

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE  
FY 2008-09 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING AGENDA**

**Friday, December 14, 2007  
11:00 am – 11:20 am**

**Introductions and Opening Comments**

Institute Goals and Objectives

1. What are your principal goals and objectives? What are the metrics by which you measure success or failure?
2. Given the change in the Administration, have there been any changes to your principal goals and objectives since last year?
3. What progress did you make during the last year in achieving your goals?
4. How is the additional money provided to you in FY 2007-08 being used to achieve your goals? What improvements are you making in your outputs?

Other

5. Please provide information about the charter schools that have been authorized by the State Charter School Institute to date, as well as those schools you anticipate joining the Institute beginning in FY 2008-09. Include information about the school location, student enrollment, and the amounts that are being withheld from state equalization payments to the accounting district for each authorized school in FY 2007-08.

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
COLORADO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND  
FY 2008-09 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING AGENDA**

**Friday, December 14, 2007  
11:20 am – 11:40 am**

**Introductions and Opening Comments**

School Goals and Objectives

1. What are your principal goals and objectives? What are the metrics by which you measure success or failure?
2. Given the change in the Administration, have there been any changes to your principal goals and objectives since last year?
3. What progress did you make during the last year in achieving your goals?
4. How is the additional money provided to you in FY 2007-08 being used to achieve your goals? What improvements are you making in your outputs?

Other

5. Please briefly discuss your request for authority to collect and spend additional conference fees to increase training and education opportunities.

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION / DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
FY 2008-09 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING AGENDA**

**Friday, December 14, 2007**

**1:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING COMMENTS**

**1:30-2:15      QUESTIONS COMMON TO ALL DEPARTMENTS**

Departmental Goals and Objectives

1. What are your department's principal goals and objectives? What are the metrics by which you measure success or failure?
2. Given the change in the Administration, have there been any changes to your department's principal goals and objectives since last year?
3. What progress did you make during the last year in achieving your goals?
4. How is the additional money provided to your department in FY 2007-08 being used to achieve your goals? What improvements is your department making in its outputs?
5. Please identify your department's three most effective programs and your three least effective programs. Explain why you identified them as such. Explain how your most effective programs further the Department's goals.
6. Are there programs that your department is required to perform that do not further your department's goals or have outlived their usefulness? If so, what are they and who requires them? Why don't they further your department's goals?

Costs and savings from complying with specific bills and orders

7. What are your department's anticipated costs, anticipated savings, and potential benefits from complying with Executive Order D 028 07, Authorizing Partnership Agreements with State Employees?
8. Provide an estimate of the costs your department will incur in FY 2007-08 in carrying out the provisions of H.B. 06S-1023. Provide an estimate of your department's savings in FY 2007-08 as a result of not providing services to individuals who are in the country illegally.

**2:15-3:15 FUNDING PRIORITIES**

Decision Item #3: Closing the Achievement Gap

9. Please describe this request and explain how the suggested approach is likely to narrow achievement gaps. Further, how does this approach compare to past efforts to close achievement gaps?
10. Please provide a list of existing line items or programs that are intended to narrow the achievement gap. How does this new initiative fit in with existing efforts?
11. Please provide an estimate of the total number of districts that would be eligible for assistance through this initiative, as well as how the Department would determine which districts would receive assistance in FY 2008-09.
12. Explain the need for a “gap consultant”. Are all districts lacking this expertise?
13. Explain the software tools, hardware platform, and formative assessments that would be provided to participating districts. Why can’t existing assessments (CSAPs) be used for closing the achievement gap?

The Commissioner’s “Forward Thinking” Report

14. The Commissioner’s report entitled, “Forward Thinking: The Voice (and Future) of the Colorado Department of Education” identifies several planned tasks, goals, or programs. Decision Items #3 (Closing the Achievement Gap) and #4 (Content Specialists) are aimed at two of the tasks outlined in the report. Please discuss other initiatives that are identified in the report which will require additional state resources or re-direction of existing resources in the next three fiscal years.

Decision Item #8: Legal Services

15. Please describe what is driving the need for additional legal services.
16. What statutory changes could the General Assembly consider that would decrease the State Board’s need for legal services?

Decision Item #9: School Finance Audit Unit Travel Expenditures

17. How does the Department prioritize and schedule school district audits? Does the State Board influence these decisions?

**3:15-3:30 BREAK**

**3:30-4:05 DUAL ENROLLMENT / IFTH YEAR PROGRAMS**

18. Please provide information about the number of participating students and the associated state costs of the High School Fast Track Program and the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act.
19. Please provide information about how many districts and schools are participating in the new Fast College Fast Jobs (FCFJ) Pilot Program. Further, if it appears that few students are participating in FCFJ this school year, please comment on potential reasons for the low numbers.
20. [*Background:* In May 2007, the State Board of Education voted to repeal the existing rule prohibiting "Fifth Year Programs". The JBC subsequently sent a letter to the State Board of Education expressing concern about the potentially significant fiscal impact of this action, and requesting a response from the State Board clarifying the intended impact of these rule changes. The State Board did not respond to the Committee's letter. In August, the State Board adopted this rule change as a permanent rule.]
  - a. State Board members are again asked to clarify the intended impact of repealing the prohibition on fifth-year programs.
  - b. State Board members are further requested to explain what statutory provision(s) authorize local districts to continue to receive funding under the School Finance Act for students who have completed twelfth grade and who enroll in higher education courses (*i.e.*, "fifth- or sixth-year" programs).
  - c. What statutory changes related to dual enrollment programs, if any, would State Board members recommend the General Assembly consider in the coming Session?

**4:05-4:15 DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION**

21. Please describe how the Department allocated performance-based pay award funding in FY 2007-08, including the percent of employees who received awards. Further, please describe how the Department would allocate performance-based pay award funding if it is appropriated as requested for FY 2008-09.

**4:15-4:30 MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS**

22. What is the status of the reauthorization of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*? Are federal funding levels anticipated to increase?
23. With respect to the biennial cost-of-living study that is currently being conducted, does the Department anticipate that the composition of the "basket of goods" will change?