



The Jared Polis Education Report

•• Fall 2002 ••



A Personal Welcome

Greetings Coloradoans! We appreciate receiving so many responses to our Spring 2002 Education Report survey. Thank you! Your comments and feedback remain vital to the content and distribution of the Reports. In this issue, we included our popular legislation updates and a new, expanded "Innovations in Education" section. For education information and survey results, please visit our website www.jaredpolisfoundation.org.

Jared Polis

Member At Large, State Board of Education

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"The task of the excellent teacher is to stimulate 'apparently ordinary' people to unusual effort. The tough problem is not in identifying winners: it is in making winners out of ordinary people."

-K. Patricia Cross



FEDERAL EDUCATION LEGISLATION UPDATE



In the last Education Report, we provided information about the new federal education legislation, the “No Child Left Behind Act.” As we reported, this bill will give Colorado new federal resources and greater spending flexibility in exchange for increased accountability and improved student achievement.

The Colorado Department of Education has submitted the preliminary state plan for Colorado. This plan can be viewed on the Internet at: www.jaredpolisfoundation.org/plan. Over the next year, our state will be working to improve the preliminary plan and tackle tough issues such as how to get all our teachers

“highly qualified” by the 2005-2006 school year, how to determine the Adequate Yearly Progress of our schools and different sub-groups of students, and how to ensure our schools are safe and healthy places to learn.

The Colorado Department of Education is currently developing a process by which working groups of individuals across the state can provide feedback on key issues involved with the federal plan.

For more information about Colorado’s state plan, please contact the Colorado Department of Education at 303-866-6806.



First Year Accreditation Results Reported



The Colorado Department of Education reviewed all of Colorado’s 178 school districts this past year. The State Board of Education granted “accreditation” to all of them, and only one school district was put on “accreditation watch” this year.

Accreditation means the district is meeting state laws and making progress towards helping each student learn every year. Visit our website (www.jaredpolisfoundation.org/accreditation) for a list of the performance indicators that determine accreditation.

Accredited districts have a six-year contract with the state that is reviewed annually.

Unlike the Student Accountability Reports (SARs) that are sent to parents every fall, the accreditation process uses more than just CSAP scores to monitor schools and school district achievement. The accreditation process seeks to look at the whole picture within a district to determine the health and

success of the schools. The purpose of the accreditation rules are to:

- Make sure that schools are teaching all subject areas and meeting the needs of all students;
- Provide a process for the State Board of Education to fulfill its constitutional responsibility for the general supervision of Colorado’s public schools;
- Encourage excellence by assessing student performance in relation to state standards and assessments;
- Help all Colorado schools and school districts improve academic achievement and provide students with a safe and civil learning environment;
- Ensure equal access to educational opportunities for every student in the state;
- Support local efforts to reform and restructure public education;
- Promote high standards, equal access, and educational opportunities for all students’ academic growth; and
- Develop and maintain a school and community partnership for the ongoing improvement of public education.





Innovations In Education

Schools, corporations, and individuals around Colorado are creating exciting programs to help students achieve. Read on to learn about the latest innovations!

CO Reading Link: Receives Lightspan “Academic Excellence Award.”

Check out the “Reading Tips for Parents” link developed by the Colorado State Library. You can visit the site at: www.jaredpolisfoundation.org/readingtips. The link provides reading tips for kids 0-6 years of age, and is available in English and Spanish.

Legacy 2000: A rigorous academic program for students who have a strong interest in science, math, and technology.

Legacy 2000 is a four-year academic program at Legacy High School in Broomfield. The program’s mission is to prepare students to enter college with better understanding of their future careers and plans for achieving the necessary training. Legacy 2000 seniors will be working in an internship capacity with various companies and individuals in the community. Students involved in Legacy 2000 are also expected to share ideas through written, oral, and technological presentations.

Contact Kevin Hammerly at 720-972-6700 or Kevin.Hammerly@adams12.org for more information.

Eagle County “TAP”:

The Eagle School District is in the process of implementing the Milken Family Foundation’s Teacher Advancement Program (TAP), which applies merit-based pay increases to teachers. This program seeks to provide students with high-caliber teachers by focusing on professional development and creating “master teacher” and “mentor teacher” pay levels.

For more information about the TAP program, please visit the web site at www.mff.org.

Cesar Chavez Charter School:

Attaining Excellence in Education

The Cesar Chavez Charter School in the Pueblo 60 District received outstanding scores on its 3rd grade CSAP reading scores. Eighty-five percent of the students

scored proficient or advanced, with none falling into the unsatisfactory category.

Congratulations to the students and staff at Cesar Chavez for their excellent achievement.

If you’d like to find out more about the school, you can visit their web site at www.cesarchavezacademy.org.

IBM Colorado E-Mentor Program:

Three hundred and twenty IBM employees teamed up with Colorado fourth and fifth grade students this past school year to promote math, science, and technology. IBM also supplements the mentorship program by providing classroom computers. Nearly 71 schools were included in this year’s program, reaching 3,200 students. Thanks, IBM!

For more information about the IBM Colorado E-Mentor Program, contact Dan Willis, 6300 Diagonal Highway, Boulder, CO 80301. 🍷



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The focus of the Jared Polis Foundation is to promote technology, community, and education in Colorado. The Foundation currently supports three major programs. The Education Station offers the latest technology on a traveling school bus, where students learn a standards-based curriculum. To date, we have reached thousands of K-12 students in Colorado, with the intentions of tripling our out-

reach by adding two new buses in January 2003. Technology for All - Colorado has refurbished and redeployed over 1500 donated computers since June 2000 for education and training in underserved neighborhoods. In addition, the Foundation funds the Jared Polis Education Report to keep citizens informed about what is happening in Colorado’s K-12 education environment.



Legislative Round-Up

The 2002 legislative session passed several bills that affected education. Despite the state budget shortfall, education funding was largely protected, thanks to Amendment 23. However, because of continued budget shortfalls into late May, Governor Owens ordered a round of spending cuts. Those cuts affected state library programs and eliminated \$1.7 million in professional development monies for teachers.

Below is a synopsis of the major legislative items that became law this year:

School Finance Bill Highlights

(Representative King/Senator Thiebaut)

Highlights:

- Funding: Increases statewide base funding per pupil to \$4,441.
- Increased Enrollment: Provides increased funding for districts with rapidly increasing enrollments.
- Online Programs: Allows state funding for up to 135 new pupils per year. New pupils are those who were not enrolled in a public school on October 1st of the previous year.
- Online Study: Provides \$20,000 for a study of online programs. Outlines standards for the study.
- Preschool Program: Adds 1,000 new slots with 500 of those slots to be allocated to full-day kindergarten (\$2.9 million). This raises the number of preschool slots to 11,050 for the 2002-2003 school year.
- Academic Growth Pilot: Creates a pilot program to determine individual students' growth measures. The program is voluntary until 2005-2006, after which all districts must participate. The State Board of Education is to establish categories for determining academic growth.
- School Breakfast Program: Gives \$500,000 for a School Breakfast Program for low and unsatisfactory schools.

- Summer School Grant Program: Provides \$500,000 to fund a grant program for facility schools to provide summer school.

Accountability for Alternative Schools

(Senator Anderson)

Mandates that the State Board of Education establish criteria that allow alternative schools to receive an Academic Performance Rating, or exempt them from needing one.

CSAP Assessment Diagnostic Results

(Senator Matsunaka)

Requires the Department of Education to ensure that CSAP tests are designed to generate results that may be used as problem-solving tools to improve student performance. Also requires that the CSAP task force recommendations be included in the final legislative report.

Assessments of Students Whose Dominant Language Is Not English

(Senator Pascoe)

Requires the Department of Education to establish one instrument for districts to use in assessing the English Language Test. Also requires the addition of a 3rd grade Spanish writing assessment, if money becomes available.

Family Literacy Grant Program

(Representative Coleman)

Establishes a program to make grants to organizations that provide family literacy services. Program shall be funded by gifts, grants, and donations.

Principal Licensure Program

(Senator Evans)

Requires the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and the State Board of Education to establish requirements for principal training programs on or before July 1, 2003. Requires that these programs be reviewed and that performance-based professional standards be adopted. 🍷

