

# STATE OF COLORADO

## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

601 East 18th Avenue, Suite 250  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
Phone (303) 764-7700  
Fax (303) 764-7725  
www.colorado.gov/oit



Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

Michael Locatis  
State Chief Information Officer

November 30, 2009

Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan,

This letter is sent on behalf and support of Colorado Department of Education's SLDS grant application. Since taking office in 2007, Governor Bill Ritter and the Colorado Legislature have enacted several pieces of legislation to encourage and allow data sharing between state agencies, with a particularly strong emphasis on education and workforce-related data ties. The Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) sits squarely in the middle of all State information technology programs, and has been designated via legislation to oversee and govern all policies, processes, standards and architecture related to enterprise technology and information sharing initiatives.

OIT provides a framework to manage the connections among state agency systems, providing enterprise architecture, governance, and data management standards that will facilitate cross-agency collaboration. OIT will be integrally involved in all aspects of the planning, development and implementation of the SLDS. Pursuant to state law, OIT implements the Enterprise Governance Committee (EGC) structure to provide senior governance for large-scale, multi-agency initiatives such as Project SchoolView™. This model has been effective in providing management expertise across the state by identifying risks, ensuring collaboration across agencies, and helping resolve critical issues. OIT is delighted to be the technology partner of the Colorado Department of Education for this exciting and critical initiative.

The Governor, Legislature, and Department of Education have established a clear vision and direction for enabling data sharing to impact student performance. What is lacking is the associated funding required to implement this vision with strong, well-architected technology infrastructure. Colorado is a state where your investment can help build this solid infrastructure that is consistent with our direction and supported by all stakeholders. I strongly support the proposal and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael W. Locatis'.

Michael W. Locatis  
Executive Director  
State Chief Information Officer  
Governor's Office of Information Technology



*Increasing the effectiveness of government through information technology*

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