

STATE OF COLORADO

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

GOVERNMENT DATA ADVISORY BOARD

601 East 18th Avenue, Suite 250
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone (303) 764-7700
Fax (303) 764-7725
www.colorado.gov/oit



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Michael Locatis
State Chief Information Officer

November 30, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Duncan,

This letter is sent on behalf and support of Colorado Department of Education's SLDS grant application. Since taking office in 2007, Governor Bill Ritter and the Colorado Legislature have enacted several pieces of legislation to encourage and allow data sharing between state agencies. They recognized the needs that educators, schools, districts, parents, and the State have to analyze longitudinal data regarding factors including improving teaching and learning, informing public policy, fostering a culture of evidence-based decision making, conducting research, evaluating system and program effectiveness, and providing reports to various stakeholder groups.

Among many separate P-20 initiatives, two bills (HB 08-1364 and HB 09-1285) in particular have directed these data sharing initiatives. HB 09-1285 created a multi-agency central governance authority, the Government Data Advisory Board (GDAB), to advise the State Chief Information Officer and Chief Data Officer on the State's data strategy, policies, standards, architecture, and issues management. The Board is comprised of representatives of twelve State agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations and research institutes, and a wide variety of education stakeholders.

The Board's mission over the next ten years is to provide guidance and recommendations on how the State should govern and manage data and data management systems to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of State government, citizen service delivery and policy-making. The goals of the Board are consistent with and supportive of the SDLS challenge to move from a collection-driven system to an enterprise-based, data sharing system. The commitment is to build a state-of-the-art data system using industry exemplars within and outside of education that is both student-centric and equips users with the necessary information and tools to positively impact student learning. The GDAB will work with the Colorado Department of Education to develop the governance framework required to ensure the long-term success of this initiative.

The SLDS grant arrives at an ideal time to fulfill immediate needs while capitalizing on current strengths. Colorado is poised to translate the investment of SLDS funds into a next generation data system. The converse is also true: without immediate financial investments that advance the capacity of the state's education data system infrastructure, the state's reform agenda cannot be fully realized.



Increasing the effectiveness of government through information technology

e8

PR/Award # R384A100029

Thank you for the opportunity to support Colorado's SDLS grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Micheline Casey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Micheline Casey
Chair, Government Data Advisory Board
Chief Data Officer
Governor's Office of Information Technology