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**COLORADO
CHILDREN'S
CAMPAIGN**
Every Chance for Every Child

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MAJORITY (62%) OF COLORADANS SUPPORT END-OF-YEAR STATEWIDE TESTS

Poll by Keating Research Reveals 2.5-to-1 Support for Assessments to Understand Learning Loss

Denver, Colorado— A recent poll by [Keating Research](#) finds that 62% of voters, including **66% of parents with kids in K-12, support conducting a statewide assessment to understand student learning loss**. Keating Research was one of the few pollsters in the country to accurately predict the results of the 2020 election. The poll was paid for by Democrats for Education Reform, Ready Colorado, and Colorado Succeeds.

“Assessments have always been one important tool for measuring student progress,” said Leslie Colwell, Vice President, K-12 Education Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign. “This year, when students’ worlds have been upended and schools have employed dramatically different models of instruction, they’re essential for understanding the impact that COVID-19 has had on our kids and where opportunity gaps have widened.”

[DFER](#), [Transform Education Now](#), [Stand for Children Colorado](#), [ReadyCO](#), [Colorado Succeeds](#), [Colorado Children’s Campaign](#), [ERN](#), [African Leadership Group](#), and [A+ Colorado](#) highlight recent polling by Keating Research about student learning loss because of COVID-19, support for the use of student assessments to understand learning loss, and the view that resulting data should not be used for accountability purposes. Topline results indicate that:

- **Learning loss is the most important issue facing public schools today (43% concerned about learning during the pandemic)**

“Results from research reinforce what we are hearing from families. Parents are deeply concerned with the loss of learning”, Ariel Smith, Co-founder of Transform Education Now, stated. “They are seeing it first hand with many students still learning from home, lacking the full range of academic and social support needed by students to thrive.”

“Understanding and addressing learning loss has important implications for Colorado’s long-term economic recovery,” said Kelly Caufield, VP of Government Affairs, Colorado Succeeds. “We know based on national research that lifetime earnings could be down due to student learning loss. Parents, educators, and schools need to understand where the learning loss is occurring so we can provide support for those students and districts who need it the most.”

- **Support for statewide assessments is high, crosses party, regional lines**

“Across the political spectrum, Coloradans agree - having a statewide test to gauge how students are doing is common sense,” said Luke Ragland, President of Ready Colorado. “Support for an assessment to determine student learning loss is backed by an overwhelming majority of voters across all geographies, genders and political ideologies.”

- **Voters agree that assessments should not be used for educator or school accountability purposes**

“We know our districts and educators have tackled enormous challenges both this year and last. We don’t believe this data has any use in accountability,” said Prateek Dutta, Policy Director of DFER-Colorado. “This is strictly about understanding how Colorado’s student’s are doing after a period of enormous educational and life disruption.”

For a full analysis of this poll, please see attached a memo outlining the key findings, the release of topline results, and the crosstabs data.

These findings are based on a random sample of 600 respondents online, among voters statewide in Colorado. This survey sample accurately represents the population of active voters statewide in Colorado based on party registration, gender, age, education, region and ethnicity. The poll was conducted from January 5 -10, 2021 by Keating Research.

About Our Organizations

A+ Colorado is an independent, nonprofit organization committed to ensuring every Colorado student can access an excellent education. We use the power of data and research to advocate for district and systems-level policies that will accelerate learning for all students. More at apluscolorado.org.

African Leadership Group’s mission is to help the African diaspora integrate and prosper by connecting cultures, developing strong community leaders, and advocating for economic, social and educational impact. Learn more at usalq.org.

The Colorado Children’s Campaign is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization committed since 1985 to realizing every chance for every child in Colorado. We advocate for the development and implementation of data-driven public policies that improve child well-being in health, education and early childhood. We do this by providing Coloradans with trusted data and research and

organizing an extensive statewide network of dedicated child advocates. For more information, please visit www.coloradokids.org.

Colorado Succeeds is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that brings business leaders across the state together to ensure all of Colorado's children are educated to their greatest potential. Learn more at coloradosucceeds.org.

DFER's mission is to ensure that the Democratic Party, consistent with its progressive values, pursues education policies that enable all students, particularly students from low-income families and students of color, to obtain a globally competitive education that empowers them to fulfill their limitless potential. Learn more at dfer.org

Education Reform Now is a nonprofit organization that develops and drives forward bold, new ideas that can transform the American public education system from pre-school to and through higher education to better serve all students, especially low-income students and students of color. Learn more at edreformnow.org

Ready Colorado (ReadyCO) is a nonprofit organization founded in 2015 focused on defining and advancing the center-right vision for education. Learn more at ReadyColo.org

Stand for Children Colorado is an education nonprofit focused on ensuring all students receive a high-quality, relevant education, especially those whose boundless potential is overlooked and under-tapped because of their skin color, zip code, first language, or disability. Learn more at stand.org/co

Transform Education Now: is a nonprofit that recognizes that access to high-quality education is a fundamental right of all people. Education systems that currently exist have been unequal and oppressive to certain sections of our city for too long. TEN exists to change that system by partnering with parents, students, community leaders, charter providers, local school districts and elected officials. We will build power with communities to demand innovation, improvement, and high-quality public schools in all neighborhoods. Learn more at transformeducationnow.org.

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