

The Quality Teacher Commission and the Educator Identifier Pilot Program

The thirteen-member Quality Teacher Commission (QTC) appointed by Governor pursuant to SB 07-140 represents a broad cross section of education interests. Their names and affiliations are listed below.

After nearly a year of study the Commission unanimously adopted several recommendations for moving forward with development of an identifier system for both teachers and principals. In reaching its conclusions, the QTC published the following express statements regarding the intended purposes of the system.

It is the firm belief of the QTC that the primary purpose of a unique teacher and principal identifier system is to enable Colorado to examine issues related to teaching and school leadership that will improve teacher quality. This includes strengthening teacher and principal preparation, providing effective training and support for educators throughout their careers, and closing the teacher gap statewide. The premise is that increased school and teacher effectiveness will increase student learning and achievement. An identifier is **not** a mechanism to punish or blame individuals. (*Quality Teacher Commission Recommendations on a Teacher and Principal Identifier in Colorado*, June 2008, p.1) (emphasis in original).

In considering protections for individual teachers and principals in relation to how the identifier data will be used, the Commission recommended,

The teacher/principal identifier is **not** intended to sanction teachers or principals through decisions about salary, promotion, or evaluation. The commission feels strongly about ensuring that these protections are enacted. (*Quality Teacher Commission Recommendations on a Teacher and Principal Identifier in Colorado*, June 2008, p.6) (emphasis in original).

Further, the Commission specifically voted to support the following amendment to HB 09-1065 sponsored by Rep. Debbie Benefield (D-Arvada) and Sen. Nancy Spence (R-Centennial).

(a) THE DATA OBTAINED FROM THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL NOT BE USED TO NEGATIVELY SANCTION INDIVIDUAL EDUCATORS. THE USE OF INFORMATION THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS OBTAIN FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE SHALL NOT BE RESTRICTED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH (a). (*Reengrossed House Bill 09-1065*, p. 6).

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Quality Teacher Commission Members

Chair Scott Groginsky, President, Gilpin County RE-1 School Board
Vice-Chair Nate Howard, Middle School Principal, Denver Public Schools
Nella Anderson, Director of Teacher Education, Western State College
Julie Carnahan, Chief Academic Officer, CDHE
Maria del Carmen Salazar, Asst. Prof. of Curriculum and Instruction, Denver University
Matt Gianneschi, Senior Policy Analyst for Governor Ritter
Bill Hodges, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources, Douglas County Schools
Evie Hudak, Colorado State Board of Education
Lisa Kramer, Parent, Littleton, CO
Karen Mock, Deputy Commissioner, CDE
Jacqueline Paone, Executive Director, Alliance for Quality Teaching
Diedre Roque, Teacher, Pueblo, CO
Kim Ursetta, President, Denver Classroom Teachers Association