

Message from the Superintendent

December 6, 2007

Community members,

Thank you for your continued support of Douglas County School District. As one of our Core Values, our District is in a constant state of continuous quality improvement. With that in mind, we strive to be a listening organization which is not only responsive to the needs of students, but the desires of our customers.

At this time, we are beginning a process of gathering information, feedback and input on several key issues which have been impacting our School District for many years. As we enter our 50th year as a School District, we are very proud of our heritage, reputation, and tradition of excellence. But, it is clear we are a very different public school organization than we were years ago.

In my four and a half years here, several themes have remained constant as points of concern for community members, families and staff. As we move ahead and plan for a successful future, we want to hear from you regarding these key issues.

These topics include:

- School Day Start Times
- School Calendars – 4 Track, Modified, Conventional
- School Year Starting Date
- Cyclical budget and bond elections to address the growing District's needs
- Opportunities for educational options
- Staff Development that impacts instructional time

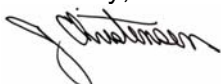
These are the topics we hear about most from our constituents. To provide one example, we recently made the recommendation to change the school year calendar to start a few days earlier in the summer. The decision elicited 1200-1500 responses from families. This feedback resulted in the District making appropriate adjustments and modifying the proposed calendar to better meet student and family needs.

We would like to hear from you. There will be multiple avenues for providing this input. Our District and school leaders will begin asking their constituents to share their thoughts surrounding these issues. I will also be hosting sessions through Parent University focused on these topics. Stay tuned for an electronic survey in the near future. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to use Feedback Central on the District's website to provide your comments.

As one of the highest performing school districts in the state, we are constantly improving our processes. We expect to be leaders in public education. It is critical that we stay competitive as an organization to recruit and retain the best teachers and leaders to provide a quality education.

We value your input and look forward to your responses. Together we can provide the best education to prepare our 21st Century learners to become responsible citizens and leaders who contribute to our society.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jim Christensen
Superintendent of Schools