November 18, 2026

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

Today, we are sharing the following updates:

- CDE Guidance for Proposition 134
- Updates on Educator Licensure Fees - Taking Effect Jan. 2027
- Apply to Participate in the Read.Learn.Lead. Summer Book Fair
- Applications for Colorado's District Contract Accelerator Open
- AI for Literacy Learning Cohort
- ESSA State Plan Amendment 30-Day Public Comment Notice

CDE Guidance for Proposition 134

Please click here to view the guidance that we have developed for Proposition 134 which was recently passed into law.

Updates on Educator Licensure Fees - Taking Effect Jan. 2027

During its November meeting, the State Board of Education approved an increase in educator licensure fees that will take effect in January. Under the new fee structure, the standard application fee for initial licenses and renewals will increase from $90 to $115, effective January 2027. The fee for substitute authorizations will increase from $60 to $90. The changes also simplify the fee structure and allow for future annual adjustments based on Colorado's TABOR growth rate. Our news release about the November board meeting is available on our website.

Apply to Participate in the Read.Learn.Lead. Summer Book Fair

We are launching a new initiative as part of our Read.Learn.Lead. literacy campaign: the Read.Learn.Lead. Summer Book Fair. Students in participating schools will take home a collection of 10-14 books (for free) aligned with their interests to read during the summer and keep! This is a three-year program open to students in 1st and 2nd grade this year. Research on this optional, no-cost program has shown participating schools increasing student reading achievement on state tests by approximately 35-40% of a grade-level by 4th-5th grade.

- ***Interested in participating?*** Let us know! Because this is a research project, some schools will be randomly selected to participate and others will be identified as

control group schools. We are also hosting information sessions on Nov. 23 at 2:30 p.m. or Dec. 8 at 10:15 a.m.

Applications for Colorado's District Contract Accelerator Open

We are partnering with The Center for Outcomes Based Contracting to launch a two-year pilot with five Colorado school districts focused on outcomes based contracting (OBC) to improve student outcomes with high-impact tutoring or edtech instructional interventions. Districts will receive support (at no cost) to implement OBC, which ties at least 40% of provider payments to measurable student outcomes. The application is open through Dec. 31; cohort launching in January. We are hosting information sessions on Thursday, Dec. 3 at 10 a.m. and Friday, Dec. 11 at noon.

AI for Literacy Learning Cohort

We are working with InnovateUS's Observatory of Public Sector AI on a two-year initiative to help literacy educators use artificial intelligence (AI) to reduce planning and administrative burdens while strengthening evidence-based literacy instruction. You can click here for more information, a set of frequently asked questions, and our interest form.

ESSA State Plan Amendment 30-Day Public Comment Notice

We are proposing an amendment to Colorado's ESSA State Plan to pause Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CS) school identifications until 2029. This pause would allow CDE to work with stakeholders to develop a more equitable identification methodology, particularly for Alternative Education Campuses (AECs), which have been disproportionately identified. Schools will continue to be identified for support through state accountability frameworks and annual federal Targeted Support and Improvement identifications. **Public comment is open through December 12.** Please review the proposal on CDE's ESSA State Plan website, submit feedback, and share with interested colleagues.

Warm regards,

Susana Córdova