

Dedicated to Excellence



Cherry Creek
Schools

Dr. Elliott Asp

Assistant Superintendent
Educational Services Center
4700 South Yosemite Street
Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111

November 29, 2009

Mr. Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan,

I have the honor of serving as the Chair of the Data Sub-committee for Colorado's P-20 Council and the Assistant Superintendent for Performance Improvement for Cherry Creek Schools. I write to you in support of the Colorado Department of Education's (CDE) proposal for a State Longitudinal Data System grant.

As a P-20 Council, we set out a broad agenda for improving our policy framework behind the state's data systems, moving toward creating an infrastructure that would allow information sharing across agencies and with all stakeholders. Colorado's legislature and Governor successfully worked together to put this policy foundation in place. CDE has built on that framework and instituted powerful practices that help shape how we are able to serve our students. However, our work is not yet done. We still need to create a truly integrated state data system that will allow us to track the progress of students from pre-school to post-secondary education and the work force.

I have been involved in the process of Colorado's development of this SLDS proposal, and I am confident that the ideas articulated will have a powerful impact on student learning. CDE's proposal, the SchoolView Project, builds on existing state successes and creates a system that will meet the needs of students, educators, parents/guardians, researchers and policy-makers. Further, it will help facilitate a powerful change in the way the state agency and districts can work together, producing important cultural and structural shifts in the partnership.

We have worked hard in the Cherry Creek Schools to provide data that teachers and building administrators can use to improve instruction and increase achievement. This longitudinal data system proposed in the grant will greatly enhance our efforts and those of our colleagues across the state.

Colorado is a valuable investment: the policies are in place, the will to implement is clear, and the opportunity to positively impact student achievement is immense. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliott Asp".

Elliott Asp
Assistant Superintendent for Performance Improvement
Cherry Creek Schools