



COLORADO
Department of Education

Unit of Federal Program Administration
Competitive Grants & Awards Office
1560 Broadway, Suite 1450
Denver, CO 80202-5149

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My Esteemed Colleagues,

What an extraordinary mission we embark on at the beginning of a new school year! Together we empower Colorado students with the tools they need to reach their tomorrows. You are an educator because someone believed in you and the many talents you bring with you to aid in our mission of educating each student that enters our doors. Because every student matters, because every student deserves a world class education, and because as educators we must always demand and advocate that this opportunity is for every student we are entrusted with.

As you get ready for the magic of teaching to unfold for you with your own classes this year, my advice to you is to BE PREPARED! Be prepared to be a member of the most influential profession in the world. Henry Brooks Adams states, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." As teachers we have the awesome responsibility to make the difference in the life of a child each and every day. Be prepared to offer these students the best of who you are every day for they deserve nothing but the best.

Every interaction with a student helps shape who that child is and the adult they will become. Teachers have a remarkable role in shaping the future as we prepare our future leaders, doctors, lawyers, inventors, innovators, and teachers for the challenges of tomorrow. Be prepared to know that as a teacher you have the best job in the world. You have the power to change the world one student at a time. Be prepared to encourage our best and brightest to enter the profession; our very future depends on it.

Finally, I encourage you to be prepared to be a lifelong learner. It is critical that we continue our own education so that we can always know what it is to be a student, so that we can keep current with educational research and best practices, and so that we can stay energized as we continually adapt, craft, and adopt curriculum to engage students. Best teaching is a partnership in the classroom where everyone has shared responsibility for learning.

Thank you for what you do and will continue to do to elevate the profession with your passion, your compassion, your knowledge, your expertise, and your example. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of many children! I wish you an amazing school year and know that together we can and will accomplish great things for all students in Colorado!

Respectfully,

Kathleen Thirkell

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