



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TO: Educators, After-school Program Providers, Parents and Community Members

FROM: Dwight Jones, Commissioner of Education
Dr. Diana Sirko, Deputy Commissioner
Elaine Gantz Berman, Chair, Expanded Learning Opportunities Commission

SUBJECT: Community Input Survey on expanded learning opportunities, after-school and out-of-school programs

DATE: October 21, 2010

The Colorado Department of Education's Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Commission is examining the state-level policies needed to most effectively use the school day and to foster collaboration and partnerships among teachers, schools and community partners that go beyond core subjects to fully engage and enrich all students. The outcome of the Commission will be a policy report that outlines a vision of student-centered learning that transcends the school day and location, and encourages education systems to use time, partners and technology in new ways to achieve greater long-term outcomes for students, including increased academic achievement and better preparation for college and the workforce.

The first step in the Commission's work is to listen to educators, program providers, parents and others about the challenges and successes of expanded learning time and discuss ideas for improving programs and strengthening community partnerships. We want to hear what is needed to improve and expand services to engage more students in meaningful ways.

Please provide your feedback on expanded learning opportunities, after-school and out-of-school programs and partnerships via this online survey tool: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/26C2Z7N>.

Thank you for your time and effort. Your feedback will be very useful to the ELO Commission as they ensure that Colorado policies support flexible learning environments.