



COLORADO
State Board of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

June 29, 2021

The Honorable Jared Polis
Governor of Colorado
State Capitol Building
200 E. Colfax Ave., Rm. 136
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis,

Thank you for your leadership to the State of Colorado during the COVID-19 pandemic and for your commitment to education during these difficult times. We appreciate all you have done to support students and educators over the past year, including securing needed masks and other personal protective equipment, providing options for COVID-19 testing, and prioritizing educators and school staff when the vaccine became available.

As we enter the recovery phase of the pandemic, it is paramount for us to prioritize both academic progress and well-being of students who experienced disruptions in their learning opportunities last year. We, the undersigned members of the Colorado State Board of Education, believe unrestricted in-person learning is best for students, and trust superintendents and local boards to make decisions that best support their students, families and communities.

We want to encourage little-to-no state-level regulation of in-person learning next year. The experience gained during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as in previous years of experience mitigating influenza and other infectious disease outbreaks, have taught superintendents and their staff what strategies work best in their communities. During the upcoming 2021-22 school year, superintendents and local boards must have the authority to make decisions in support of unrestricted in-person learning.

With COVID-19 transmission rates at a much less dangerous level, we believe it is safe to return to our normal operating practice in Colorado, which is to give superintendents and local boards the authority to make sound decisions about instruction and school procedures.

Thank you for considering our position. We are grateful for your partnership and look forward to working together to ensure Colorado's students are able to make up any learning opportunities

Angelika Schroeder
Chairwoman
2nd Congressional District

Steve Durham
Vice-Chairman
5th Congressional District

Lisa Escárcega
1st Congressional District

Joyce Rankin
3rd Congressional District

Debora Scheffel
4th Congressional District

Rebecca McClellan
6th Congressional District

Karla Esser
7th Congressional District



they missed last year and have a wholly successful year in 2021-22 that includes robust academics and a full range of arts, sports and extracurricular activities.

Sincerely,



Angelika Schroeder
Chair - CD 2



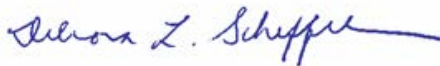
Joyce Rankin
Member - CD 3



Steve Durham
Vice-Chair - CD 5



Lisa Escárcega
Member - CD 1



Debora Scheffel
Member - CD 4

