



August 10, 2018

To whom it may concern;

The notion that America's high schools are overdue for a fundamental program redesign is nothing new. The National Conference of State Legislatures report that more than 1 million students who enter ninth grade each year fail to graduate with their peers four years later, and that approximately 7,000 students drop out every school day. For many these underperforming students, the high school experience falls woefully short relative to the three Rs that matter most: relationships, relevance, and rigor.

The Colorado Education Initiative is dedicated to helping Colorado high schools redesign their programs by focusing on the three critical areas we believe matter most if we want to predictably generate equitable results in student outcomes. First, we believe that redesigned schools will be built upon a foundation that supports the social, emotional, and academic development of every student. Second, we believe that redesigned schools will ensure that every student's educational program is relevant and meaningful for them. Finally, we believe that redesigned schools will commit to ensuring that every student is challenged with a rigorous educational program.

When we first became aware of Patty Alper's *Teach to Work* book and her framework to support business and industry professionals to work closely with students and teachers through her Project-Based Mentoring™ system, we immediately saw this for what it is: a breakthrough process that will allow schools and communities to join forces to improve outcomes for all students. Project-based mentoring™ has the promise to affect all three Rs – the opportunity for students to build meaningful relationships through authentic mentor-mentee interaction, the opportunity for students to see the relevance of what they are learning in school by connecting the content to real-world problems and projects, and the opportunity for students to challenge themselves with more advanced content and concepts, since they will be mentored and supported by expert business and industry professionals.

I am thrilled to have learned about Ms. Alper's innovative approach and look forward to helping schools throughout the Centennial State apply her strategies to forge deep partnerships with their local economic partners to redesign their learning programs for their students.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Carter", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Alex Carter, Ed.D  
Vice President, Implementation