



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Robert K. Hammond
Commissioner of Education

Keith Owen, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner

Rural Education Council

Meeting Agenda

October 11, 2012 – East Central BOCES Offices
820 Second Street, Limon, CO 80828

Local Area Overview – [Presentations have been attached](#)

Don Anderson - EC BOCES:

- Covers 21 School districts spanning from Elizabeth to Burlington
- 9000 Students with about 600 teachers
 - Districts range from large (Elizabeth with 3000 students) to small (Agate with 11 students)
- Full Service BOCES
 - It offers more than just special education services; they have a federal programs unit; staff development unit and video conferencing system to enable a broad range of education; alternative licensure; induction program; gifted and talented and ELL assistance

Emma Richardson – Video Conferencing Coordinator

- EC BOCES has developed a powerful video conferencing system available to all of their districts
- This system has provided districts with greater curriculum choices despite small budgets and limited staff.
- Allows students to have access to foreign language and community college courses as well as exposure to teachers and students in other districts.
- The system has the capability to provide students with enrichment virtual field trips
- *Questions from the group:*
 1. What is the training for teachers to participate?
 - EC BOCES is constantly improving their training of teachers.
 - Currently teachers participate in a full day training consisting of the basic use of technology; teaching practices; 'moodle' – online course management site
 - Working with Idaho to adapt their system to work for Colorado.
 2. As broadband has been extended, what are the advantages to this system compared to online?



- Picture quality and resolution are better on our system
- Our system is more reliable than broadband
- 3. Do you get pushback?
 - Parents are becoming more accepting as it becomes more clear this is the only option for some curriculum

Sharon Daxton-Vorce-Staff Development Coordinator

See attached handout

Anita Burns (not present)- Federal Programs Director

- Title Programs
 - Anita writes all the consolidated applications for districts with their help
 - Title 2A funding goes to the BOCES not the district. Help fund professional development
 - District guide the direction of professional development

Dan Morris – E-Net Colorado

See attached handout

- Expansive tool to guide curriculum
 - Advantages include:
 - Happening in several BOCES around the state
 - BOCES can deploy specific units to districts which can be customized
 - Content maps to state standards
 - Has great potential
 - Teachers can send students individual assignments.
 - Challenges
 - New way of delivering content
 - Next steps
 - Help to find the content to help struggling students based on individualized assessment scores

Welcome

Commissioner Robert Hammond

Draft Rural Definition Discussion

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Keith Owen, Tina Goar, CDE

- Survey Results – See attached
 - 64 Responses
- Discussion
 - Should we add additional criteria? For example – economies of scale – when a district reaches a certain size they get additional support staff, could we look at the population to staff ratio?
 - The group shared concerns around the definition and its impact to drive funding for schools. What is the impact of this definition?
 - While there is some concern, it is agreed that we need to define rural
 - Overwhelming agreement that 9000 doesn't feel like the right number. Is this too high being that it defines districts like Pueblo 70 as rural?
 - Sliding scale? Concern about one student making the difference
 - What is the impact of online schools?
 - ACTION ITEM: CDE and the rural sub-committee need to take a closer look at the number to define rural. The group will seek out feedback from those excluded by lowering the cut point.
 - ACTION ITEM: Look at distance within districts and how that impacts the definition.
 - ACTION ITEM: How will CDE utilize the definition? Specifically the difference between rural and small rural, will this impact the resources provided by CDE?
 - Who should approve the definition once final? Process for doing so?
 - The council feels that CDE should define rural with recommendations from the rural education council.
 - Process:
 - Rural Education Council finalizes definition at December council meeting.
 - Commissioner Hammond would approve final definition.
 - Commissioner Hammond will inform the state board of education of the final definition.

BOCES Funding Updates

Tina Goar, CDE

- 18 grant applications have been submitted and are pending approval at the State Board of Education meeting next week.

11:55 – 12:00 Working Lunch

Student Attendance, Discipline and Course Completion data collection

Jan Rose Petro, CDE

- Power point presentation is attached.
- New way of collecting data with the goal of making the process easier and less of a burden on the districts.
- Pilot Districts
 - General RISE:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/rise/index.asp>
 - General Data Pipeline:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/rise/ADEReplacement.asp>
 - Data Pipeline Participation:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/rise/ADEReplacement-Participation.asp>

Discussion: Impact of State and Federal Audits on Rural Districts

Leanne Emm, Assistant Commissioner, CDE

DISTRICT CONCERN:

- Penalty appears to be extremely severe for small districts while larger districts get a break.
- Audits not happening annually so penalties adding up without the knowledge of wrong doing.
- With already small budgets; these fiscal penalties make it challenging to keep people in positions.
- Asking CDE for support and training to keep staff in compliance during non-audit times.
- History of inconsistency between CDE auditors and their interpretation of the rules.

CDE RESPONSE:

- CDE is working very diligently to train auditors on the data to increase consistency .
- Working to increase trainings/webinars/resources to help support districts and keep them in compliance.
- CDE is trying to get all districts caught up so there is a baseline to measure how much and how well CDE is supporting districts.
- Pupil Count Resource Guide
 - Main Webpage for Audit:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/auditunit.htm>
 - Resource Guide:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/download/pdf/201213StudentOctoberCountResourceGuide08282012.pdf>
 - Webinar: see above Main Page link, and then Training Materials is at the bottom of the page – it is a PowerPoint.

Goal Setting Discussion – This discussion has been tabled to the Dec meeting

Tina Goar, CDE

New Business

- Link to website
- CDE Licensure – Should we continue to print paper licenses or would districts accept PDF document?
 - o Would district admin be able to get directly from CDE?
 - Yes
 - o No major concerns were expressed
- Rural Charter School Membership on Rural Education Council
 - o The agreement of the council is: rural charter schools are part of a district and thus they have representation. If we look at doing this it should be someone from the Charter School Institute to catch the rural charter school not housed in a district
- Dual Role: The superintendent is also the principal
 - o See Handout
 - o ACTION ITEM: Would like feedback on draft proposal prior to December so that a discussion can be held at the CASE Winter Conference.
 - Keep in mind:
 - Clarification of the role of the BOCES?
 - What does your contract say?
 - How should we look at other dual roles in districts?

Our next meeting:

Thursday, December 13, 2012 – Southeast Region - Crowley County – We will be sending you more details on this meeting soon.

Rural Education Council

Future Meeting Dates

Friday, February 8, 2013 – Southwest Region - Local Area Overview 10:00-11:00; Council Meeting 11:00-2:00

Friday, April 26, 2013 – Northwest Region - Local Area Overview 10:00-11:00; Council Meeting 11:00-2:00

July 2013 – CASE Conference – Time is TBD

Friday, October 4, 2013 – Northeast Region - Local Area Overview 10:00-11:00; Council Meeting 11:00-2:00

Friday, December 6, 2013 – Southeast Region Local Area Overview 10:00-11:00; Council Meeting 11:00-2:00