



COLORADO
Department of Education
Commissioner of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

May 26, 2020

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

As you know, we have been working on our guidance to help you plan for the 2020-21 school year. Thanks to all of you who have provided us with your feedback and ideas through our Superintendent's Advisory Council, Rural Council, BOCES meetings and emails.

Today we made our [initial toolkit for planning the 2020-21 school year publicly available](#). I want to emphasize that today's version is a draft and a working document. While we've been looking across other countries and states and collaborating with superintendents, CDPHE and other stakeholders to develop the current draft, we look forward to getting broader feedback on the toolkit and refining it in the coming months.

The top priority of the toolkit is to keep students and educators healthy. At the same time, we need to make sure our children keep learning. As you know so well, in-person learning at schools provides important structure and relationships for our children, and it also supports working parents in their need to return to their jobs. Again, the toolkit strives to keep health and safety at the forefront while helping families return to more typical routines.

It's important to also remember that this is an evolving situation with the virus still active in our communities. The school year will be affected by public health orders, the COVID-19 incidence rate of new cases, and any progress our medical community makes on treatment. We hope that we also have more detailed data and information by community so that regional approaches can be implemented and there does not have to be a one-size-fits-all approach.

In addition to our regular avenues for getting feedback from you, teachers, students, education organizations, advocacy groups and the State Board of Education, we have created an Advisory Committee to help us refine our recommendations. You are also welcome to invite your communities to [provide us with feedback via this form](#).

I look forward to continued conversation with you over the coming months.

Best,

Katy Anthes, Ph.D.
Commissioner

