

Early Childhood Leadership Commission
Lt. Governor Garcia, Co-Chair
Barbara Grogan, Co-Chair
Anna Jo Haynes, Co-Chair

1575 Sherman Street Denver, CO 80203
www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org



Richard Crandall
Commissioner
Colorado Department of Education,
201 East Colfax Ave., Room 500,
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Commissioner Crandall:

On behalf of Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) we would first like to welcome you to Colorado and to your new role as Commissioner of Education. We hope to have an opportunity to meet you in the very near future and discuss our common goals of ensuring all Colorado children receive a quality education. The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) is Colorado's state advisory council for early childhood authorized by House Bill 13-1117. The role of the ECLC is to be a statewide leader, subject matter expert and champion of best and promising practices throughout the state. We are writing to you today to express our strong support for establishment of a kindergarten readiness assessment reporting system that will provide district and state level information to gauge the return on investment for the many efforts underway to improve early learning programs.

As co-chairs of the ECLC Data Committee, we work with many colleagues across the state to promote the sharing and use of common data for planning and accountability by state and local programs and organizations that support young children. The purpose of the Data Committee is to ensure the interagency data system infrastructure allows for statewide needs assessments concerning the quality and availability of early childhood services. As we address this work, we are ever mindful of the critical importance of protecting individual student data privacy and security.

We understand the Board will be presented with an option to only collect and report kindergarten readiness data in the aggregate. If this option is selected by the Board the Department and other policy makers as well as the ECLC will not be able to determine how participation in specific early learning programs is related to kindergarten readiness. Quality early learning programs and policies have at their core the goal of increasing children's readiness for success in school. Therefore providers of and investors in these programs are eager to know the impact of their efforts so adjustments can be made based on actual data. Developing the most appropriate ways to include kindergarten readiness assessment data as another check point of overall student readiness and progress between preschool and end of third grade will help our state ensure we are providing the most effective and cost efficient early learning opportunities for our students.

The ECLC believes it is important that we hold ourselves and program providers accountable for supporting children's academic achievement while at the same time offering appropriate and effective supports for improved program quality. A well-designed reporting system that includes information about how well our children are progressing in all areas related to later academic achievement is key to

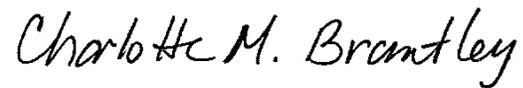
both goals. As further background, we are enclosing a letter we sent to the Board of Education previously regarding our views on the kindergarten readiness assessment.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of our input on the development of the most useful reporting system for informing return on investment and look forward to working with you on early childhood issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan J. Steele". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Susan J. Steele

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlotte M. Brantley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Charlotte M. Brantley

Enclosure: ECLC Letter to State Board of Education, 11-09-2015