February 25, 2026

Dear Superintendents and BOCES directors,

Today we are sharing the following updates:

- Joint Budget Committee meeting on CDE operations budget
- Teacher of the Year nominations are open until March 20
- CCSSO update on US Department of Education's interagency agreements

Teacher of the Year nominations are open until March 20
Nominations for Colorado's 2027 Teacher of the Year are open now through March 20. We've created a **2027 Colorado Teacher of the Year Nomination Communications Toolkit** with everything you need let your community know how to and why they should nominate a teacher from their school district. Take a few minutes to explore the toolkit and submit your own nomination by Friday, March 20!

Joint Budget Committee meeting on CDE operations budget
Yesterday, the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) met to hear about our department's State Operations budget request in their figure setting for CDE. The JBC staff briefing document — which is published at the beginning of the hearing and is nearly 300 pages long — is available online. The recording of the hearing is also available. The Committee did not complete its review of the State Operations budget during the five-hour hearing and is resuming discussion today. It is important to note that the JBC figure setting is one of several steps required in the process to adopt the state budget. It is likely that the State Board will "come back" with requested revisions to the proposed budget reductions and the JBC may also revisit any decisions made this week following the March budget forecast, which is typically around the middle of the month.

CCSSO update on US Department of Education's interagency agreements
On Monday, Feb. 23, the Council of Chief State School Officers shared the following update:
Today the U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced new interagency agreements (IAAs) with the U.S. Departments of State (State) and Health and

Human Services (HHS). You can find ED's press release about today's announcement here and a fact sheet here.

ED and HHS have signed an IAA for ED's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) and HHS's Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to co-administer several programs, including School Emergency Response to Violence (Project SERV), School Safety National Activities, Ready to Learn Programming, Full-Service Community Schools, Promise Neighborhoods, and Statewide Family Engagement Centers.

The IAA between ED and State will cover foreign gift and contract reporting requirements for institutions of higher education as required under Section 117 of the Higher Education Act.

Warm Regards,

Susana Córdova