

Statement of Coalition Partners

House Bill 08-1384 authorized the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to conduct a biennial survey of teaching and learning conditions, stating that "these conditions must be systematically studied and addressed for Colorado to develop a critical mass of teachers who are well prepared to teach and who will remain in the hardest-to-staff schools long enough to make a significant difference for students and their families."

It is with this in mind that the *TELL Colorado* initiative (Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning) has been created. Gathering information for every school in the state is important to the success of the initiative. By surveying every school-based licensed educator, valuable information about educators' perceptions of teaching and learning conditions can be compiled and analyzed at the school, local, and state levels.

CDE believes that for the initiative to be a success, the survey must be designed, disseminated and utilized through a partnership of educators, stakeholders and policymakers. Therefore, CDE formed a partnership with the Colorado Education Association (CEA), the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), and the Colorado League of Charter Schools (CLCS). The *TELL Colorado* partners want to ensure that every educator works in -- and every student attends -- a school that is a great place in which to teach and learn.

The *TELL Colorado* partners are committed to:

- **The privacy of all survey respondents.** The survey will be anonymous and voluntary for all educators. There is general agreement that the data are only helpful if educators are willing to share their honest perceptions of their schools.
- **Supporting and promoting the survey initiative, including communicating to members the purpose and importance of the initiative and encouraging survey participation.**
- **Conveying that the purpose of the survey is to drive school improvement, not the discipline of personnel.** Teaching and learning conditions result from cultures and decisions made over years. This dynamic is bigger than any one person, and it will take everyone in a school to improve them.
- **Monitoring and proactively promoting the appropriate use of data among constituent members.** The appropriate use of data is described in two documents found under the Links section of the web site: 1) *Using the results*, and 2) *Data Dos and Don'ts*. All parties using the results are expected to follow these guidelines. If data are used inappropriately or the intent of the survey initiative is violated, partners will work collectively to address the situation.
- **Providing data to educators.** All educators at schools that have sufficient response rates to the survey will have access to their schools' survey results in order to integrate findings into school improvement planning.

A project of:

Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)

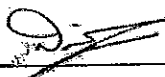
Colorado Education Association (CEA)

Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE)

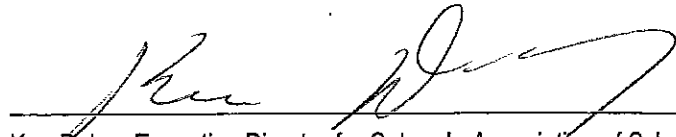
Colorado League of Charter Schools (CLCS)

Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

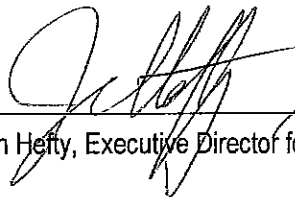
- **Providing tools and assistance to ensure that the survey data are used, and used appropriately.** This assistance will focus on helping school-level staff strategically determine how to best select specific areas to address and then determine appropriate interventions. Partners will not release the data publicly in any form until after it is released to the general public along with the final report.
- **Ensuring that the survey data are viewed as part of a larger picture of many important factors, and are not used to unilaterally and arbitrarily judge a school's or school system's effectiveness.** Survey data should be analyzed with other information to make informed decisions.
- **Sharing this statement with members so that all will understand the purpose of the survey and the appropriate use of the data.**



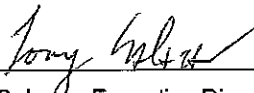
Dwight Jones, Commission of Education, Colorado Department of Education



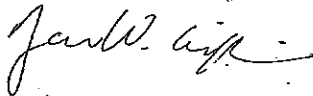
Ken Delay, Executive Director for Colorado Association of School Boards



John Hefty, Executive Director for Colorado Association of School Executives



Tony Salazar, Executive Director for Colorado Education Association



Jim Griffin, President of Colorado League of Charter Schools