



Rural Education Council Notes

February 24, 2012

Strater Hotel, Durango, CO

Local Area Highlight: Troy Zabel, Bayfield

- The new initiatives are not seen as hurdles, rather opportunities. Randy has had a lot of vision for the region and moved initiatives forward.
- Steve Otter, 1) Leadership Matters NISL, 30 superintendents and other leaders, 2) Colorado Integration Project with the Legacy Foundation, 3) SB 191, 4) CAP4K, 5) Educator Identifier with common course numbering and teacher/student data link, 6) Education Accountability, 7) Race to the TOP (STEM) 8) Unified Improvement Plan
- Sed Keller, Legacy Foundation Data Coach, CSAP, NWEA (3x yr, pd by BOCES, regional discount), DIBELS (multiple times per yr), Common Assessment (varies by school). Alpine Achievement (data warehouse, produce tailored results). Body of evidence reports created for each school district. Data coaching/research analysis support to all districts. BOCES-wide participation in Harvard Strategic Data Project analysis (CLF). Genae Ash told how she used the data in the classroom.
- Randy Boyer – eHigh School. Regional and local support, only service students in five-county region. Low student/teacher ratio. Using Jeffco's teachers.
- Deb LaQua – UIP support. Some PD staff became UIP trainers. Will have a peer-review process in BOCES. Handle induction program for all districts. Expulsion hearing officers, school safety, SWAP, literacy coach, etc. Administrative Unit.

ESEA Waiver/NCLB update

- Colorado aggressively went after the waiver. It is not a waiver from the entire NCLB, but only portions of it. We are waiting on final wording from USDE. We will communicate with the field as soon as we receive in writing from USDE.
- AYP is gone. The correction piece, the sanction, etc. is no longer applicable. It is strictly the state accreditation system.
- Some of the sanctions from the state will require communication to parents.
- HQ: parts of HQ through Title II we could waive, but not Title I. We are trying to have it apply to only Title teachers. We will be issuing some guidance as soon as we receive notice from USDE. We hope to get the word from USDE by end of February, notice to the field by early March.
- Will HQ include Special Education? We will try to include specifics in our communication.

Rural Blended Learning Paper

Blended learning: student learns in brick/mortar and student control over place, pace. 1) face to face; 2) rotation; 3) flex; 4) on-line lab; 5) self-blend; 6) online driver

1. Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning - the report we publish (has the accountability section we discussed) - <http://kpk12.com/>
2. Rise of K-12 Blended Learning - you can download the paper containing the blended learning profiles here - <http://www.innosightinstitute.org/media-room/publications/blended-learning/>

SB 191 Educator Effectiveness and the Rural Community Update

- First year of pilot. This year is the principal rubric. 50/50 practice/student growth.
- Teacher rubric is almost ready for beta testing. Some pilots want to start this spring, some this summer.
- The teachers and principal rubric will continue with pilot districts during next year's validation year of the pilot.
- 2013-2014 for state-wide implementation. A comprehensive rollout plan developed for next year.
- Another process to define and inventory and create tools and examples for the multiple measures for student growth; Content Collaboratives. Over 400 applied to participate. National experts will be used to help create the assessments. Deliverables on-going basis to have a resource bank, early fall 2013.
- Plans for support for districts that don't have a BOCES nor pilot district? CDE is developing support structures for all districts. Face-to-face training for districts regionally or for your own district.
- March 5th summit. Are the plans for those who didn't get in? Yes, 95 districts will be there. We will have more workshops and summits in different parts of the state.
- Supts in SE Colorado want CDE to know that they need training on principal and teacher rubrics? CDE will develop that.
- If the district uses the state model there will be training. What about those that don't use it? We will provide training, but we won't be able to train on non-state model rubric because we won't know the specifics. We can train on the overarching requirements of SB 191.
- Will CDE ultimately have to approve every non-model rubric? If so, won't they know every one? CDE has to approve, but it will most likely be by a district assuring that they are complying with state requirements.
- Appeals process – an initial draft on the CDE webpage. Just starting the public phase on that. Rule making page is up for public comment. April SBE meeting to discuss? Approve? The proposed rules pretty much follow the law, but have some optional portions inserted.

Race to the Top Update

- Today is the deadline for MOU to be submitted to see who is accepting or declining the funds. We will re-run the allocation formula and will let districts know by the 29th so districts can do their Scope of Work and budgets. Scope of Work due March 14.
- The timeline is tight, but we need to meet federal requirements. The year one needs to be pretty tight, but other years can be worked with CDE. Could be OK if you have the first six months tight and work with CDE on the rest.

- Feel for the number of districts that won't accept funds? Seeing most districts wanting to participate. Expect a slight increase in funds for each district, but not much because of the high participation rate.
- CDE wants to have a strong communication to the districts on Content Collaboratives and other supports for the districts and updates.

Overview of Priority Improvement and Turnaround Visits

- We have tried to be very clear and direct on what will happen at the end of the 5-year clock. We don't want to have to go before the SBE at the end of the 5-year clock. Tough love.
- No schools can be on year 3, but some districts could be on year 3 because of a carryover from the old accreditation system.
- The commissioner is taking a harder stance. If the local school board and superintendents don't want to abide by the guidelines, then we will pull the funds (such as South Conejos).

BOCES/RSA Conversation update and discussion

Information will be provided at a later date.