

# COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN

*Every Chance for Every Child*

October 15, 2020

Dr. Katy Anthes, Commissioner  
Office of the Colorado State Board of Education  
201 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Commissioner Anthes and members of the State Board of Education,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the Successor School Guidance. This guidance is an important first step in preventing online schools that have repeatedly failed to educate their students effectively from simply reopening under another name, a tactic some online schools in Colorado have used in the past. We commend the Department for working to stop this harmful practice and taking a step to ensure that Colorado children enrolled in online schools receive the educational experience they deserve.

We encourage the Department to build on this important change by taking additional measures to ensure that online schools and programs are high-quality, including conducting a more frequent and comprehensive audit of the state's online schools. The most recent audit was conducted nearly 15 years ago in 2006 and highlighted several concerns about the quality of online schools, some of which remain unaddressed today.

We also encourage the department to strengthen and improve the information it shares with the public regarding online schools and their performance. The current reporting standards are unhelpful and obscure, and they limit opportunities for meaningful advocacy and engagement by the communities being served. We recognize the value and importance of online learning and acknowledge the service they provide for some students. However, there is still much work to do to ensure that online schools are being held accountable to rigorous standards and that they are serving all students well.

We appreciate the important changes and updates to the School of Choice Unit's website and are thankful it now includes a list of online operators and their respective performance ratings. This change is a positive first step to provide clear, transparent and easily accessible information to members of the community and we urge the Department to make this information easily accessible for parents and families.

We are thankful for the opportunity to provide input and look forward to continuing a discussion on how to improve the quality of online schools in Colorado. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have at [stephanie@coloradokids.org](mailto:stephanie@coloradokids.org) or at (303)620-4525.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Perez-Carrillo, Policy and Partnerships Manager  
Leslie Colwell, Vice President of Education Initiatives

Cc:

Bill Kottenstette, Executive Director, School of Choice Unit



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Renee Martinez, Principal Consultant, Office of Blended and Online Learning

