



November 30, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Duncan,

As a professional association dedicated to promoting public education and supporting its leaders, the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) would like to add our strong support for the application by the Colorado Department of Education for a Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant. CASE has long been a leading voice for the move to longitudinal growth as a sensible way to measure student progress—instead of focusing only on a static growth measure, which sometimes punishes low income students unfairly.

CASE helped draft and pass a measure in the Colorado legislature several years ago to put longitudinal growth measurements in place and we have been extremely pleased by the progress made by the Colorado Department of Education. But this progress in designing a longitudinal growth system needs additional financial support to create the platform for better collection, dissemination and display of this critical educational information.

The proposal by the Colorado Department of Education, the SchoolView™ Project, focuses on data system infrastructure development. Improved systems are critically important in providing the ability to understand student strengths and target areas for improvement. The strategic objectives of this proposal will equip users to manage and use information for informed decision-making to help ensure all students in Colorado are ready for post-secondary education and workforce success. This strategic outcome for all school districts in Colorado has become a top priority for school administrators.

With continued efforts in the area of providing comprehensive and meaningful data, Colorado educators will have another tool in their efforts to help all children reach their educational potential. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Healy
Executive Director
Colorado Association of School Executives

CASE Departments

CAES Colorado Association of Educational Specialists ▲ CAESP Colorado Association of Elementary School Principals ▲ CALET Colorado Association of Leaders in Educational Technology
CASPA Colorado Association of School Personnel Administrators ▲ CASSA Colorado Association of Superintendents and Senior Administrators
CASSP Colorado Association of Secondary School Principals ▲ DBO Department of Business Officials

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