



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1560 Broadway, Suite 1450 • Denver, Colorado 80202-5149
303.866.6600 • www.cde.state.co.us

Robert K. Hammond
Commissioner of Education

Diana Sirko, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner

Keith Owen, Ph.D.
Associate Commissioner

TO: Title I Contacts
FROM: Trish Boland, Unit of Federal Program Administration
DATE: March 26, 2012
RE: Definition of Significantly Expanding Charter Schools

The Unit of Federal Program Administration has revised its definition of Significantly Expanding Charter Schools. This revised definition will only impact those districts with Title I charter schools for the 2012-2013 school year and beyond.

Based on guidance from the United States Department of Education, CDE will continue to define significant expansion of enrollment in charter schools as a substantial increase in the number of students attending a charter school due to a significant event that is unlikely to occur on a regular basis. To further clarify this, the following conditions will be applied to this definition.

A charter school will be considered significantly expanding if:

1. The charter school's enrollment based on October 1 Student Count is at least 10 percent greater than the previous year; **and**
2. The charter school is expanding for one of the following reasons:
 - a. adding one or more grades according to a growth plan;
 - b. relocating to new space that allows for approved expansion previously restricted by inadequate facilities.

Moving forward into the 2012-2013 school year with this revised definition, districts with charter schools that receive Title I funds and meet the above conditions should revise the Title I per pupil funding based on current year October 1 data, as opposed to the October 1 data collected in a prior year. This would mean that the number of students that generate Title I funds for the school may increase, and thus the overall school's allocation could increase.