



COLORADO
Department of Education
Commissioner of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

Sept. 16, 2016

Dear Superintendents,

Happy Friday! I know the last few weeks have been incredibly busy for everyone! In addition to the information we have been sending you regarding assessment, data and student growth, I would like to let you know about some staffing updates here at CDE. I realize you have received a lot of communication from us recently—so thank you for indulging me in one more email before the weekend. I wanted to give you a few staffing updates.

Leanne Emm has graciously agreed to serve as our deputy commissioner for operations. This is the role formerly known as the chief of staff (like Prince). Leanne has served as our associate commissioner for school finance since 2011, and before that she worked in budget and finance at Jeffco Public Schools for 14 years. With help from Jennifer Okes, now the executive director of school finance, Leanne will continue to oversee school finance while she takes a leadership role in working with CDE staff, districts, the legislature and the board on the many issues ahead of us this year. Leanne will be a great contact for you if you have comments, questions or concerns about the issues coming before the board and legislature.

In addition, Alyssa Pearson has agreed to continue as our associate commissioner for accountability and performance. She has been performing this role admirably for more than a year as an “interim associate commissioner,” so I’ve asked her take the word “interim” off her title. Alyssa started her career in education as a teacher in Denver Public Schools, and in her 13 years at CDE she has supported Title I programs as well as state and federal accountability work. Alyssa will oversee accountability, data analysis, improvement planning, and district and school support.

To help with the work associated with school and district accountability, Alyssa is planning to fill the executive director of accountability and data analysis job (she has been filling both roles recently). Attached is a job description for that position, please feel free to forward it to anyone who might be interested in this work.

As schools have started and you all are immersed again in your day-to-day work with students, teachers and parents, I want to share with you what I told the new superintendents at their recent CDE orientation. I strongly believe CDE’s role is to support you - and help you serve your students. If you reach out to us, we will strive to help solve problems, think through issues and lend a helping hand to the best of our ability.

Thank you for the hard work you put in day-in and day-out for your students, teachers, parents and communities.

Sincerely,

