



COLORADO
Department of Education
Commissioner of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

June 29, 2018

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors:

I am excited to share with you that Alan Dillion will be joining the CDE team as our Associate Commissioner for School Quality and Support! Alan will start with us at the end of July as he finishes up his work as the current superintendent of DeBeque Schools on the Western Slope.

In this role, Alan will lead much of our accountability system, including the Accountability and Data Analysis, Improvement Planning, and School and District Performance units. I am also moving the Schools of Choice office into this division to emphasize our work and support for quality schools across the whole public school ecosystem.

As you know, this accountability work has been led by Associate Commissioner Alyssa Pearson for the last few years. I announced last spring that Alyssa would be transitioning into the Deputy Commissioner role previously held by Leanne Emm who retired last fall. As Deputy Commissioner, Alyssa will focus on external partnerships, our strategic initiatives and work with the board and legislature. She will also oversee our Student Pathways, State Library, Accountability Clock and Legislative Relations & Policy teams. This reorganization of existing leadership positions will help me focus on the strategic priorities of the organization and work collaboratively with you to support educators and students across Colorado.

We conducted a thorough search process for the new Associate Commissioner for School Quality and Support that brought forth several impressive and highly qualified candidates. Alan was chosen for his energy, positivity and a deep expertise working in Colorado schools and districts. He has been a teacher, principal, superintendent, past CDE employee, member of the Commissioner's Rural Council, and participant of many school quality reviews across the state. He has experience working with urban, rural and suburban communities and policymakers representing many perspectives. He comes with expertise in literacy, turnaround and all the other things that a rural superintendent needs to do. Recently, he has done amazing work in DeBeque improving school performance, community engagement and staff morale over the past five years.

Alan knows Colorado, works with diverse stakeholders every day and brings the fresh experience of the superintendency and rural Colorado to CDE. Above all of that, he shares our CDE values of collaboration, customer service, honesty, innovation, integrity, respect and transparency. He will be a critical thought partner and leader as we work toward our mission of empowering all students in Colorado to become educated and productive citizens capable of succeeding in society, the workforce and life.

Alan will be up at CASE with many of us at the end of July, and he will join us at CDE starting in August. Please join me in welcoming Alan to CDE!

Sincerely,

