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News Release

Commissioner Dwight D. Jones Says \$17.4 Million Recovery Grant A Welcome Infusion Of Resources

The Colorado Department of Education learned today that Colorado has been awarded a \$17.4 million grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to create a new statewide system to track student and educator data from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary education and the workforce.

“The grant announcement today by the U.S. Department of Education confirms that we indeed are heading in the right direction and provides a welcome jolt of resources to help us achieve our goals,” said Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones. “Gov. Ritter’s Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids requires a robust, reliable data system at its foundation, and this grant immediately puts us on a much swifter construction timeline. Thanks to longstanding support from the governor’s office, the Colorado State Legislature and the State Board of Education, Colorado has been in the forefront using longitudinal data analysis of school and student performance for many years.”

The competitive grant is part of \$250 million awarded this year to a total of 20 states. All states applied and Colorado’s award is the fourth largest among the winning states. The funds will pay for a statewide longitudinal data system to enable Colorado to track student progress from early childhood until their career while also protecting privacy.

The data system was developed by the Governor’s Office of Information Technology, the Governor’s Office of Policy and Initiatives and the Colorado Departments of Education, Higher Education, Human

Services and Labor and Employment. This enhanced data system was recommended in 2008 by Gov. Ritter's P-20 Education Council. Last year, the Colorado General Assembly passed legislation authorizing inter-departmental data sharing to pave the way for the implementation of this project. The system captures student data from multiple sources, allows for data sharing across multiple agencies to inform policy, and will make data available to parents, students, educators, policymakers and researchers. The work on this project is underway at www.schoolview.org.

The Recovery Act, signed into law in February by President Obama, is expected to bring Colorado at least \$7.1 billion through more than 140 different programs, including tax cuts for most working families, increased safety net services and investment in infrastructure projects and growth industries. For more information about the Recovery Act in Colorado, visit www.colorado.gov/recovery or <http://www.cde.state.co.us/scripts/federalstimulus/index.asp>

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