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March 8, 2010

News Release

Arizona, Indiana Join Colorado In Multi-State Growth Model Collaboration

The Colorado Department of Education today announced that Indiana and Arizona have agreed to use the Colorado Growth Model, the online data visualization tool that allows educators to monitor student growth and achievement and set goals for continuous improvement.

According to formal agreements signed by the new partners, the state departments of education in Colorado, Indiana and Arizona have committed to a collaborative effort to adopt a common student longitudinal growth measure and to use the interactive visual displays for the data.

"I am pleased to share this approach with other states," said Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones. "This collaboration illustrates our common goal of shaping the national conversation about what's needed to ensure schools increase rates of academic success for all students."

Said Arizona Superintendent of Instruction Tom Horne: "This collaboration will allow us to give parents, teachers, and principals an easy and meaningful way to measure the progress of Arizona's children and Arizona's schools."

"Implementing a growth model is a bold step toward improving student achievement," said Tony Bennett, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction. "It allows Indiana educators and parents to see

progress for all students and is a great measurement instrument for schools.”

In addition to Indiana and Arizona, Massachusetts has also adopted the growth methodology of the Colorado Growth Model. Other states are expected to adopt it as well. Colorado developed its growth model and display tools to be freely shared among states for non-commercial purposes with the expectation that enhancements funded by other states would be shared among all of the collaborators.

“Our intent is to develop a multi-state online tool that will provide an easy visual reference for educators, parents and the community at large to readily compare school and district performance across state,” said Rich Wenning, associate commissioner at CDE. “We want to foster a widespread common understanding of school performance that catalyzes a sense of urgency behind education reform.”

The Colorado Growth Model is a key feature of SchoolView (www.schoolview.org or via the CDE Web site, www.cde.state.co.us), the Colorado Department of Education’s online portal for ready access to school and district performance. The Colorado Growth Model provides a common understanding of how individual students and groups of students progress from year to year toward meeting or exceeding state standards. The model accounts for each individual student’s starting point and compares his or her progress to students with similar academic histories.

About Multi-State Collaborations

Colorado is leading the effort to collaborate with other states to adapt the Colorado Growth Model, rather than each state building their own independently.

The collaboration will allow for comparisons of the relative effectiveness of education reforms in all four states as measured by student growth toward state standards.

“With the advent of common core standards and common assessments, such collaboration holds tremendous promise for building breakthrough national awareness and improved discourse about education reform,” said associate commissioner Wenning.

Key Features of the Agreement With Colorado, Indiana and Arizona

Key features of Colorado’s agreements with Indiana and Arizona include:

- Each state will load its data into a common, standardized and secure data storage system. This system will make it possible for all participating states to have their data displayed in the same basic way.
- Each state agrees to collaborate on new versions of the growth model displays. Decisions regarding what new features to add will be made through consensus of participating states, and will include multiple-year data displays, animations of the data, inclusion of teacher identifiers, and improved mapping displays and social collaboration tools.
- Each state agrees to collaborate in and contribute both know-how and financial resources to the improvements of the growth model display tool. The improvements will be shared freely among current partners and with states that participate in the future.

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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