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News Release

Quality Teachers Commission Issues End-of-Year Report and Recommendations

The Quality Teachers Commission, set in motion with Senate Bill 07-140, has issued a report on its first year of work, including a recommendation to proceed with a pilot teacher identifier system.

The commission also recommended moving forward with a principal identifier system.

The goal of both efforts, the report states, is “to examine issues related to teaching and school leadership that will improve teacher quality. This includes strengthening teacher and principal preparation, providing effective training and support for educators throughout their careers, and closing the teacher gap statewide.”

The term “teacher gap” refers to the phenomenon that poor and minority students are more likely to be instructed by less-qualified or less-experienced teachers than their more affluent and white peers.

Recommendations for both the principal and teacher identifier pilots were made unanimously by the commission, which includes a broad range of representation from higher education, school districts, the governor’s office, the Colorado State Board of Education and the Colorado Education Association.

The commission recommends using both the teacher and principal identifier systems to strengthen teacher and principal preparation, to

provide effective training and support for educators throughout their careers and to close the teacher gap statewide.

The report underscores that the teacher identifier system is not to be seen as a mechanism to punish or blame individual teachers or to sanction teachers or principals through decisions about salary, promotion or evaluation. "The commission feels strongly about ensuring that these protections are enacted," the report states.

The commission suggests studying a number of variables regarding teacher or principal data in deciding what's useful for analyzing issues of teacher and principal quality. The variables may include demographic information including race and ethnicity; professional background and employment history; educational level; teacher or principal preparation program attended; license type and endorsement; additional coursework completed following bachelors or masters degree; teacher or principal experience level; principal's experience as a teacher; school assignments over time (to determine schools and districts with high turnover); salary; participation in professional development; student achievement scores; and more.

A copy of the full report is posted on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/download/PDF/OTCyearonereport%20final.pdf>. The report outlines recommendations for the pilot protocol, protections for individuals, positive use of the data and other considerations required by the original Senate Bill.

Further legislation will be required before the pilot may begin. The commission intends to work with members of the state legislature soon to draft legislation to authorize implementation of the pilot.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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