

ST-2

Colorado Board Report, March 13, 2012

The State of Colorado was recently granted a waiver from the federal No Child Left Behind law. The waiver now provides Colorado the authority to use the state's accountability system in place of key federal accountability requirements. Colorado's state accountability system will now meet many of the No Child Left Behind requirements, including the requisite to annually determine school and district progress in meeting performance targets. New state accountability measures are sure to impact the state's school libraries.

A joint MPLA joint conference with the Colorado Association of Libraries has been approved by both parties for October 2016. Planning is in its infancy; look for more details to follow.

2012 State Lobby Day will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2012 on the 2nd floor of the State Capitol. The intention behind State Lobby Day is to show a strong presence at the Capitol to share with legislators about the work libraries are doing to improve our state in a variety of ways. Any and all types of library representatives are being called.

CASL reported the launch of their new advocacy website called "Survive and Thrive! An Advocacy Toolkit for School Librarians" (available here: <https://sites.google.com/site/caslsurvive/home>)

The TABOR lawsuit, filed May 2011 continues as a hearing for a dismissal is set for March 13, 2012. The lawsuit seeks to have the Colorado's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights ruled unconstitutional on the grounds that TABOR's requirement that all tax increases be approved by voters violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantee that all states have a republican form of government where elected officials, rather than voters, govern.

Lieutenant Gov. Joe Garcia announced *Colorado Literacy Week*, Feb. 27 – March 2 and welcomed several new partners to the state's efforts to ensure children in Colorado read proficiently by third grade. The purpose of *Colorado Literacy Week* is to draw public attention to the critical importance of early learning and to launch numerous efforts that will put Colorado's children on a path to reading success.

Garcia also announced *One Book 4 Colorado*, an effort to provide a new book to every four year old in Colorado while simultaneously supporting parents as their child's first teacher. *One Book 4 Colorado* is the result of collaboration between Reach Out and Read, Colorado State Library, public libraries, the private sector, and the foundation community. It is modeled after the successful Preschool One Book One Denver program originated by the Denver Preschool Program. 70,000+ copies of the same book are being distributed to children across Colorado at local library events and at Reach Out and Read clinics and doctors' offices. The book will be

available in both English and Spanish and will be accessible to children with special needs. A statewide book distribution and family support events will take place April 18-29, coinciding with Preschool One Book, One Denver and Week of the Young Child.

Two new Colorado summer reading programs for readers of all ages have been announced by the Colorado Department of Education, Lt. Governor Joe Garcia and Education Commissioner, Robert Hammond. The 2012 State Library's Summer Reading Program theme is "Dream Big" and proponents are hoping families will do exactly that. The challenge put forth is for everyone to read a collective 2.75 million pages for the year. In conjunction with *Dream Big*, a second reading program called *Find a Book, Colorado* is also being launched. The goal is to help readers find appropriate reading level books via <http://www.lexile.com/findabook/>. The site offers a reading map, book search tool and other free resources to assist readers find engaging books that meet their level of reading.

The Colorado Association of Libraries is accepting applications for its annual Leadership Institute (CALLI). Applications are due April 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Respectfully submitted by Tiffanie Wick*