

State Board Notes

March 2011

This Issue



Jane Goff
Congressional
District 7

Representing 216 school communities
in three metro area counties



Angelika Schroeder
Congressional
District 2

Representing 220 school communities
in ten front range counties



"Anyone can make the simple complicated.

Creativity

Is making the complicated simple."

~Charles Mingus

Every Issue

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Meeting Highlights



Keys Korner

*"We need to remember that we are all created
creative and can invent new scenarios as frequently
as they are needed."
~ Maya Angelou*

Last month, we introduced Notes readers to CDE's *Five Key Initiatives*, ongoing programs and projects established in prior legislation. Together, they form the tightly intertwined package of Colorado's education reform efforts that the State Board and the Department are most focused on in the current year. Here in the Keys Korner we provide monthly updates on significant activities related to those five key work areas. And next month, we'll add number 6 -- Innovation and Choice.



Pursuant to S.B. 08-212:

Standards -- Increasing student learning through teacher mastery and delivery of curriculum to address Colorado's academic standards

Districts are now working with CDE's Implementation Team to transition to the new Colorado Academic Standards. Districts must revise and adopt their current standards to meet or exceed the state standards by December of this year. Many districts have already begun using the new standards in their coursework.



Pursuant to S.B. 08-212:

Assessments -- Developing a new statewide assessment system aligned to the expectations of the updated standards

The timeline for moving from the current CSAP to our new assessment system in 2014 includes a transition assessment in 2012 and 2013. It will be called TCAP (Transitional Colorado Assessment Program) and it will contain items common to both the old standards and the new.

In the meantime, CDE and the Dept. of Higher Education have completed two significant research studies that show the

relationship between CSAP and a student's predictable achievement potential.

CDE's study found that a student's performance on ninth- and tenth-grade CSAP serves as a strong predictor of future results on the Colorado ACT in grade 11. Using the Colorado Growth Model, a student can predict as early as ninth-grade how low, moderate or strong growth will affect an actual ACT score years later in each content area tested. The report concludes: "The analyses reported present a clear picture of the CSAP and CO ACT as highly related assessments. It has been shown that the CSAP is an excellent predictor of ACT achievement and of later college-readiness."

CDE and CDHE jointly released another study that shows students who need [college] remediation or who were on track toward postsecondary readiness could have been identified as early as sixth grade. "By examining [CSAP] assessment results from as early as the sixth-grade," the report states, "it was clear that if students were not proficient at that time they were very likely to require remediation when they entered college."

More information on both studies:

Predicting 11th Grade Colorado ACT Performance Using CSAP Shining a Light on College Remediation in Colorado



Pursuant to S.B. 09-163:

Accountability & Support -- Building a unified, statewide system of accountability and support that includes leveraging high-quality information to drive increased school and district performance

CDE's recently completed "**Rural Needs Study**" is the result of comprehensive surveys, focus groups and interviews of Colorado's rural superintendents and school board members. The study was designed to answer three primary questions:

- Are rural districts satisfied with the assistance provided by CDE?
- What additional help can the department provide?
- How are our rural turnaround schools faring?

While there is no clear definition of a “rural” district, it’s generally understood that between 75% and 80% of Colorado districts, educating about 20% of our students, are rural. Rural districts face many challenges, most notably inequitable funding, declining enrollments, teacher shortages, low salaries and geographic isolation.

The chief recommendation of the report calls for “the creation of a Rural Council to oversee, support, conduct research and advocate for the needs, concerns and unique problems of rural education districts.”

In addition, specific identified rural challenges include:

- “Initiative fatigue”
- Reporting and data overload
- Fear of [forced] consolidation
- No rural voice at CDE
- Licensure process delays
- Needed improvements in staff development
- Challenges of staff recruitment and retention
- The need for greater inter-district cooperation.

A Rural Needs Study: Improving CDE Services to Rural School Districts

Pursuant to S.B. 10-191:

Educator Effectiveness -- Ensuring that all students have access to effective teachers and principals

The **State Council for Educator Effectiveness** presented its first set of recommendations to the SBE in February. The preliminary report included definitions of both teacher and principal effectiveness, and teacher and principal quality standards.

The presentation noted the importance of the “shalls” and “mays” that will be developed in order to balance local flexibility in approach with consistent statewide guidelines for measuring teacher and principal professional practice in their measurement of student growth.

The Council’s final report will be presented to the SBE in April. Following a series of public comment opportunities and hearings, the SBE will issue final rules by October. Thereafter CDE will launch an online resource bank for school districts to access in implementing their new evaluation systems. CDE will also monitor and support a number of districts’ evaluation pilots that will occur prior to full statewide implementation in 2013-14.

PowerPoint Presentation and Public Survey

(Give your input online! Survey closes on March 28th!)

Increased Awareness & Training

Building widespread knowledge and awareness about Colorado’s statewide education reform agenda among educators, community leaders and others.

Hard Lessons on the Budget

Legislators recently heard a report from the Center for Colorado’s Economic Future (CCEF) that examined the adequacy of Colorado’s tax structure. The CCEF created fiscal models spanning 2011-12 to 2024-25 that projected General Fund revenues and costs for the three largest General Fund

programs – K-12 education, Medicaid and Corrections.

While acknowledging that most of our current budget woes come from two recent economic recessions, the overall conclusion is that “a structural imbalance underlying the fiscal workings of state government will ensure that Colorado’s budget problems (will) persist for many years to come... Even a strong recovery and sustained job growth over the next decade and a half will not produce enough income and sales tax revenue to afford Colorado’s share of Medicaid funding and the state’s payment for public schools under current constitutional and statutory provisions.” The written report will be published shortly, after which they will proceed with the next phase of the project including policy recommendations.

Preliminary Study: Colorado’s Structural Imbalance Summary

A related study was recently released by the University of Colorado-Denver. One of the report’s general conclusions is that “Colorado is a wealthy state. Yet as a state we have elected to keep taxes and government spending among the lowest in the nation. Without raising revenues, it is becoming increasingly clear that we will not be able to maintain even current service levels. Soon, the citizens of Colorado will have to decide what they want from their state government and whether they are willing to pay for it.”

Study: Colorado’s Fiscal Future: We’ll Get What We Pay For

“Creativity is great -- but not in accounting.”

~ Charles Scott

Creative counting...or maybe not

SB10-008 called for an **Average Daily Membership Study**, which explored changing the School Finance Act to base funding on an average daily membership of students instead of the current single day attendance count on Oct. 1. The report includes a literature review, information about other states’ policies, input from districts and charters and data analysis of alternative measures.

An advisory committee of 15 members recommended no changes to the current system, in part because the state’s current fiscal situation would make this a bad year for any change. They did find that districts and charters now spend large amounts of time and resources on the October count, and any changes would have the most significant impact on the smaller districts. They found no research that one approach is better than another, that any change needs to be examined to see the impact on all types of districts, and that any change needs to measure its benefits against its costs. Consultants recommended that the state should:

- implement a real-time student system that “pulls” data from the districts instead of the current district reporting system
- provide common definitions
- review the verification and audit procedures
- when feasible, switch to a membership count system

Colorado Average Daily Membership Study: A Feasibility Study of Alternatives to the October 1 Student Count Method



Highlights of Recent SBE Meetings

February and March - Regular Monthly Meetings

Approved Action Items

- Innovation status for the Kit Carson School District
- Increase in educator licensing fees, effective March 1
- A total of 27 initial and renewal emergency authorizations and 2 discipline proceedings
- Waiver requests from certain statutes by Aspen School District, Brighton School District, and Harrison School District on behalf of specific charter schools
- Remanded the Loveland Classical School and Youth and Family Academy charter school proposals to Thompson and Pueblo 60 districts respectively for reconsideration
- Upheld St. Vrain School District's denial of the charter proposal submitted by the Lotus School of Excellence
- Motion asserting jurisdiction in a case involving the Prospect Ridge Academy charter school and Adams 12 Five Star Schools
- Five-year reauthorization of teacher preparation programs at Colorado College, Colorado State University at Pueblo, Fort Lewis College and Regis College

Rules (All previously adopted Rules listed by title [here.](#))

- Public hearing on proposed rules on parental notification (Hearing continues in April)
- Notice of rulemaking concerning proposed amendments to the rules for Alternative Education Campuses (Public hearing in April)
- Notice of rulemaking concerning amendments to the rules for individual career and academic plans (Public hearing in May)

Reports and Presentations

- Rural Needs Study
- Draft recommendations-State Council for Educator Effectiveness
- Shining a Light on College Remediation in Colorado
- Predicting 11th Grade Colorado ACT Performance

Resolutions

- Supporting School Improvement in Colorado School Districts
- Honoring the Contribution of Associate Commissioner Vody Hermann

Special Recognitions

- Pamela Williamson-Rybolt, Title I Distinguished Teacher
- Gina Oellig, Milken Educator Award



Commissioner Search

At the February and March meetings, the SBE met with representatives from HYA, the search firm that is assisting us to identify and hire the next commissioner. We used the results of the online public input survey and statewide interviews with constituent groups to finalize the qualities and skills the new commissioner should possess. The job was posted on the CDE website and advertised nationally on February 17th.

The SBE's commissioner search timeline is proceeding as follows:

March-April: Search firm and SBE discuss applicant screening process
 April-May SBE holds special meeting(s) to interview candidates
 May 11-12 New commissioner appointed
 July 1 New commissioner takes office

- [More on the Commissioner Search](#)
- [Colorado Statutes pertaining to the Commissioner of Education's Qualifications and Duties](#)

SBE Legislative Updates

To date, the SBE has taken positions on the following bills:

Support - SB 29 SB 61 SB 111 HB 1077 HB 1201

Oppose - SB 69 SB 80

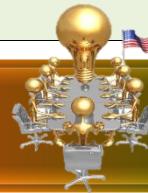
Monitor - SB 12 SB 79 HB 1053 HB 1055 HB 1089 HB 1121

[View the State Board's 2011 Legislative Priorities](#)

Next State Board Meeting

April 13-14, 9:00 am, 201 E. Colfax Ave., Denver

Click [here](#) to view the agenda, submit written comment or to listen live to the meeting.



The NASBE Nook

Niblets of News from Around the Nation

*Do other states face issues similar to ours here in Colorado? Our SBE is a long time member of the **National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)**. Here in the NASBE Nook, you can check out some recent "news niblets" at the national level and from other states.*



March Western States Alert



U.S. Senate Position Paper -- A Call for Urgency: Statement of Principles to fix the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

Federal Shutdown Avoided, but Education Programs Eliminated
 Congress passed, and Pres. Obama signed a temporary spending measure or continuing resolution (CR) that keeps the federal government operating, but only through March 18. It cuts \$4 billion in spending from the current fiscal year and it eliminates several education programs to do so.

On March 10, Education Secretary Duncan testified before the House Education and Workforce Committee concerning the President's 2012 education budget proposal. It emphasizes investments and increases to certain federal education programs, including Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The plan consolidates 38 K-12 programs into 11 programs. The President's proposal also provides for another round of Race to the Top funding for school districts only, with rural school districts being able to compete against each other. More information about the committee hearing can be found [here](#). More information about the President's FY2012 education budget proposal can be found [here](#).

Bullying is a National Issue

Recently, President and Mrs. Obama hosted a national conference and produced a [video](#) concerning bullying. Additional materials [here](#).



CAP4K Corner

Latest links for learning and leading!

Featured
this
month

Assessment System
College Remediation Study
Educator Effectiveness
Expanded Learning Opportunities
EAGLE-Net

- State Board Home Page
- CDE Home Page
- Forward Thinking Plan
- Colorado State Library
- Colorado Content Standards
- Accountability System
- College In Colorado
- Colorado Department of Higher Education
- EdNews Parent Colorado

Always
Updated

Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment

- Senate Bill 08-212 (Preschool to Postsecondary Education Alignment Act) - Bill Summary and more
- Adopted Description: Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness (PWR)
- Adopted Description: School Readiness
- Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)
- Concurrent Enrollment
- Dropout Prevention and Student Re-engagement

Ideas, Resources, Partners

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Adams 12 Five Star Schools | Boulder Valley Public Schools |
| Adams 14 | Brighton School District 27J |
| Parent Involvement
Resources | Eagle County Schools |
| Adams District 50 | Jefferson County Schools |
| Standards-Based Education
Adams District 50 Foundation | Strategic Compensation
Project |
| Aurora Public Schools | St. Vrain Valley Schools |
| Vista PEAK Campus | |
- Adams County Education Consortium**
School and Community Health and Wellness Initiatives
- Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT)**
- Colorado Legacy Foundation**
2009 Health & Wellness Best Practices Guide
Improving Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness
Colorado Legacy Schools Initiative
- American School Counselor Association**
- National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)**
- Natl. Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)**
- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)**

SchoolView.org 2.0



Connections Corner

Congregate, communicate, collaborate
and celebrate!

Counseling, College and Creativity!

March 25: 6th Annual Pre-collegiate Conference

8:30 am-3:30 pm

Tivoli Center, Auraria Campus, Denver

[Details and more information](#)

March 25: Registration Deadline - 3rd Annual "We Are People" Youth Conference

Metropolitan State College of Denver, North Class Room 1130

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Colorado Holiday Commission invites high school and middle school students from Colorado's public, private and charter schools to participate in an all-day educational conference on **Saturday, April 2, 2011**. This conference will include several educational seminars along with job, career, college and scholarship fairs all in one place! Since this is an all-day conference, breakfast and lunch will be served.

Contact Alton Clark at clarka@mscd.edu for registration instructions and more information.

March 31: Entry Deadline - Counseling Center Makeover Contest

College In Colorado is back with the Second Annual Counseling Center Makeover! Enter your school's counseling center for a face lift completed by the College In Colorado staff. **Apply today** for your chance to win!

April 8: College Friday

Help raise awareness about the importance of higher education for Colorado's youth and wear your favorite college logo apparel.

Get ideas on how your school or organization may participate and support students.

Contact Bridget.Black@cic.state.co.us for more information!

- Scholarships, Scholarships, Scholarships!
- Report: Career and Technical Education

April 11

Deadline - Congressional District 7 Art Show

Attention, Art teachers! We hope you'll encourage your art students to participate in the 2011 Congressional Art Show to be held in April. All participating teachers will be sent a registration form and guidelines as well as the template for labels. This template must be filled out and emailed back to Cong. Ed Perlmutter's office no later than **April 11, 2011**. It is important that students label their art work appropriately so that the installation process runs smoothly.

For further information about participating, email **Hannah Mullen**, Congressional Aide for Cong. Perlmutter, or call 303-274-7944.



March for Arts in Education!

Get ideas at

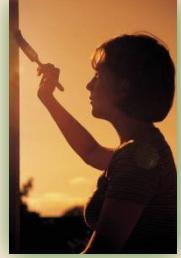
www.think360arts.org



Catch Up Corner

Creating Colorado's Success!

- **Greeley Central, Greeley West, Northridge, Platte Valley and Jefferson high schools** showed their best at the District 6 art show opening at the Tointon Gallery in Greeley. Mediums included photography, drawing, water color, sculpture, and graphic design and multimedia.
- Several Jeffco students were named winners of the [Walk More Softly](#) competition at the recent *Colorado Creative Careers Festival*. **Green Mountain High School** was honored in the photography division, **Pomona High School** in graphic design and **Warren Tech** in film/video. Hats off to arts advocate Gully Stanford for his efforts to launch this groundbreaking program in Colorado!
- **Steamboat Springs High School** students and their Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) program were recently front page news! Click [here](#) to read what they think of the chance to start planning now for life after high school.
- **Matthew Prythero**, a junior at Ralston Valley High School has received the 2011 Arvada Young Professional Rising Star Award.



B.F. Kitchen Elementary School (Thompson School District) is the first school in Colorado to receive an award from the Healthier US School Challenge, a USDA initiative. The school received the Gold Award of Distinction, the top award in the challenge with a monetary incentive of \$2,000. The challenge acknowledges a school's commitment to the health and well-being of students. Read how B.F. Kitchen does it [here](#).

Dr. Heidi Pace, has been selected as the next Superintendent of the Summit School District. Dr. Pace is currently Deputy Superintendent in Academy District 20, Colorado Springs.

Thank You to...

- Ms. Spencer and her 8th grade class at the **Aurora Academy** for hosting Jane in celebration of Read Across America.
- **Colorado Association of School Boards** and the **Colorado League of Charter Schools** for hosting SBE members Goff, Lundeen, Neal, Schroeder and Scheffel at their recent conferences.

Calendar Corner

March 2011

Items in bold are open to the public.

General State Board

Jane

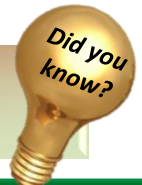
Angelika

- 2 Competency-based Education Policy Discussion with Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia
- 9-10 Regular SBE Meeting, 9:00 am, CDE, 201 East Colfax, Denver
- 9 Educator Effectiveness Stakeholder Meeting, 5:30 pm, Jeffco Education Center, Golden
- 22 Donnell-Kay/Colorado Succeeds Educator Evaluation Session with Ted Hershberg
- 26-30 NASBE Board meeting, Government Affairs Committee, Enhancing the Educator Profession Study Group, and Joint NASBE/CCSSO Legislative Conference

- 1 Meeting with Cong. Perlmutter's education policy staff
- 7 **Speaker:** Colorado Christian University Educator Preparation Reauthorization Kick-off
- 16 Adams County Education Consortium
- 23 CD 7 Education Advisory Council
- 25 **Panel Moderator:** ICAP Implementation, 2011 Pre-collegiate Conference, Auraria

- 1 Launch of Junior Achievement's *Igniting the American Spirit* financial literacy program
- 11 Donnell-Kay Lunch session with Andrés Alonso, Baltimore Schools superintendent
- 16 Boulder Valley Schools Impact Awards Dinner
- 18-19 CASB Board Meetings
- 24 Quality Teacher Commission

Fewer American children have access to arts education, whether at school or elsewhere, according to a [new analysis](#) of federal data issued by the National Endowment for the Arts.



View this newsletter and previous issues at www.Goff4Education.org



The State Board of Education is composed of seven elected officials representing Colorado's congressional districts. Board members serve without pay for six-year terms.

Read State Board member profiles [here](#).

To contact any member of the Board, email state.board@cde.co.us.

Feel free to forward the *Board Notes* to others! If you no longer wish to receive future issues, send an email to [Jane Goff](#).