



Colorado Department of Education  
William J. Moloney, Commissioner



*"The childhood shows the man, as  
morning shows the day."*

- *John Milton (1608 - 1874)*
- *Paradise Regained*

February 8, 2007

## I. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES EXTENSION OF ACCREDITATION CONTRACTS

By a unanimous vote at their February 9, 2007 meeting, the State Board of Education (SBE) took a step that was widely heralded as a sensible adaptation of the Accreditation process.

As noted in an earlier [Chiefline](#) (1/30/07) this step first recommended to the SBE by the Commissioner's Superintendent Advisory Council (CSAC) in December, gives added stability to the Accreditation process and will save a lot of duplication and extra work.

This action also was well received by the Ritter administration, which has placed the alignment of Accountability systems high on its agenda.

For further detail, see the attached announcement that I sent out to all superintendents yesterday.

## II. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES TEACH FOR AMERICA WAIVERS FOR DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In another action, also by unanimous vote, the State Board of Education approved the above noted waivers for Teach for America (TFA), an action that not only will be exceedingly valuable for the Denver Public Schools but one that also has far reaching implications for the way we think about "what makes a highly qualified teacher."

The action by the Board culminates a great deal of joint effort by the Denver Public Schools (DPS), the Department of Education and TFA.

Officials from TFA had joined DPS Superintendent Michael Bennet in a December presentation before the State Board. Following the passage of this action by the State Board Michael Bennet appeared to express his appreciation for the vote and also underline the importance of having the 50 to 100 high caliber teachers that will join his staff in the fall as the first installment of a relationship which should benefit the neediest children of our capitol city for many years to come.

Like the waivers that the State Board granted to Douglas County some months earlier, this action of the State Board shows their continued willingness to "think outside the box" in terms of advancing the urgent imperative of education reform.

For some further detail on the remarkable program that is Teach for America – now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year – see the enclosed memoranda sent to me by TFA President Wendi Kopp last month.

Sincerely yours,  
William J. Moloney  
Commissioner of Education

cc: Governor Ritter, General Assembly, State Board of Education, CDE Cabinet, CDE Staff, BOCES, CASB, CASE, CEA, and CFT