



General Assembly
State of Colorado
Denver

February 2017

Dear Superintendents and Boards of Directors:

A group of legislators in Colorado's House and Senate has been working on a plan to engage education leaders, teachers, parents, students, and taxpayers in a meaningful conversation about the future of education in Colorado. We are embarking upon this process in order to think toward the next several decades and assure that there is a compelling vision and plan for the future of education that supports the success of our students.

There is interest from the Department of Education, the Department of Higher Education, and the Governor's office in working with us in this work. Our hope is that by working together and engaging our public, Colorado can do a better job of supporting our teachers and our communities and achieving better outcomes for all students.

We recognize that there are financial concerns and great differences in the amount of funding among our 178 school districts, that many students come to school unprepared for kindergarten and cannot begin their post-secondary studies without some form of remediation, and that many of our graduates are not accessing the high paying jobs that await them in our state. While some districts are seeing some gains in student achievement, our overall gains have been moderate.

We are in the planning process for this work that intends to seek input from all corners of the state and we wanted to check in with your school and district accountability committee members and you to give us advice regarding the development of this plan. If you could find a little time within your busy meeting agendas to discuss these questions and send your responses to us, we would be most appreciative. Your input is critical to our planning process.

Thank you for your commitment to the students and families in your community and for your hard work. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Representatives:

Millie Hamner

Millie Hamner

Bob Rankin

Bob Rankin

Janet Buckner

Janet Buckner

Alec Garnett

Alec Garnett

Paul Lundeen

Paul Lundeen

Jim Wilson

Jim Wilson

Brittany Pettersen

Brittany Pettersen

Senators:

Owen Hill

Owen Hill

Kevin Priola

Kevin Priola

Andy Kerr

Andy Kerr

Questions to guide the development of a plan to engage the citizens of Colorado in establishing a vision to guide the future of education in our state.

Submitted by (name of group): _____

1. Are you satisfied with the achievement and outcomes of all of the students in your district? What are the top 5 strategies that would make a difference or are making a difference for students in your district?
2. As you think toward the next decade or beyond, what learning experiences do you see for young people in the future? What types and levels of learning do they attain? How do they appropriate information and learning?
3. What has the Colorado legislature done to support or detract from your ability to do the best work for the students in your district?
4. What would you say are your top challenges as a district?
5. Would you be interested in getting involved in developing a state-wide plan to improve education for Colorado students? Do you think this is meaningful work to undergo as a state?
6. What groups of people would you recommend be included in this state-wide plan, either in the development of the plan or in seeking input?
7. What questions do you think the plan should address?
8. Other comments?

Thank you for your input! Please send a summary of your discussion by March 6 to:

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