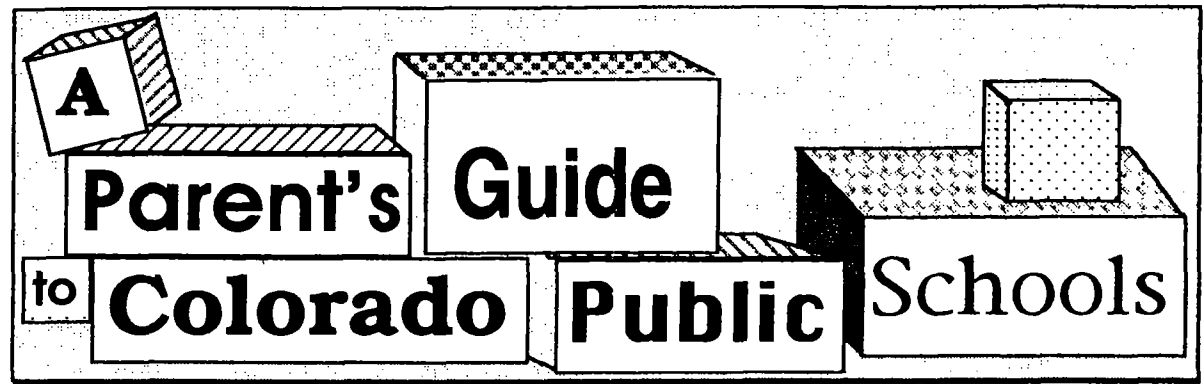

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Dear Parent:

Choice. Accountability. Innovation. Nowhere else in America do citizens have more tools to control and remake the public schools than here in Colorado:

- Parents now can choose to send their children to any public school anywhere in Colorado, on a space available basis, without having to pay extra money (for more information and phone numbers you can call, see pages 2-3).
- Parents can influence important decisions at their local school building by serving on local school governing committees (for more information and phone numbers you can call, see page 7).
- Parents can have a say in what is taught in schools by helping to establish standards -- clear statements of what students should know and be able to do in math, science, history and other important subjects. Standards focus schools on results -- giving parents, students, and taxpayers a concrete way to judge instructional programs and measure student progress (for more information and phone numbers you can call, see pages 3-4).
- Any group of parents, teachers or community members who have good ideas and an innovative approach to education can apply to their local district for funds and authority to start a "charter school" (for more information and phone numbers you can call, see pages 2-3).

These tools, and others described in this booklet, give you the power to ensure that your children get the very best education possible. Working together, we can create the kind of public education system that prepares every Colorado child for a future that is productive and filled with opportunity and promise.

The most important ingredient is a parent who cares. Your children need an advocate. Even if you feel you are over your head, no one is better equipped to be an advocate for your children than you. Be persistent and expect great things.

Sincerely,



Roy Romer
Governor

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Higher Expectations Better Results;
The Basics on Standards in Colorado



The Basics on Standards in Colorado

For more information on Content Standards and Assessments, call the Colorado Department of Education (303) 894-2159 or the Governor's Office (303) 866-2155.

Classroom example reprinted, by permission from *Colorado Geography Curriculum Framework*, Copyright 1995 by the Colorado Department of Education

Colorado Education Goals Panel
November 1995

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A Developmental Strategy to Prevent
Lifelong Damage

David C. Hamburg

A
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Strategy to
Prevent Lifelong
Damage

BY DAVID A. HAMBURG, PRESIDENT

REPRINTED FROM THE 1995 ANNUAL REPORT

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KidsCount In Colorado!

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Colorado Children's Campaign