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September 2023

Standards and Instructional Support Newsletter

Welcome the Standards and Instructional Support Office's monthly newsletter with topics focusing on the Colorado Academic Standards. [Visit the Office of Standards and Instructional Support homepage for the latest news and information.](#)

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General Announcements

2023 Equity and Excellence Conference

[Registration for the 2023 Equity and Excellence Conference:](#)

[“Strengthening and Expanding Practices: All Students and All Educators Emerging Stronger,” is open.](#)

The free Equity and Excellence Conference will convene Wednesday, Nov. 1, through Thursday, Nov. 2. Attendees from diverse professional backgrounds will meet to strengthen and share ideas and strategies to improve best first instruction. Email questions about the conference to equityandexcellence@cde.state.co.us.

Standards Review and Revision

Colorado Academic Standards Review and Revision

Committee members, including the 2023-24 Youth Advisors appointed by CDE Commissioner Susana Córdova are:

- Daniel Massey, U.S. Department of Defense
- Bobbie Bastian, Adams 12 Five Star Schools (Chair)
- Vanessa Nieto Thrower, Software engineer
- John Hamlin, District 27J
- Chris GauthierDickey, University of Denver
- Jody Paul, Association for Computing Machinery
- Sophie Tipper, Cherry Creek High School (Youth Advisor)
- Coryn Cole, Clear Creek High School (Youth Advisor)

[More information, including links to Zoom recordings of the meetings, can be found on the Colorado Academic Standards Review and Revisions page.](#)

Jump to Content Area Specific Information

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Computer Science

- The next cycle of the Computer Science Education Grant is expected to start in mid-October, with applications due in November. The grant process will begin with an Intent to Apply form for those who are interested in pursuing this opportunity. [More information will be posted on CDE's Computer Science Page once the grant is published.](#)

Mathematics

- After a summer featuring [Teaching and Learning CoLabs](#), [NCSM's Summer Leadership Academy](#), and [CCTM's Teaching for Thinking Learning Institute](#), the 2023-24 school year is off to a strong and promising start:
 - Nearly all the grantees of the [ESSER K-8](#) and [ESSER K-12](#) math curricula grants have received their materials and/or professional development.
 - [The Colorado Math Leaders held its first meeting on Sept. 12, with 30 people in attendance, the largest attendance in at least eight years.](#)
 - [The Colorado Council of Teachers of Mathematics is starting a Teaching for Thinking book study that will continue monthly.](#)

- [Improving Mathematics Outcomes in K-12 legislation.](#)
◦ [CMAS results show positive movement in mathematics, although there's still a lot of work to do.](#)

[CDE's accountability team is conducting regional support visits and is prepared to share information and answer questions about how HB 23-1231 impacts Unified Improvement Planning.](#)

Reading, Writing and Communicating

- [The Colorado Language Arts Society, in partnership with the Denver Writing Project, will hold its regional fall conference on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Auraria Campus in Denver.](#) This year's theme is "Finding Connections. Sustaining Practices: Colorado Teachers and New Horizons." Keynote speakers and sessions include Penny Kittle, Cris Tovani, Sarah Zerwin and more. Standard registration is \$95. Registration for pre-service teachers is \$45.
- The Elementary Colorado District Literacy Leaders will meet at 9 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 20. The CDLL is a statewide professional learning group that shares and coordinates efforts related to the integrity of sound literacy practices. The group meets several times a year and welcomes all interested individuals. [Complete this form to be added to the email distribution list. and Ideas for topics of interest can be submitted using this link.](#)

Questions can be sent to Cate Beck at catherine_beck@dpsk12.org or Olivia Gillespie at gillespie_o@cde.state.co.us.

Social Studies

- [Applications for Colorado's delegates to the 62nd Annual United States Senate Youth Program are due Friday, Oct. 20.](#) The USSYP is for high school students interested in pursuing careers in public service. The program brings the highest-level officials from each branch of government to meet with the group of high school juniors and seniors for an intensive week-long education and leadership program. Each delegate will be awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate studies, with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science. [View the 2024 official program brochure for additional information on the 62nd Annual USSYP.](#)

If you have general questions or need assistance, contact Patty Gleason at gleason_p@cde.state.co.us.

- Matt Fulford, a teacher at East High School in the Denver Public School district, has been named the 2023 Colorado History Teacher of the Year, an award presented annually by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is a national non-profit organization dedicated to K–12 American history education. In addition to a \$1,000 honorarium, Fulford will receive a core archive of American history books and Gilder Lehrman educational materials.

[Students, parents, educators and supervisors may nominate a K–12 teacher for the 2024 History Teacher of the Year award on the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History website.](#)



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