



**Urban League of  
Metropolitan Denver**



## **Honesty is the best policy**

*A call for accurate school performance reporting in Denver Public Schools*

**DATE:** December 14, 2017  
**TO:** Denver Public Schools Board  
**RE:** Correct the SPF

We, the undersigned, respectfully call on all members of the Denver Public Schools Board to instruct the Superintendent to immediately issue corrected School Performance Framework (SPF) data on each elementary school in the district.

We believe the SPF is a critically important accountability tool, and all stakeholders—educators, parents, students, and the general public—have a vested interest to ensure its accuracy and reliability.

As recently revealed by the district, there are known flaws in the current formula. The methods used to calculate school scores in the 2017 SPF have, as acknowledged in meetings between the superintendent and the undersigned, resulted in inflated performance rankings. Specifically, the district is significantly overstating literacy gains, which distorts overall academic performance across all elementary schools.

Parents rely on the accuracy of the district's school rating system, and providing anything short of that is simply unacceptable.

We are committed to working with DPS on solutions, and we welcome a broader community conversation to ensure the SPF is a fully reliable and enduring public accountability tool into the future.

Most immediately, however, we call for correction of the early literacy measure—which inflates and misrepresents the performance improvements at several schools. We call for this correction to be made before the school choice window opens in January and parents select schools for their children based on flawed data.

The corrected information must be properly communicated to every family in DPS to provide public confidence that Denver's SPF is a reliable tool to inform school choice decisions.

We call on the Denver Public Schools Board and Superintendent to re-issue corrected 2017 school performance results for all affected schools to ensure parents have honest information to choose the schools that are best for their students.

Sincerely,

Sean Bradley, Urban League of Metropolitan Denver  
Dr. Joyce Brooks, NAACP Denver Branch  
Papa Dia, African Leadership Group  
Meghan Carrier, Together Colorado  
Dr. Jeriod Patterson, Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc.  
Ricardo Martinez, Padres & Jóvenes Unidos