

COMMISSIONER'S
RURAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Summer 2019 Summary

Breckenridge was the site of the 2019 summer meeting of the Commissioner's Rural Education Council. Council members welcomed new appointees Superintendent Steve Wilson (Big Sandy), Superintendent Trent Kerr (Wiggins), Executive Director Willyn Webb (Vision Charter Academy), and Superintendent Curt Wilson (North Conejos). We will miss our outgoing members: Former Superintendent Don Rangel (Weld County Re1), Superintendent Tim Kistler (Peyton), Executive Director Brandon LaChance (North Routt Community Charter School), and Superintendent Lis Richard (formerly of Creede).

School Preparedness and Mental Health

The work of the Council has had a strong focus on overall emergency school preparedness, as well as mental health and wellness. At this meeting, the Council heard a safety update from Commissioner Anthes, followed by discussion. The Council had an in-depth work session with CDE staff and Elaine Belansky of the Center for Rural School Health and Education. The discussion focused on determining priorities for prevention, intervention, and transition.

The previous work of the Council on school safety and security, health and wellness, and personnel can be found on the Rural Council webpage on the CDE website.

Moving forward, the Council will hold a collaboration session with partners from the Colorado School Safety Resource Center, the CDHS Office of Behavioral Health, and Centennial Mental Health.

READ Act

Associate Commissioner Melissa Colman updated the Council on changes to the READ Act. A discussion was held and feedback gathered for required changes. Considerable discussion was held on the type of training/certification that would be acceptable under the new requirement for teachers. Important feedback will continue to be gathered throughout the field until October 18th. A READ Act Update, as well as continued discussion is on the agenda for the Council meeting in November.

Legislative Wrap-Up

The Council heard the summary of the 2019 legislative session. A total of 54 bills were passed that relate to K-12 education. 40 of the bills require action by CDE in order to be implemented. In addition to units utilizing the Rural Consideration for Rulemaking guidance, the Council will be involved in providing feedback on proposed rules when there is a new or significant policy change.

Rural Principal Supports

CDE, in partnership with CASE and CBA, is gathering feedback on supporting rural principals. The Council, along with the Dual Role Superintendents group has responded to a brief survey regarding principal supports. In addition, CBA will be sending the survey to rural principals this fall to gather additional feedback on ways to better support rural principals.

Rural Education Council Facts

The Rural Education Council is comprised of superintendents representing each of the eight regions in Colorado, two rural principals, a rural teacher; representatives from the Colorado Association of School Boards, the Colorado Association of School Executives and the Colorado BOCES Association, two rural board of education members and the Colorado Rural Schools Alliance. For a complete listing of Rural Education Council members, as well as agendas and other information, visit the Rural Education Council [web page](#).

The next meeting of the Rural Education Council will be held on November 8th in Stratton.

For questions or more information, contact Denille LePlatt, Director of Rural Services, at 720-520-5118 or leplatt_d@cde.state.co.us.

Rural Education Summit

The 2019 Rural Education Summit was a great success. Almost 200 rural leaders participated in the CASE pre-conference workshop that has grown tremendously over past few years. Keynote speaker and emcee Reggie Rivers entertained the crowd with the “Power of Influence,” as leaders learned about applying the principles of football to school leadership. Participants learned more about the work of university and district partnerships made possible by the Colorado Center for Rural Education, and at the end of the day, guests highlighted their own successes utilizing the success analysis protocol. We look forward to planning another amazing Summit in 2020.

