



COLORADO
Department of Education
Commissioner of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

April 9, 2018

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

I hope you are all doing well and that you got at least a little bit of rest and relaxation during your spring breaks! I'm writing to give you some updates on the senior leadership team at CDE and to ask for your help.

As you may have heard me mention at various events over the last several months, We've been working on a new strategic plan for CDE to help prioritize our work, increase internal collaboration and, ultimately, advance our common goal of ensuring all students graduate ready for college and career. Our plan is posted on our website [here](#), and as always, I value any feedback you may have.

As I continue to think about implementation of this plan and support across districts in Colorado, I want to make sure have the right resources and expertise at the senior staff level. Toward that end, I'm so excited to announce that Alyssa Pearson has agreed to serve as CDE's deputy commissioner beginning in July. Alyssa's primary duties will be to help me drive implementation of our strategic plan, foster greater internal collaboration, build stronger external partnerships, and facilitate work with the board and legislature. As our new deputy commissioner, she will also oversee our Student Pathways, State Library and Legislative Relations & Policy teams.

Alyssa will transition to this new role over the next few months, after we [hire a new associate commissioner](#) for our School Quality and Support division, formerly called Accountability, Performance & Support led by Alyssa for the last couple of years. The new School Quality and Support division will also include our Schools of Choice team which will emphasize our complete public school ecosystem of options for students and families and the role of innovation and charters in the school improvement process.

I am hoping to hire a leader with solid grounding in increasing student outcomes from the school and district perspective for the associate commissioner of School Quality and Support, and this brings me to the point of my email! I would love your thoughts and suggestions on candidates for this important position. Please send our [job posting](#) to your networks and encourage strong school leaders, especially those with school improvement experience, to apply! As you know, I believe strongly in providing excellent support to districts, serving as your thought partner, and drawing connections across the state to help us all learn from each other and advance our common mission. This new leader to CDE will help me advance this critical work.

If you have any questions about this position or other changes at the senior leadership level here at CDE, please let me know.

Best wishes to you as we all head into our exciting end-of-year activities for the 2017-18 school year!

