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Good News!

Welcome to the CREC, Community Arriba-Flagler



Arriba-Flagler logo.

The CREC welcomes our newest member, Arriba Flagler C-20 School District. Arriba-Flagler is located on the eastern side of Colorado, just northwest of Kit Carson. Their district is also participating in an annual site review organized by the Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP) on April 27th, 2020.

Redefining Rural Presents Governor Jared Polis

Redefining Rural is a Colorado State University - Global Campus sponsored series.

This series is focused on bringing awareness to the rural communities of Colorado in the education sector.

In this episode, Michelle Murphy of Colorado Rural Schools Alliance and Denille Leplatt of Rural Services at the Colorado Department of Education sit down with Colorado Governor Jared Polis and discuss his general philosophy of "Colorado for All" and specifically the administration's Rural Economic Blueprint.



In addition to efforts improving the lives of all Coloradans and supporting rural communities, Governor Polis is focused on efforts supporting early childhood

education. [Listen in](#) to learn more about Governor Polis' priorities for rural Colorado and rural education.

USDA is hosting a new ReConnect Broadband Program Workshop in Denver, CO!



Join us on February 12-13, 2020 at the Westin Denver Downtown
"Please join us in Denver and take advantage of this great opportunity to assist our rural communities move forward with this essential infrastructure. Having access to high-speed broadband internet connectivity is vital for economic development and an increased quality of life," said Sallie Clark, USDA Rural Development Colorado State Director.

USDA will be announcing the 2019 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the Reconnect Program on January 31, 2020. To assist interested applicants, USDA will be offering a series of ReConnect technical workshops around the country.

Denver, Colorado has been selected for one on February 12 -13. This event is designed to provide information and allow for questions from those interested in applying for ReConnect program funding to facilitate broadband deployment in areas of rural America without sufficient access to broadband.

This two-day workshop will take place at the Westin Denver Downtown and will provide attendees with an understanding of the program and application requirements.

Specific topics include:

- Program eligibility and evaluation criteria
- Overview of the application system
- Overview of the financial, network, environmental, and mapping requirements
- Compliance and post-award reporting

Registration is now open. Please join USDA Rural Development, State Director for Colorado, Sallie Clark, USDA General Field Representatives, and subject matter experts at this event.

[Register Here](#)

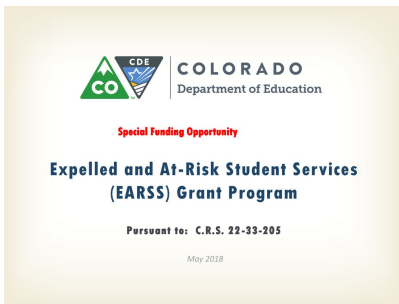
Additional workshops will be announced soon. For the most recent ReConnect events schedule, please visit the [events](#) page.

What is the ReConnect Program?

The ReConnect Program offers loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in areas of rural America without sufficient access to broadband. The application window for the second round of funding will open on January 31, 2020 and it will close on March 16, 2020. More details about the application process can be found [here](#).



Upcoming Grants



GSN can support CREC districts in applying for and implementing CDE grants, including 2 upcoming opportunities:

The Expelled and At-Risk Student Services Grant (EARSS) assists in providing educational and supportive, early intervention services to students who are expelled or suspended, at-risk of expulsion or suspension, truant or at-risk of habitual truancy. This grant provides four years of funding, starting at

approximately \$3,000/student in Years 1 and 2 before decreasing toward sustainability. The Intent to Apply is due in January 2020 and the grant will be due in March 2020. Among other strategies, GSN has designed a case management approach that places full-time Advocates in the school to provide support to students and parents and works with schools and districts throughout the implementation process.

21st Century Community Learning Centers is a CDE grant program designed to support districts in providing students opportunities for academic enrichment, offering students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities after school and in the summer, as well as offering families opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education. The grant provides up to five years of funding at approximately \$50-150,000 per year. The Intent to Apply is due in February 2020 and the grant will be due in April 2020.



Please contact **Meredith Foulke** at 720-452-3607, mfoulke@generationschools.org if you are interested in receiving support around either of these opportunities.

Genesis Group Updates

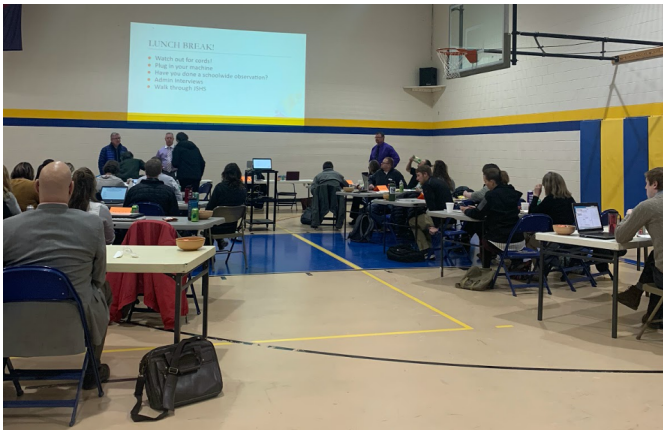
Teacher Recruitment & Retention



Congratulations the Santa Fe Trail BOCES and Southeast BOCES for winning a grant for the training and certification of special education teachers! The grant is sponsored by Western Colorado University and will benefit rural communities across the state.

Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP)

We are currently looking for ten new districts to join S-CAP which is at the forefront of peer-driven innovation in the accountability space. If you are interested in learning more about S-CAP or becoming a member, please visit the S-CAP website and plan on attending one of our School Site Reviews (SSR).



SSR reviewers enjoy a student robotics performance at Hanover's SSR on January 16, 2020.

Check the SSR dates on the S-CAP [website](#), register and bring teachers with you. Teachers have said that attending an SSR is some of the most valuable PD they have ever experienced.

You can learn more about the S-CAP program and services offered by clicking [here](#) or watching the video at this [link!](#)

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

Monthly SEL Forum

If you are interested in learning and collaborating with others around SEL implementation in your school, please join the Monthly SEL Forum. The next SEL forum will be **February 25, 2020 from 3-4PM**. You can join the call by using this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/552008403>

Past SEL Forum Topics can be accessed [here](#).

SEL Expansion Grant Updates

The CREC is to be continuing the work of the of the Rural Expansion Project for Social Emotional Learning! The participating districts started out the year with a refresher training on the importance of SEL in schools and its positive effect on academics, behavior, and credit acquisition.

There are currently more than a dozen districts working together to implement SEL in their schools and the data around impact is strong.

- 75% of students indicating they "agree" or "somewhat agree" that they "enjoy their Advocacy/SEL class."

- 78% positive student response to learning skills that will help them succeed in school, work, and life" with 44% reporting that they agree and 34% reporting that they somewhat agree.
- 71% positive student response to the "I feel like my Advocacy/SEL group is a safe space with people I trust who don't judge me" statement with 33% reporting that they agree and 38% reporting that they somewhat agree.

These districts are in the process of implementing an SEL structure, receiving planning and data support, professional development for staff and coaching for administration in the area of SEL along with free access to curriculum and assessment.

The CREC will continue to offer opportunities for new districts to participate. If you are a district interested in participating in social/emotional learning, please contact [Kirk Banghart](#) for more information.



STEM



Denver Museum of Nature and Science FREE Curiosity Kits:

A crate full of museum goodness will be delivered with everything you need to lead unforgettable science experiences in your classroom. Your kit arrives Monday with curriculum and supplies to use with up to 105 students throughout the week. Learn more [here](#). Kit options are:

Lost Worlds of Colorado

Dig in and explore real fossils, gather scientific evidence, and recreate dioramas for Denver ancient environments. (Grades 2-5).

Built to Fly

Take flight in a design challenge that has students use inspiration from nature to build and test their own gliders. (Grades 2-5)

Powered by Nature

Light up Colorado with this strategy-based board game that challenges students to work together to responsibly power up the state's electrical grid. (Grades 4-8)

[Book now](#) to reserve your spot, and remember to use the promo code: freecuriosity to get your 100% discount at checkout. If you have any questions about booking or availability, please call 303-370-6453!

If you would like to join the work of one of the CREC's Genesis Work Groups, please contact [Kirk Banghart](#).

CREC Website Job Board

REMINDER: We advertise job openings on the CREC website and once a month, a 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](#).

Upcoming Events

S-CAP Professional Development Opportunities!

The Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP) is actively looking for people to attend and participate as a Reviewer or Observer at the upcoming S-CAP System Site Review (SSR) events listed below:

View the 2019-2020 System Site Review full schedule [here](#).

Tuesday and Wednesday, February 4-5

Wiggins

[Register Here](#)

Monday and Tuesday, February 10-11

La Veta

[Register Here](#)

Tuesday and Wednesday, February 25-26

Fleming

[Register Here](#)

Monday, March 2

Holyoke

[Register Here](#)

Monday and Tuesday, March 9-10

Las Animas

[Register Here](#)

Monday and Tuesday March 30-31

Kit Carson

[Register Here](#)

Monday April 27

Arriba-Flagler

[Register Here](#)

To learn more about S-CAP, click [here](#).

Contact Us!

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