsecondary and workforce readiness.

By Nov. 30 of each year, under the proposed rules, the state board would “set, reaffirm or revise, as appropriate, ambitious but attainable statewide targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of the performance indicators for the coming academic year with the goal of raising the level of academic performance” across the state.

The proposed rules are posted on the CDE Web site at the following link:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdegen/downloads/SBEAccreditationofSchoolDistricts.pdf>

Related Rules

The state board also has scheduled two related rulemaking hearings that also impact S.B. 09-163.

The first is the Repeal of Rules Related to the Administration of Academic Performance. That hearing will begin at 1:45 p.m.

The second hearing is Rules for the Administration of the Colorado School Awards Program. That hearing will begin at 1:50 p.m.

Proposed rules related to administration of academic performance:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdegen/downloads/SBERepeaAdminAcademicPerfRating.pdf>

Proposed rules for the school awards program:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdegen/downloads/SBESchoolAwardsProgram.pdf>

About Submitting Comments

The state board of education appreciates written comments on proposed rules. Please send comments to state.board.efilings@cde.state.co.us

If you wish to testify in person, a sign-up sheet will be provided prior to the hearing. Testimony is generally limited to three minutes per person.

Complete Board Agenda For March 10 & 11

Complete agendas for the Colorado State Board of Education meetings on Wednesday, March 10 and Thursday, March 11 will be posted soon.

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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