



COLORADO
Department of Education

Commissioner
201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

Mr. Van Scholes
A+ Colorado
1390 Lawrence St., #200
Denver, CO 80204

April 10, 2017

Dear Van,

Thank you so much for your letter with your observations, feedback, and recommendations on the ESSA plan. I really appreciate the time you took to give us feedback. CDE will continue to work on some of the issues you mentioned through the implementation of ESSA. There are others that we can work on with the State Board of Education (SBE) and the legislature (both entities who make the final decisions on many of these issues). Your concerns are important and I will keep them in mind going forward. Please remember that Colorado can always revise its ESSA plans with the USDE as necessary.

I know you make many important points in your letter, but I would like to highlight below two areas that you mentioned that are particularly important and challenging for CDE. Data and school improvement:

- Plans for collecting and releasing data are notably absent and CDE's new data suppression rules go beyond state and federal requirements and make it more challenging for the public to determine how some students are doing.
- CDE should better outline how it plans to evaluate the progress and impact of school improvement strategies, and share lessons learned with schools and districts across the state.

We will continue to think about these areas and work on them with all partners. We will be sure to engage you in those discussions.

The State Board of Education will be hearing about and discussing the ESSA plan on April 13th; however, we will have many additional opportunities to use your feedback as we work with school districts and BOCES and ongoing committees in implementing the plan.

I look forward to working with you and your partners in the future. We are happy to discuss these issues more. I know they are incredibly important.

Thanks so much,

Katy Anthes, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

