



A Petition to Governor Jared Polis from the Colorado Education Association and those who support Public Education

Dear Governor Polis,

In the wake of these uncertain and difficult times, your leadership is crucial. As we all work to mitigate the consequences of this pandemic, the 39,000 members of the Colorado Education Association stand ready to assist you and the students and families that we work with every day in order to get through this crisis. We have surveyed educators from across the state, and we believe there are some immediate action steps that your administration must take to lessen the economic disruption and loss of life facing our state.

We call upon you to prioritize educators, workers, and students by:

- Directing superintendents to work in good faith with their local Education Association to bargain or mutually agree on distance learning practices and policies, and in addition, directing school districts to reimburse educators for personal expenses related to implementing distance and/or digital learning;
- Mandating that school districts continue to pay all employees for the entire school year and calling on the Legislature to not take any action that would negatively impact current year school district budgets;
- Imploring ICE to cease all arrests and release nonviolent offenders;
- Halting rent/mortgage payments for the duration of the crisis;
- And, Vastly expanding unemployment benefits and expediting access.

Thank you for your leadership during this unprecedented and challenging time. We look forward to continuing our work together for Colorado students, their families, and educators.

Sincerely,

Amie Baca-Oehlert, High School Counselor

President of the Colorado Education Association, representing 39,000 Colorado educators