1. **A+dvancer: College Readiness Online, a Solution to No Child Left Behind**  
   Deborah Anderson, Director, Testing Center, Front Range Community College - Larimer Campus; Kathy Frank, Retired Principal, Vanderhoof, Jefferson County District R-1

   Colorado high schools are trying to find answers to the Colorado paradox and how to better prepare students for the world of work and college readiness upon graduation. Participants will learn about the A+dvancer software. This program provides the high school instructors in math and English a way to diagnose a student’s proficiencies and then assigns coursework aligned with the assessment. Front Range Community College is using A+dvancer to assist students whose placement test scores fall just below the college level to remediate without the cost and time of taking a full semester developmental course. This software is also used in tutorial labs, independently by students, and as a pre-test for the Accuplacer assessment. Accuplacer is the statewide placement test for all community colleges in Colorado.

2. **Using Action Research to Close the Achievement Gap**  
   Dr. Elliott Asp, Assistant Superintendent, Cherry Creek District 5

   This session will focus on the work of Cherry Creek District’s CARE Cadre (Collaborative Action Research for Equity). The purpose of CARE is to train teachers to

   - Understand the impact of race on teacher behavior and attitudes
   - Develop culturally responsive lessons
   - Use action research to determine teacher effectiveness in increasing the performance of students of color

   Participants will explore the components of culturally responsive instruction; examine samples of lessons, teacher reflection pieces, and student data; and identify the school and district structures necessary to support this work.

3. **Performance Pay: What Do You Mean, You’re Holding Me Accountable?**  
   John Brendza, Superintendent; Karen Strakbein, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services; Trisha Theelke, Director of Human Resources, Eagle County District RE-50

   In 2001, Eagle County Schools passed a bond initiative that generated $3.1 million annually to provide a cost of living increase for all employee groups. A determining factor in the
success of the election was the district commitment to a pay for performance plan that holds teachers and administrators accountable for student success. Through the process of developing the plan, the district realized the opportunity to create a comprehensive reform model that emphasized performance pay as well as collaboration and coaching for teachers. This presentation will explore how Eagle County Schools has completely changed the way business is done, including the elimination of the lock step salary schedule and the implementation of a performance pay model for all employee groups.

4. **Formative Assessment: One Size Does Not Fit All**
Gail Carpenter, Senior Evaluation Consultant; Paula Brown, Evaluation Consultant, CTB/McGraw-Hill; Karen Trusler, Principal, Grandview Elementary School, Windsor District RE-4; John Brainard, Director of Assessment and Research, Pueblo City District 60; Dave Thomas, Director of Assessment, Colorado Springs District 11

A comprehensive formative assessment system is quickly becoming a necessity for Colorado districts. Formative assessments can monitor student progress toward proficiency; track growth; reveal strengths and weaknesses; prescribe instruction; and provide consistent, reliable data for classroom teachers. In this session, three districts will share their differing formative assessment models. District representatives will discuss how they decided on what their formative assessment system should look like, what tools were needed and where, the purpose for those tools, and the results they get from their formative programs. CTB/McGraw-Hill will host the panel discussion and preview its formative assessment tools, including its newest online formative system — Acuity.

5. **The Emotionally Intelligent Child: Strategies for Helping Students Grow**
Carol Carter, President, LifeBound LLC; Allison Layland, Principal Consultant, Colorado Department of Education

This interactive session will provide strategies for school executives at all grade levels to help students and their families understand the important connection between emotional intelligence and academic learning — as well as success in school, career, and life. Look for research-based advice on helping students to overcome emotional and social hurdles with the goal of helping them to become strong individuals and future leaders. Presenters will focus on transition points applicable for the mild to moderate population, which could be used as part of their transition planning and services required under IDEA 04. Coaching techniques and managerial skills that promote
emotional intelligence will be offered to help executives get the most out of their students and their faculty. Attendees will leave with the essential ingredients for infusing emotional intelligence into their own lives, as well as those in their school communities.

6. Bond and Override Elections: Kicking It Up a Notch — Department of Business Officials Session
Terry Casey and Rudy Andras, RBC Dain Rauscher

An analysis of election results from 1995 through 2005 looks at district demographics, property tax base and levy rate changes, enrollment history, and other factors in order to find what matters most when you ask voters to build or repair school facilities. Learn how well constructed voter surveys help enhance the bond election success recipe. Add this information to your election planning and “BAM - You've Kicked It Up a Notch.”

7. CDE's New Initiatives for Colorado Educators
Dorothy Gotlieb, Deputy Commissioner; Jett Conner, Consultant, Colorado Department of Education

The Colorado Department of Education has been working to provide new information and services for Colorado educators through its Web site. Come to this interactive workshop to learn about these new initiatives as CDE develops and refines them. Topics include
- Attraction to the Profession
- Pre-Service Experience
- Induction/Mentoring
- Ongoing Professional Development
- Educator Evaluation
- Career Incentives and Career Advancement

This workshop will explore what CDE has started to do on its Web site with some of these topics and will encourage participants to provide feedback and ideas to help CDE finish developing its Web site information. The workshop will cover the background for each topic and solicit participants' concerns, questions, and needs.
John Gatto, former Superintendent, Weldon Valley RE-20(J); Ted Hughes, Senior Consultant, Colorado Construction Grants, Colorado Department of Education

Participants will learn about CDE grant assistance programs for school districts of varied fiscal abilities, as well as the process for applying for grant assistance. A former superintendent, will share one small school district’s success story in completing a new junior/senior high school academic building and planning for a total district facility upgrade with grant assistance. Participants will also learn about Colorado’s progress in meeting the state’s facility needs compared with three neighboring states.

9. Using ACT Data to Improve Curriculum and Student Achievement
Ben Hix, Director, ACT, Inc.; Stan Hesting, Assistant Superintendent, Adams 12 Five Star Schools

Learn how to use ACT predictor scores to improve student achievement. This session will describe the process used by a Colorado district, its success, and the tools and strategies that can be implemented as a school improvement process.

10. Building Bigger and Better Sandcastles: The Professional Learning Community within Educational Administration
Dr. Ken Ladouceur, Superintendent, Gilpin County RE-1; Dr. Brent Kay, Superintendent, Orange Southwest Supervisory Union, Randolph, Vermont

The presentation is based on the premise that senior administrators want to bring high-performing group process to the culture of their organizations. The term “learning community” has become ubiquitous in today’s education lexicon — often encouraging colleagues to seek, share, and act on what they have learned. It can be a powerful staff development approach, as well as a potent strategy for school change and improvement. Case studies will be used to demonstrate key elements identified as important in the establishment of the synergistic learning community, as well as to provide counsel on the leadership challenge of group dynamics. Relational leadership and the place of higher order relationships within the learning community will be explored.
11. Teaching Math in the 21st Century  
Brigham Leane, Teacher, Palisade High School, Mesa County Valley District 51

Why purchase new technology when existing software can be used in simple ways that you haven’t seen before? PowerPoint is a tool available to teachers, yet few use it effectively beyond presentations. Research suggests students learn best when concepts are reinforced through hearing, seeing, and doing. You will see effective ways to weave these learning modalities together to improve and continuously assess student achievement, as well as improve classroom organization and management. (This class is not about the bells and whistles of PowerPoint.)

12. Why Not the Best?  
Rosanne Liesveld, Vice President, The Gallup Organization; Jeanne Gilbert, Director of Human Resources, Cherry Creek District 5; Jack Kronser, Director of Human Resources, Douglas County RE 1

Finding, recruiting, and hiring the very best teachers can be a daunting task. High stakes demands of CSAP, NCLB, and all the other acronyms associated with education in Colorado requires school districts to do everything possible to find talented and dedicated teachers. The Douglas County and Cherry Creek School Districts are using Gallup’s Teacher Insight to help them to do just that. Learn the secrets of finding the very best staff.

13. RTI: A Systemic Approach to Meeting the Needs of All Learners  
Candy Myers, Principal Consultant, Colorado Department of Education; Jim Welte, Principal, Aragon Elementary School; Dr. Montina Romero, School Psychologist, Fountain District 8

Learn about a Response to Intervention statewide framework, highlighting district-level action steps and an individual school’s implementation, including results. This session will address the essential components, benefits, and implementation challenges of RTI approach to meeting the educational needs of all students, as well as its alignment with NCLB, IDEA, CBLA, Reading First, Professional Learning Communities, School-wide Positive Behavior Support Systems, etc. Participants will receive the “Indicators of School Readiness for RTI: A Self-Assessment Tool.” This tool is intended to assist schools in gauging their levels of implementation and in determining priorities around five broad indicators.
Jared Polis, Vice Chairman, Colorado State Board of Education; Scott Mendelsberg, Director, GEAR UP, Colorado Commission on Higher Education; Damon Brown, Director of Information and Technology Services, Mapleton School District; Scott Groginsky, Policy Director, Office of Jared Polis

The phrase “high school reform” is often used but seldom explained. Learn what high school reform means, how it is relevant for school districts, and what state policymakers are doing about it. The session will cover critical elements of high school redesign in the areas of school structures, English language proficiency, college access, and increasing achievement for minority and poor students. Presenters will describe specific examples, including how several school districts have successfully implemented reform strategies.

15. Using Data to Drive System Improvement — Accountability in Action
Peg Portscheller, Chief Learning Officer; Laura Besser, Professional Development Associate, Center for Performance Assessment

Using Doug Reeves’ Accountability in Action as a guide, participants will begin to see how the use of data and data teams, along with the clear identification of system and building indicators, can provide the basis for improved, sustained student achievement, not simply the increasing of student test scores. Participants will have the opportunity to view successful accountability/improvement plans as well as learning the tools to begin implementing data teams in their home sites complete with hands on, useable templates.

16. Pushing the Tough Conversation: Critical Friends and Equity
Stevi Quate, Co-director; Marjorie Lanner, Independent Consultant; Co-director; Dave Schmid, Independent Consultant, Colorado Critical Friends Group, University of Colorado at Denver; Theress Pidick, Director of Professional Development, Denver District 1; Scott Murphy, Director of English and Social Studies, Jefferson County District R-1

Student achievement data continues to reveal the achievement gap and points to the moral imperative that issues of equity must be faced. A critical friends group (CFG) provides one means to attend to the tough conversations about equity. In this interactive session, participants will join a CFG to experience the power of collaboration as a way of examining our beliefs and actions by addressing these questions:
How can the tools and practices of a CFG nurture the ability of educators to recognize the gaps between their beliefs and their practices?

How does a CFG support educators in bridging those gaps?

17. Colorado School Finance: It's Not OK!
Tracie Rainey, Director, Colorado School Finance Project; Kathy Gebhardt, Executive Director, Children's Voices; and Lisa Weil, Co-founder, Great Education Colorado

Colorado occupies the national cellar in funding our schools. We have become used to budget cuts and shrinking programs. Does it have to be this way? This session is for all school leaders — whether you are outraged, discouraged, or resigned to budget cuts. Find out how Colorado fell to the cellar and what this means given rising academic expectations. Learn how to tell the story of school funding with messages that resonate in your community.

18. New School Buildings and the Planning of Telephones, Computers, and Faxes
Dr. Neil Schaal, Director of Technology; Dr. Marvin Wade, Superintendent, Weld County District Re3J; David Kurtz, Architect, Neenan Company

So you are planning to build a 900-student high school and plan for the future. Is your architect really up on what is happening in student learning and technology? Can you put a complete telephone and computer system into a 900-student, 200,000 square foot building and stay under a $127,000 budget? What about electricity and cooling? And finally, learn what can be done today to build out and prepare for next year, five years, and 10 years out.

19. Pathway to Peak Performance: System Design for Student Success
Steve Schultz, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Tim Mills, Superintendent; Cristal Loehr, Principal, Fruita 8/9 School; Cindy Granum, Assistant Principal, Central High School, Mesa County Valley District 51

The Pathway to Peak Performance is a systemic approach for organizing and focusing our district on raising student achievement. This presentation will outline our blueprint for success.
Breakouts — Session I, 1:45-3:15 pm

20. Breaking Ranks in the Middle
Sally Stanley, Principal, Cresthill Middle School; Karen Tarbell, Principal, Sierra Middle School, Douglas County RE 1

Join two experienced middle school principals for an interactive session on Breaking Ranks in the Middle. Come with your copy of Breaking Ranks and participate in a lively small group session about key concepts and how to implement them in your middle school. This will be a productive, informative session on cutting-edge middle-level research.

21. Walk-Throughs for Collaboration
Dr. Shirley Trees, Director of Elementary Education, Littleton District 6

The Downey Walk-Through for Reflective Questioning and School View are two protocols designed to identify teacher decisions, topics for reflective questions, and school level patterns in a non-threatening, non-inspectional way. Participants will experience an overview of these two techniques and gain information about possible applications at both site and district levels. These two protocols are a must for building staff capacity, facilitating quality conversations, and fostering collaborative cultures.

22. Safely Saving Your District Money
Jolene Vermeer, Senior Vice President; Terri Saddler, Account Manager; Dave Campbell, Loss Control Manager, Acordia and Pinnacol Assurance

Have you ever heard it said that workers’ compensation claims just happen? This session will demonstrate the control school districts and BOCES do indeed have over reducing their overall workers’ compensation insurance costs — ultimately putting that money back into the general operating fund to be used for books, salaries, buses, and computers. This session will walk participants through a safety program that will not only entitle districts to a five percent premium reduction, but will also help them realize a reduction in claims, safer environment for teachers and students, and additional long-term premium savings. Participants will also hear from several districts that have implemented this program and have realized significant claims reductions and premium savings!
23. A 16-PK Education System Designed to Meet the Needs of a Global Economy
Randy Zila, Superintendent; Don Haddad, Executive Director of Secondary Schools, St. Vrain Valley District Re1J

This interactive session examines the requirements for being successful in the 21st century as all students strive to meet higher achievement standards in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools. Information will be presented supporting the need for a vertically aligned, coherent 16-PK educational system designed to effectively prepare students for the challenges of work and citizenship. The presenters will provide a blueprint of the overlying components for developing and implementing a 16-PK educational structure.