



THE
COLORADO
EDUCATION
INITIATIVE

March 25, 2015

Robert Hammond, Commissioner
Colorado Department of Education
201E. Colfax Avenue, Room 500
Denver, CO 80112

Dear Commissioner Hammond:

The Colorado Education Initiative is pleased to provide a grant to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) in the amount of \$90,000 for the Accelerator Project. This letter outlines the key components of the grant, which are further detailed in the Accelerator Project Memorandum of Understanding executed between our organizations on December 1, 2014.

Grant Amount and Period

This grant is for \$90,000 from February 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015.

Grant Description

The purpose of the Accelerator Project is to sustain and accelerate current efforts to implement the Colorado Academic Standards, assessments, and educator evaluation systems and to capture and share new approaches and best practices.

Grant Outcomes

Grant Outcome 1: By the end of 2015, 4,000 Colorado teachers shift their instruction to support student mastery of the CAS.

Grant Outcome 2: By the end of 2015, roughly 20 percent of the 178 school districts in Colorado demonstrate increased evidence of becoming responsive systems that are able to respond to, support, and enable educator and student learning.

Grant Outcome 3: There is increased understanding of standards, assessments, and evaluation among educators and the community.

Grant Project leads and Contact Information

The lead for this grant project at the Colorado Education Initiative is Andrew Smiles at asmiles@coloradoedinitiative.org. The leads for the Colorado Department of Education are Jill Hawley at Hawley.j@cde.state.co.us and Rebecca Holmes at holmes.r@cde.state.co.us.

Grant Scope of Work

Pursuant to section 22-7-1010 (3), C.R.S. and section 22-9-105.7 (1),C.R.S. the Colorado Department of Education is authorized to accept gifts, grants, and donations to implement the Preschool through Postsecondary Education Alignment Act and educator evaluation systems. The scope of work for this project is aligned with this statutory authorization.

During the grant period, CDE will use grant monies to engage in the following activities:

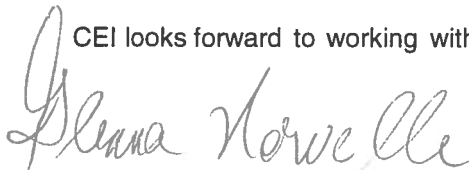
Grant Amount	Activities
\$45,000	Development of the Center for Best Practice and execution of field-research projects, and storytelling efforts. Support for the dissemination of best practices highlighted by the field research.
\$45,000	Exploration and development of Accountability 3.0 concepts and initial pilots, consistent with CDE’s workstrands with the CCSSO Innovation Lab Network.

Grant Reporting

By accepting this grant, CDE agrees to provide reports on the schedule outlined below regarding implementation of the activities outlined in the scope of work and progress toward achieving the grant outcomes. Each grant report must include an expenditure report of grant funds.

April 30, 2015	Interim progress report due to CEI showing meaningful progress against outlined outcomes and activities via a narrative report, and updated work plan(s), and budget to actuals
June 30, 2015	Final progress report due to CEI showing meaningful progress and/or completion of outlined short-term outcomes and activities via a narrative report.

CEI looks forward to working with CDE to meet the objectives of this grant.



Glenna Norvelle
President & CEO
Colorado Education Initiative