



Greeley-Evans | Weld County School District 6

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NEWS RELEASE

November 6, 2009

CDE Commissioner Jones to visit Greeley for “Race to the Top” conversation

Colorado Department of Education Commissioner Dwight Jones will meet with area school superintendents and community members in Greeley on Friday, Nov. 13, to provide information and answer questions about the state’s effort to win a share of the “Race to the Top” federal grants.

The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. at the District 6 Administration Building, 1025 Ninth Ave., and will run for 90 minutes.

Nina Lopez, director of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act at the Colorado Department of Education, will join Commissioner Jones.

School district officials and community members from all around Greeley and Northern Colorado are welcome to attend the meetings. School district officials and community members interested in attending are asked to e-mail Nancy Hegele at Hegele_n@cde.state.co.us to ensure space requirements are being met.

“Race to the Top” is a U.S. Department of Education discretionary grant program available to states that make significant progress in achieving equity in teacher distribution, improve collection and use of data, enhance the quality of academic standards and assessments and support struggling schools.

The grant program is expected to yield \$4.35 billion in competitive grants to states. States must give at least 50 percent of the dollars to local school districts and educational agencies through sub-grants. Those local school districts that wish to participate in the Race to the Top opportunity will sign a memorandum of understanding with the Colorado Department of Education.

“Local school districts and local education agencies are eager to participate, based on the reaction we have had to our invitations,” Jones said. “At the same time, we know there are many questions about the process and what participation might mean for districts and schools, so we will meet with school district representatives and community members to answer as many questions as possible. This is a tremendous opportunity for Colorado and strong, local support will be an important part of our application.”

More about Race to the Top can also be found through the CDE Web site:

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

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