

Colorado Education Leaders Want To Hear From You!

Education leaders want to ensure that every Colorado educator has the supportive environment necessary to help students achieve at the highest levels. The TELL Colorado Survey is an opportunity for every educator to "TELL Colorado" if they have positive teaching and learning conditions. Research has shown these factors to be important to student achievement and teacher retention. A statewide coalition – representing a wide variety of education leaders, advocates and stakeholders – drives this initiative to provide valuable data for school and district improvements. The results also are used to inform state level policy decisions. Colorado offers this opportunity biennially – the next survey window opens in January 2011. This year, the New Teacher Center was selected by the state to administer the survey.

The anonymous, online survey will be available January 31, 2011 through February 28, 2011. The survey may be accessed by visiting www.tellColorado.org. Participants must have an access code. Packets with the anonymous codes were mailed to each school the week of January 24, 2011.

Worried about your anonymity? Don't be! Here's why:

- **Every school will receive a stack of letters, each letter having a unique seven-digit survey access code.** The packet is addressed to the building's association representative (AR). If the building does not have an AR, then the packet is addressed to the principal. When the AR/principal hands out these letters, feel free to "switch" letters with your colleagues at your school. Each code can only be used one time. Once used, no one can access the survey using that code or find anything out about that code's responses.
- **The handler of the website and access codes is NOT the Colorado Department of Education, but instead is a third party vendor through NTC.** NTC is a national non-profit organization that has successfully administered similar statewide surveys in twelve other states. Since 2008, NTC has received responses from over 415,000 school-based educators.
- **You can complete the survey from any Internet location, 24 hours a day during the survey window (January 31, 2011-February 28, 2011).**
- There are some limited demographic questions on the survey. However, the answers to *these questions are only reported at the state level*, and not at the district or school level. **There is no way that any type of connection can be made that a teacher or principal at a certain school gave a certain response.**
- **There are no questions on the survey that specifically ask about subject areas or grade levels.** When the school reports are released (for all schools that reached at least a 50% response rate and at least 5 teachers) nothing attributed to any type of teacher or any one administrator.

- **There is a live response rate tracker on the website for every school and district.** When you submit your response, the only indication of that submission will be that the school and district's response number will increase by one. The results will not be shown on the website until March, and only for those schools and districts that reach at least a 50% response rate. The results, when shown, will be aggregated for the school, and compared to the district and state responses.
- **NTC has successfully administered this type of survey, using these same protocols to guarantee confidentiality, since 2008, in more than twelve states.** For more information, please visit <http://www.newteachercenter.org/tlcsurvey/index.php>