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August 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

SIS Welcomes New Team Members

The Office of Standards and Instructional Supports welcomed four new team members in August.

- [Joe Brenkert](#), [Jason Cushner](#) and [Tabitha Nickerson](#) are joining the team of math specialists who will implement Math Acceleration required by HB 23-1231.
- [Pam Lewis](#) is joining as our new computer science specialist. Pam will lead the [revision of computer science standards](#) this year and oversee the [computer science grant](#).

Computer Science Revision Begins

Based on the State Board of Education's guidance, CDE will move forward with minimal revisions to the high school computer science standards. The Colorado Academic Standards for English language proficiency, physical education, and world languages will remain in place for the next six years. The Computer Science Standards Revision Committee anticipates presenting a first draft of recommended revisions to the State Board of Education this November. A period of public comment on the proposed revisions will begin in mid-November.

[Please visit the Standards Review and Revision page for more information.](#)

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High Impact Tutoring

- The High-Impact Tutoring Program grant team offers a monthly workshop for grantees and others interested in learning more about high-impact tutoring on the fourth Thursday of each month. These meetups vary from professional development, to grantee trainings, workshops, guest speakers and more. Stay tuned for content announcements and review the recorded sessions in the [shared HITP Resource Drive](#).
 - [Register for the workshops via Zoom.](#)

Reading, Writing and Communicating

- The Colorado READ Act promotes grade-level literacy by the end of third grade, ensuring students can think critically and helping identify students with a Significant Reading Deficiency or SRD. CDE has composed guidance for supporting students who remain on READ plans in grades four through 12, and provides districts with research, resources and training opportunities to support students who remain on READ plans in these grade levels. [The guidance and other information can be found on the READ Plan Guidance for Students in Grades 4-12 webpage.](#)
- The Colorado Framework for Writing Instruction aids district and school leaders in developing a research-based framework toward the teaching of writing. [The framework can be found on the Framework for Writing Instruction webpage.](#)

Science and STEM

- The American Physical Society Division of Plasma Physics will host a free [Student Expo Nov. 2 - 3](#), and a free [Teacher Day on Nov. 1](#), in Denver. Bus reimbursement and Sub reimbursement is available. [View the APS informational flyer for more details.](#)
- The application for the Presidential Award in Engineering, Math, Science and Technology is open for kindergarten through sixth grade teachers. Check the [CDE Science webpage](#) or the [PAEMST website](#) for more information.
- **Save the Date for NSTA 2024 in Denver:** The National Science Teachers Association conference will be held from March 20 to 23 at the Denver Convention Center. This NSTA area conference offers unique opportunities for science teachers such as:
 - Hands-on workshops for teachers and school leaders.
 - Concurrent sessions to promote best practices in instructional planning and assessment.
 - Networking opportunities with a nationwide community of science educators.
 - Focused sessions on instructional strategies to connect literacy and science to align with state standards.

[For more information, visit the NSTA website](#)

- Check the announcements section of [CDE's science webpage](#) and the [CDE STEM webpage](#) for up to date professional learning opportunities. Email Sam Agoos at agoos_s@cde.state.co.us with any questions.



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