Dear CASE members,

As you are aware, yesterday Governor Polis put in place a statewide stay-at-home order that will be in effect until April 11 unless circumstances change. CASE heard from a number of our members that there was confusion about how the order impacts K-12, specifically distance learning and provision of meals and other essential services to students.

We have been in constant communication with the Governor’s office these past several weeks and reached out to his staff late yesterday to share the questions we were hearing from the field. Governor Polis released updates to the order to help provide clarity and makes clear that public and private schools can continue to provide “meals, housing, facilitation or provision of materials for distance learning, and provision of other essential services to students” as long as social distancing guidelines are followed. Read the full updated order here.

CASE is very appreciative of the responsiveness of the Governor’s office and how quickly they moved to address questions from K-12 about yesterday’s order. In our conversations with that office, we have stressed that school and district leaders are facing unprecedented and extraordinary circumstances and that you are doing everything possible to meet the needs of students and staff during this time. Please know that you have CASE’s full support and if you have any questions about how state level orders or guidance impact you, you should feel free to contact me at lescarcega@co-case.org.

It looks increasingly unlikely that the Legislature will reconvene anytime soon based on COVID-19 concerns. We are still waiting on a decision from the Colorado Supreme Court about whether lawmakers must work consecutive days versus a cumulative total of 120 days. That decision is important because it will determine whether the Legislature could work beyond the scheduled adjournment date of May 6.

We know that this is a very difficult and challenging time and CASE will continue to provide support and assistance to you however we can. Thank you for all you are doing in your local communities.

Sincerely,

Lisa Escárcega
CASE Executive Director