

## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Robert K. Hammond Commissioner of Education

Keith Owen, Ph.D. Deputy Commissioner

March 17, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

At CDE we have the pleasure of working with content specialists dedicated to supporting Colorado educators to ensure all Colorado students receive an education that engages and prepares them for college and careers. Today, we are writing to ask your assistance in helping us better understand the needs of the four content areas of arts education: music, dance, visual arts, and theatre/drama.

In 2008 CDE supported Colorado Creative Industries, a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, in conducting a survey of school principals across the state regarding arts education programs and course offerings. The survey information was extremely helpful and provided a snapshot of the work, efforts, and needs of arts educators. Survey results have informed the support efforts of CDE and numerous arts education organizations in countless ways.

It is time to update this information. CDE has, again, partnered with Colorado Creative Industries to support the 2014 iteration of the survey, designed to:

- Assist CDE and CCI in identifying statewide needs and align resources to support those needs
- Supply school/arts-education leaders with specific information to use in decision-making within a Colorado context
- Illuminate the work that schools and educators are doing to prioritize arts education in improving the learning experiences of all Colorado students

This week you will receive an email from Colorado Creative Industries inviting you to the survey website. Your participation in this survey is greatly needed and very much appreciated. In the few minutes it will take to complete the survey you will be doing a great service for Colorado arts educators and your school; each school will receive its own individual and unique "benchmark report" comparing your school's arts education indices to the aggregate of all other schools.

We are providing a couple of assurances. First, the survey asks for no student specific information; its questions center primarily around the type and frequency of arts education provided in your school. And second, only the survey respondent and Colorado Creative Industries will have access to individual school results.

Please feel free to contact the researcher, Jane Hansberry, at <a href="mailto:jane@janehansberry.com">jane@janehansberry.com</a> or Karol Gates, CDE Arts Content Specialist, at <a href="mailto:gates\_k@cde.state.co.us">gates\_k@cde.state.co.us</a> with any questions. Thank you for all you do for Colorado education and for helping us better understand and plan for the needs of arts educators and arts education.

Brian Sevier

**Director of Standards and Instruction** 

**Karol Gates** 

Arts Content Specialist

