

March 29, 2010

News Release

Statement From Commissioner Dwight D. Jones On Colorado Not Being Given A "Race To The Top" Award

Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones today issued the following statement after Colorado was not included in the short list of states receiving grant awards in the first round of the federal Race to the Top grant competition:

"Today, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the two states—Delaware and Tennessee—as the winners of Phase 1 of Race to the Top. While we are disappointed, I want to reaffirm that the plan we submitted reflects Colorado's plan for serving its students. From that perspective, today's announcement changes nothing. We are still committed to the broad goals and strategies outlined in the plan.

"As we all know, however, resources and capacity are critical to enacting that plan on a timeline that reflects its urgency. Therefore, we will be reviewing the comments received from our peer reviewers, redouble our efforts to revise the plan in a manner that strengthens the application and work toward reapplying on June 1 for Phase 2 of this competition.

"As soon as we have had an opportunity to review the feedback, we will share with schools districts our plans to revise the proposal and re-enlist their support.

"As you know, we were proud to be one of 16 finalists in Phase 1. As evidenced by the results of Phase 1, Secretary Duncan was very selective in making final cut. We remain committed to Colorado's reform plan and will to continue to work toward its implementation, regardless of what comes next. The commitment to that shared vision that each of you has demonstrated throughout this process, and indeed throughout my tenure at CDE, assures me that will can, will and must do this work together. Colorado's students deserve nothing less."

More information on Colorado's Race to the Top proposal, including a link to the entire application, is available on the CDE Web site at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/scripts/federalstimulus/detail.asp?itemid=806271>