

July 20, 2010



## CASE gears up for 41st Annual Convention

**July 26-27, 2010 – Pre-Convention Sessions**  
**July 28-30, 2010 – CASE Convention**

With the 41st Annual CASE Convention only about one week away, preparations are in full swing. The CASE team is enthusiastic about what promises to be another outstanding program that many of our members look forward to and attend every year.

Our registration numbers are strong, and the exemplary speakers and nearly 90 breakout sessions have helped create lots of buzz about and interest in this event. Both sponsorship and exhibitor revenue are at record high levels, which we're particularly pleased about given the challenging economic environment that we currently face. Accommodations at Beaver Run Resort are moving fast and only a limited number of rooms are still available, but rooms are still available at The Great Divide Lodge. If you haven't already booked your room, we encourage you to do so quickly!

CASE Director of Professional Development Mary McNeil has created a Convention program that will engage you and maximize your learning opportunities. "We have been purposeful in designing a Convention agenda that will meet the needs of all Colorado school administrators," she said. "In addition to breakout strands based on job type, we also have three nationally-renowned keynote speakers and five distinguished speaker presentations. And of course, we know that some of the most important connections are made informally, so we've built in lots of time for professional networking and collegial conversation."

Among our special Convention guest speakers are Governor Bill Ritter, State Treasurer Cary Kennedy, and Commissioner of Education Dwight Jones. In addition, CASE Deputy Executive Director Bruce Caughey has put together an information-packed legislative and policy program that will provide an overview of the most critical bills from the 2010 session, as well as a look ahead to the upcoming November election.

We don't want you to miss out on the most essential professional development event of the summer! Click [here](#) to register online or you can call us at (303)762-8762.

### Pre-Convention sessions enhance learning

CASE is very pleased to offer six pre-Convention sessions this year (separate registration is required). In addition to the New Superintendents Orientation and Supervision and Evaluation sessions, we encourage you to consider attending the:

#### **New Model Content Standards Implementation Session**

*July 27, 2010: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm*

Fee: \$155 (CASE members); \$195 (non-CASE members)\*

You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn and apply key principles that will help ensure the successful implementation of Colorado's new model content standards. Facilitated by CDE staff in the Offices of Teaching and Learning and Standards and Assessment, this session will provide plenty of opportunity for discussion around how best to approach 21st Century standards implementation and curriculum design.

*\*Registration fee includes the P-20 Alignment afternoon session, the Rural Educators Conversation, continental breakfast, a working lunch, beverage break, and an invitation to the evening Networking Reception with hosted appetizers and cash bar.*

### **P-20 Alignment Sessions**

*July 27, 2010: Morning session, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Afternoon session, 12:45 pm to 2:15 pm.*

Fee: \$195 for morning session (CASE members and non-members).\* \$35 for afternoon session only (CASE members and non-members).\*\*

The Higher Education Association of the Rockies (HEAR) is holding a morning session in lieu of its annual conference that's geared towards higher education representatives. This session will focus on the latest higher education issues and trends.

In the afternoon, the conversation will continue but be broadened to include K-12 leaders. Among other topics, we'll have a discussion about how best to align our education system and what that might mean in light of the current reform efforts. This session affords a great opportunity to make connections with your higher education colleagues in Colorado.

*\*Registration fee includes both the P-20 Alignment morning and afternoon sessions, the Rural Educators Conversation, continental breakfast, a working lunch, beverage break, and an invitation to the evening Networking Reception with hosted appetizers and cash bar.*

*\*\*Registration fee includes a beverage break and an invitation to the evening Networking Reception with hosted appetizers and cash bar.*

### **Rural Educators Conversation**

*July 27, 2010: 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm*

Fee: \$15 (CASE Members); \$35 (non-CASE members)\*

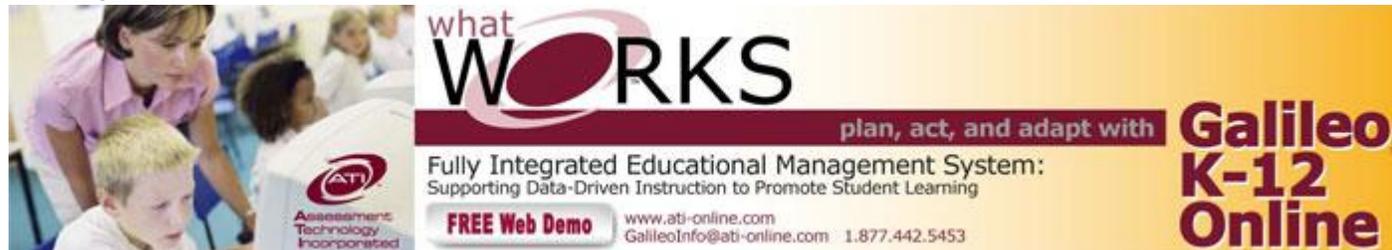
Join other rural school leaders to delve into critical issues like the impact of the shift from formula to competitive grants, providing differentiated instruction regardless of enrollment numbers, and what schools need to know to meet state mandates on standards, assessments and more. This is a crucial session to problem-solve and strategize about how to navigate the challenges unique to rural school districts.

*\*Registration fee includes a beverage break and invitation to the evening Networking Reception with hosted appetizers and a cash bar.*

Click [here](#) to register or e-mail Sarah Shorey at [sshorey@co-case.org](mailto:sshorey@co-case.org).

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# 2010-11 CASE membership numbers are strong

Membership renewal for the 2010-11 year is well underway, and we currently have a larger number of renewed members than we did at this time last year. In this difficult economic time, you've never needed your professional association more. We're proud to offer outstanding professional development events, legislative and advocacy services, and networking opportunities that will help you build your professional contacts.

If you haven't already renewed, just email Sarah Shorey at [sshorey@co-case.org](mailto:sshorey@co-case.org) and say "Please renew" in the subject line. Or if your profile information has changed, just visit [www.co-case.org](http://www.co-case.org) or call us at (303)762-8762. You can also join or renew membership with your national association (AASA, NASSP, NAESP, or CoSN) at the same time as your renew with CASE. It's easy!

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## **cde** CDE requests CASE member input

*CASE received the below message from CDE and requested that we share it with our membership.*

The process for considering how the National Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics enrich Colorado's Academic Standards is underway. By engaging in this review process, the State Board of Education will determine if Colorado will support adaptations that enhance the Colorado Academic Standards, and adopt the Common Core State Standards.

In early June, the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers released the nation's first Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts (available at [www.CoreStandards.org](http://www.CoreStandards.org)). Following this release, CDE engaged a third-party reviewer to conduct a line-by-line technical crosswalk analysis and propose ways to enrich the Colorado Academic Standards with content from the Common Core State Standards. Members of the Colorado Academic Standards subcommittees met in July to respond to this analysis and recommend minor modifications to Colorado's Academic Standards. Now a public survey is ready to collect feedback from the public in this important initiative.

The Colorado Academic Standards Gap Analysis with the Common Core is live and is now ready for public feedback. The feedback window is from July 16-28. The analysis documents and link to provide feedback can be found at [http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/CAS\\_CCSSI\\_Gap\\_Analysis.html](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/CAS_CCSSI_Gap_Analysis.html).

The remaining timeline for considering enrichment from the Common Core State Standards is as follows:

- July 21: SBE discusses third-party recommendations via Web-conference.
- August 2: Commissioner Jones makes a recommendation to the SBE on whether or not Colorado adopts the Common Core.
- August 2: SBE considers adoption of the Common Core.
- August 11: Commissioner Jones makes a recommendation to the SBE on whether or not to amendments to Colorado Academic Standards based on enrichments provided by the Common Core.
- August 11: SBE considers amendments to Colorado Academic Standards based on enrichments provided by the Common Core.

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# Parental Involvement Council opening

2009 state legislation created the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE). This 20-member council is charged with recommending best practices to policymakers and educators about how to increase parental involvement in public education. There is an opening on the council for a school administrator; if you are interested or would like additional information, please contact Melissa Gibson at [mgibson@co-case.org](mailto:mgibson@co-case.org).

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## Webinar on SB 163 and accreditation

CDE is offering a free webinar for superintendents and BOCES Directors this Wednesday, July 21, from 9am to 10am on Senate Bill 163 and accreditation. Participants will learn about updates on the school and district performance frameworks and how to use local flexibility in school accreditation.

To participate in this webinar, please follow these steps:

- When you are ready to join the webinar, visit <http://connect.cboces.org/accreditation>.
- When prompted, enter the phone number from which you would like to join the call.
- Wait for the online system to call the phone number you have entered.

NOTE: The phone audio bridge will not work if you are at a location that requires an extension to reach you. If this is the case, please call 866-498-5411 to join the audio portion of the meeting.

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## News and Notes

### Illinois Cancels Most Writing Tests

A story in the 7/17 *Chicago Tribune* announces that Illinois is eliminating their statewide writing assessment due to budget issues. In late June, the State Board of Education voted to “eliminate the writing exam given to students in grades three, five, six and eight for the 2010-11 school year.” Because of higher education admission requirements, eleventh graders will still take the test. Illinois education officials estimate that this move will save the state about \$3.5 million per year. To read the full article, click [here](#).

### Some California Districts Shortening School Year to Cut Back on Spending

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported on 7/19 that over half of California’s largest school districts are shortening the school year in response to budget shortages. “16 of the 30 state’s largest school districts...are reducing the number of days in the academic year” in a move that’s anticipated to impact about 1.4 million students. The article states that some

districts will cut up to 5 school days and in many cases, will realize a cost savings of millions of dollars. However, there is acknowledgement that this reduction in learning time will likely negatively affect students, particularly in light of recent increases to class size and program cuts. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

## Despite Furloughs, Student Scores Up

Statewide student assessment scores improved this last year in Hawaii, even in the face of over 15 furlough days that resulted in school closures. Data indicates that “public school student test scores went up this past year in every category except one” according to a news report. Some believe that this is attributable to teachers doubling their efforts with students in order to make up for the days that school was closed. Though education officials praised teachers, some parents expressed concern that teachers spent “more time cramming for (the tests)” at the expense of other things. Click [here](#) to read the full article. (Source: KITV.com, 7/15/10)

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*Please do not reply to this message. Questions? Contact Melissa Gibson at [mgibson@co-case.org](mailto:mgibson@co-case.org).*