



COLORADO
Department of Education
Commissioner of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

May 21, 2018

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Executive Directors,

I know you are all, like me, struggling to comprehend another deadly school shooting on Friday. I find myself at a loss of what to say... again. I can say thank you for all that you do to support, protect and lead our students and community. It is a heavy weigh to bear and I am thankful that you all are supporting our students every day during these increasingly scary times. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I know we are getting so close to the end of the school year and it's an incredibly busy time of the year for you, but I did want to remind you of a few things.

1. Educator Effectiveness Assurances

Each year by July 1, Colorado districts and BOCES are required to submit assurances that they are implementing the State Model Evaluation System or another evaluation system that is aligned with Senate Bill 10-191 and State Board Rules. More specifically, assurances include:

- Which evaluation system is being used to evaluate each category of licensed personnel employed by the district/BOCES
- Assurance that the district/BOCES is meeting all the requirements outlined in sections 5.01 (Principals and Teachers), and 4.04 (Specialized Service Professionals) of the State Board Rules for Written Evaluation Systems
- The exact website address where district/BOCES evaluation information may be found
- Signatures of the Superintendent/BOCES Executive Director AND the School Board President/BOCES Board Chairperson

Although we still have several weeks until the deadline of Friday, June 29, we noticed that you have not submitted your assurances information yet.

In an effort to reduce the burden on districts and BOCES the assurances will be collected again this year using an online form via Wufoo. The process is largely the same as it was last year, except that we are back to only collecting ONE year of assurances: information about the upcoming 2018-19 school year. The process for superintendents and BOCES directors is outlined below:

- Collect all information necessary to complete the assurances BEFORE opening the web form. This includes a signed signature page (attached to this message, as well) containing required signatures from both the Superintendent/BOCES Executive Director and Board President/BOCES Board Chairperson. Electronic signatures are acceptable. If you print the form to obtain the signatures, please remember to scan it so you can upload it.
- Complete web form online
- Receive a copy of everything submitted via email and archives it



- Complete the process no later than **Friday, June 29**

2. School Readiness Assessments

Due to the end of the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant, CDE will not be able to reimburse kindergarten school readiness assessment subscriptions for the 2018-19 school year and beyond. As you may know, the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment used by the majority of districts is \$9.95 per student while the HighScope COR for Kindergarten assessment is \$8.95 per student. A free paper-based assessment is available through DRDP-K. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Emily Kielmeyer at kielmeyer_e@cde.state.co.us or 720-822-0640 before the end of June.

3. Teacher of the Year nominations

Each year, the Colorado Teacher of the Year Program honors an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled teacher in any state-approved or accredited K-12 school. I believe our Teacher of the Year program provides us with an excellent way to elevate the profession by highlighting an exceptional individual and underscoring the lasting impression teachers leave on the lives of students and the fabric of our community. Please participate in this program by nominating an exceptional teacher.

The 2019 application is due Wednesday, July 11, [via Survey Monkey](#). Nominee requirements and more information can be found on the [program webpage](#).

Thank you for another great year of working together on behalf of students in Colorado. I am enjoying seeing news from around the state about your graduates! They have bright futures thanks to the hard work that you and your teachers put in day in and day out. I can never thank you enough.

Best,



Katy Anthes, Ph.D.
Commissioner

