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COVID-19 Assistance & SEL Grants for Re-Opening Schools

We are consistently adapting to the evolving crisis around COVID-19 and its impact on our schools, students, and staff. We recently began assisting our member districts respond to the rapidly shifting landscape in their school opening plans. Please click [here](#) for information on our offerings, or respond to this email if you are interested in learning more!

If your district needs assistance with how to prepare teachers to meet Social Emotional Learning needs, please let Kirk Banghart (kbanghart@generationschools.org) know, as the CREC has some available slots for support through a grant on a first come, first serve basis. GSN's evidence-based SEL program provides teacher training (PD and coaching), protocols, and curriculum as well as planning support and data tools. FREE to those who become part of the grant.



Pandemic - EBT Application Process Now Open

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), in collaboration with CDE is pleased to announce the Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) application can be accessed through late September. To support families during the COVID-19 epidemic, CDHS and CDE secured USDA approval to issue P-EBT benefits to school aged children who would have received free or reduced-price meals when schools were closed. It is also for children who would have been eligible in March, April or May due to loss of income.

Each household with an eligible child can receive an amount of \$5.70 per child per school day on a Colorado EBT card. Benefits were auto-issued for families participating in SNAP. Families who were not auto-issued benefits should apply. [Access the application, FAQs and more information here.](#)



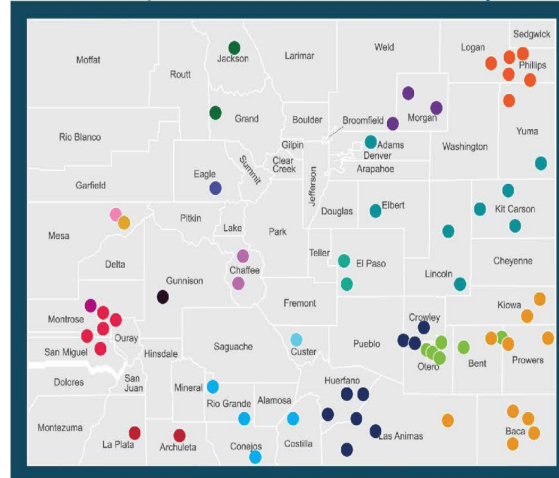
CREC Hits Major Funding Milestone!

In 2015, the Colorado Rural Education Collaborative was created by rural district leaders in partnership with nonprofits and stakeholders from across the state to bring greater opportunity, quality and prosperity to rural Colorado. With 65 districts in the CREC and over 46,000 students being served, the CREC just hit a major milestone.

Acting as a combine for resources, nearly \$20M has been secured to support CREC districts in solving their most pressing problems of practice over the past five years. These resources have been used to positively impact the 65 communities represented in the CREC in key areas such as:

- College and Career Readiness
- Social and Emotional Learning
- STEM Integration
- The Student-Centered Accountability Program
- Teacher and Leader Efficacy
- Teacher Recruitment and Retention, and numerous supports amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

To learn more about the CREC and its partner districts, [visit our website!](#)



Highlights from Redefining Rural Roundtable (RRR) #5 and #6!



Thanks to everyone who attended our 5th and 6th Rural Roundtables! We had 45 Superintendents from Colorado, Kentucky, and Tennessee on the roundtable to discuss and share ideas around their reopening plans for 2020-2021. Stay tuned for the next Redefining Rural Roundtable coming soon!

Redefining Rural Podcast from July

On the [July episode of Redefining Rural](#), Darrin Peppard, Superintendent of the West Grand School District, and Elsie Goines, Superintendent of the Las Animas School District, discussed leading through challenging times as we relaunch the 2020-2021 school year. You can [find this episode on YouTube](#) or download it on your favorite podcast platform! Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) too. This is one you won't want to miss!



Genesis Group Updates

College and Career Readiness



CREC and GSN staff are working alongside the Santa Fe Trail BOCES, member districts and Ogallala Commons to add virtual options to the existing [cross-district College Career Pathway](#). Watch for your opportunity to build a pathway with your neighboring districts.

Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP)

Representatives from the 14 S-CAP member districts gathered in Buena Vista to prepare for System Support Reviews (SSRs) in 2020-2021, based on their experiences in the reviews in 2019-2020. They also shared best practices on their COVID-19 reopening plans, including instructional design, entrance practices, and supporting students who are struggling to succeed in the crisis.

In addition, they discussed further problems of practice, such as how to move students to authentic engagement. To find out more about S-CAP and how you can join this peer accountability effort, click [here](#).



Teacher Leader Efficacy

Calling all principals seeking to deepen their professional skills and grow their connections within the business community! This fall, GSN will offer opportunities for thought partnership with a principal who is highly-experienced in running high-performing schools as well as with a business leader who wants to utilize their professional skills and connections to support their local schools. To learn more, click [here](#).

CDE Leadership Institute

We are excited to share that the application deadline for the CDE's 2020-21 Principal Leadership Institute has been extended to August 31, 2020. The Principal Leadership Institute is a one-year, completely virtual program where principal participants will work alongside exemplary principals using a coaching framework. The program framework will be job-embedded and will include actionable leadership seminars, monthly workshops, and coaching sessions with principal coaches. To learn more and access the application, [click here](#).

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Through re-orienting funding for the CDE Teacher Recruitment & Retention grants suspended for 2020-2021, CREC staff worked with the East Central, Northeast, San Luis Valley, Santa Fe Trail and Southeastern BOCES to make it possible for teachers to finish their degrees on scholarship and continue to receive support through professional learning communities for the duration of 2020-2021.

Recently released! A report on three years of teacher recruitment and retention efforts across the South Central BOCES. Review for lessons learned and encouraging data by clicking [here](#)!

Social Emotional Learning & At-Risk Students

In response to the current crisis around COVID-19, Generation Schools Network has developed new curricula to make it easier for you to help your students through the pandemic. [Elementary School Coping with Crisis](#), [Middle School Coping with Crisis](#), and [High School Coping with Crisis](#) are now available for FREE for the remainder of 2020. Through these units, students will explore potential short- and long-term effects of a crisis, discuss recovery strategies, consider common reactions to internal and external crises, and brainstorm recovery

activities that can be implemented after a troubling event. At the end of the unit, students will collaborate to create a Peer Support Group and Toolbox for the classroom as a resource for the students to use to help their classmates when they are having a bad day, a challenging time, or experiencing a crisis. These units are FREE to download for the remainder of 2020 with the code: CRISIS2020 at our [online store](#). Teacher preparation webinars are also available for grades [6-12](#) and [K-5](#).

Congratulations to the San Luis Valley BOCES and their districts for winning an Expelled & At-risk Student Services grant!

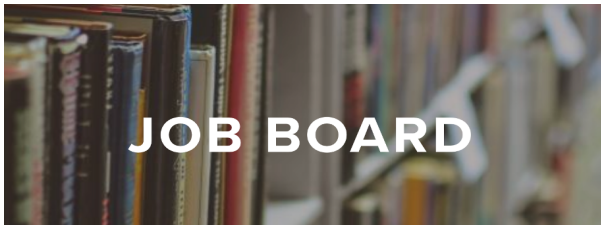
STEM Integration

The CREC is putting together a partnership with [Bitsbox](#) and funders. If you would be interested in having Bitsbox for your students in any grades 4-8 to be introduced to computer coding through building their own apps, please email Kirk at kbanghart@generationschools.org.



Post your job openings for 2020-21!

We advertise job openings on the CREC website and, a monthly job openings e-blast goes out to more than 100 agencies and higher education institutions, giving your postings a wider audience!



In addition to the job board, teachers can submit resumes for superintendents and administrators to review. This is a great opportunity for our members to bring future educators into the amazing rural communities of Colorado!

To view our job board, click [here](#).
To submit an open position to our job board, click [here](#).

Contact Us!

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