

**TOPIC: 2009-2010 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB) IMPROVING  
TEACHER QUALITY STATE GRANTS**

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**I. SUMMARY**

This information item details five grants totaling \$946,917.00 in federal NCLB Title II-A funds administered by the Department.

**II. BACKGROUND**

Every year, the Department is appropriated approximately \$850,000.00 by the U.S. Department of Education to administer competitive grants to approved educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education which partner with school districts to improve teacher and principal quality. The Department was able to award more than that amount this fiscal year because of leftover funds from the previous year. More information on this federal program is available at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/index.html>

**III. 2009-2010 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

In line with state and federal requirements and needs, the Department solicited grant applications that focused on the following:

- Instructing teachers in high-need schools how to use data from student assessments to improve instructional practices and student academic achievement;
- Induction programs for first-year teachers in low-income school districts that emphasize the needs of underserved students and strategies to improve student academic achievement;
- Enabling paraprofessionals to become certified and licensed teachers;
- New courses, or existing sections made available at convenient times and locations, offered to teachers at no cost and in rural parts of the state, that allow current teachers to enroll in and complete content coursework in order to become “highly qualified”;
- Professional development for elementary reading instructors to employ reading materials from core social studies disciplines in reading instruction.

**IV. GRANT PROPOSALS FUNDED**

The Department received eight proposals, of which five were selected by a five-member review team consisting of Department staff, a representative of Colorado Department of Education and a local retired teacher. The proposals that were selected for funding were:

- A University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, Colorado School of Mines and University of Northern Colorado partnership to enhance the math and science content knowledge and assessment skills of eighty-four teachers in Pueblo School District 60.
- A University of Northern Colorado and Colorado History Museum partnership to provide training and materials to enhance the content knowledge in social studies of fifty social studies teachers from Denver Public Schools using original source readings provided by the museum.
- A Metropolitan State College of Denver, Adams State College and Fort Lewis College partnership to enhance the mathematics content knowledge of ninety teachers from North Conejos, Moffat 2, and Monte Vista C-8 school districts.
- A University of Colorado-Colorado Springs and Troops to Teachers partnership to help twenty three spouses of military personnel currently working as para-educators to become fully licensed teachers. Participating school districts include Edison 54JT, Miami Yoder 60JT, Harrison 2 and Fountain 8.
- A partnership between University of Colorado-Denver and La Academia, an alternative teacher certification program, to enhance the mathematics content knowledge and skills of sixty para-educators in Denver Public Schools who are working towards teacher licensure.

**V. DEPARTMENT ACTION AND GRANTEE ACCOUNTABILITY**

Under the agreement with the U.S. Department of Education, Department staff will conduct brief audits of the funded programs approximately every four months and collect final fiscal and performance reports to ensure compliance with federal and state laws, as well as to assess whether or not the programs increased educator effectiveness and helped raise student achievement.