



**COLORADO**  
**Department of Education**  
Commissioner of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203-1799

Aug. 17, 2022

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a good summer, with time for rest and reflection as well as time to have some fun in our beautiful state. I know you have all had a difficult few years and I'm really hoping it is getting back to some sense of normalcy.

I am excited for the new school year ahead of us. With the [most recent CDPHE guidance for schools](#) as well as the [new CDC guidance](#), we all hope that the dark days of the pandemic may truly be behind us. I am optimistic that this year we will leave behind the masks, social distancing and all the uncertainty and anxiety that have clouded the last couple of years.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to all of you, your educators and your staff who worked tirelessly to support students last year as we sought to recover from the lost learning opportunities during the worst days of the pandemic. The results of our statewide assessments show that Colorado students are indeed rebounding, with higher scores than 2021 for most of our students who took the math and English language arts CMAS tests. That's a credit to you and your staff for the support and excellent instruction you provided. Participation was also strong across the state, and that means our assessment results will be a very useful tool as we try to focus resources where they are most needed and draw the attention of policy makers to the toughest challenges. Thank you for making our state assessments a priority for your schools and districts.

I know that staffing continues to be an incredible challenge for you all. I have talked with many of you who are struggling to place a qualified educator in every classroom as well as staffing in all other areas - transportation, food services, para professionals and others. I know this is incredibly stressful for you and for your returning educators, so I am grateful for your perseverance. I continue to share your experiences with policymakers so they understand and can take action.

We do have [several grant programs to help recruit and retain educators](#). And we have specific support for every district through our [educator recruitment and retention specialists](#). Please reach out to them today.

Thank you, again, for all you have done to support your students, educators, families and communities over these past few challenging years. I look forward to partnering with you as we continue to support our students' academic progress following the pandemic and work on innovative ways to bolster our educator workforce.

Sincerely,

Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80203-1799 P 303.866.6600 F 303.830.0793  
Katy Anthes, Ph.D., Commissioner of Education | [www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us)



Katy Anthes, Ph.D.  
Commissioner

