

Hi,

Thanks for having me today. Here are a few follow-ups. I still owe you some answers on the CSI questions for October Count. Bill Kottenstette is another good contact from those questions.

Questions on October Count:

Instructional Hours and Attendance

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/cde_policy_on_instructional_hours_and_attendance

Questions on Broadband Announcement:

Gov. Jared Polis, Attorney General Phil Weiser and Commissioner Katy Anthes announced that T-Mobile, as part of its Project 10Million, will provide up to 34,000 low-income student households in Colorado with a free WiFi hotspot and 100GB of data per year for free. Districts that are within T-Mobile's service area have been contacted with information about how to request hot spots. T-Mobile will begin reaching out to those districts indicating interest after their national announcement about the program later this week.

CDE also will distribute \$2 million from the emergency federal funding set aside for state-level activities from the ESSER fund to help school districts provide broadband access to low-income families.

An online application is being developed for this competitive grant, called "Connecting Colorado Students Grant." Target release date is late September. Eligible applicants will submit an online application that will consist of assurances required for federal funds, proposed activities to be selected from an allowable list of activities, and amounts requested per activity. The application will also include a section for describing the proportionate share being set aside to provide equitable services to non-public schools within the applicant's boundaries. [Read the full press release from Gov. Polis' office.](#)

Questions on RISE Fund:

DENVER- Governor Jared Polis launched the \$32.7 million Response, Innovation, and Student Equity Education (RISE) fund today to support high-needs school districts, charter schools, and public institutions of higher education in creating sustainable innovations to improve student learning, close equity gaps, and enhance operational efficiency for pre-K-12 through higher education.

"We must do more to expand opportunities for every student to receive an education that prepares them for a bright future. Which is why I'm thrilled to announce this transformative funding program that supports real innovation to close equity gaps in our communities, help our students rise, and share what works with others," said Gov. Polis.

The RISE Education Fund utilizes federal funds from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund, included as part of the CARES Act. The fund will support innovative, locally driven solutions, help to address broad structural challenges that have the potential to be replicated in the future, and advance equity by reaching those students most likely to have been affected by the economic, social, and health impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

Specific areas of focus include providing new student-focused models of learning, dramatically rethinking the student experience for higher education, strengthening and formalizing linkages between P-12, higher education, and industry, and catalyzing innovations that can drive long-term impact after the life of the grant. Priority will be given to proposals that serve rural areas, propose to serve schools or school districts in priority improvement or turnaround status, and those that address significant equity gaps.

The deadline for the first round of applications is **October 17, 2020**. Applicants can find more information about the grant [here](#). Applications will be reviewed by a grant selection committee composed of parents, educators, students, education leaders, and other community members appointed by Governor Polis and chaired by Gary Community Investments President and CEO, Mike Johnston.

In addition to the RISE Fund, the Governor announced a public-private partnership with funders, including the Gates Family Foundation and Gary Community Investments, to provide resources and strategic design support for applicants to ensure the fund reaches a diversity of geographies across the state. Grants will be available to assist applicants who plan to apply for the second deadline of December 19, 2020 to ensure a robust community engagement and strategic design process for communities that need more time and resources to put forward quality applications. Applicants can find more information about this fund [here](#).

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