

Dear local Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development and Business Organizations,

On August 15th, 2013, Douglas County School District (DCSD) released inaccurate State Assessment Performance results to the public as part of a [Special Edition Newsline](#). The results released by DCSD showed a 3 to 7 point increase between 2009 and 2013 in all 4 content areas: reading, writing, math and science.

The Strong Schools Coalition, a non-partisan, non-profit organization composed of parents, teachers and members of the community was unable to reconcile the data that was released by DCSD to the State Assessment Performance results released by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). Contrary to the DCSD results, the results found on the CDE website show a 1% decrease between 2009 and 2013 in reading, writing and math and a 1% increase in science.

Cinamon Watson, DCSD's Community Relations Officer, confirmed via [email](#) that the results published by DCSD were not an "apples-to-apples" comparison and stated that the District would be updating the chart. On August 21st, 2013, the [Newsline](#) included a new chart of Student Assessment Performance results. However, the new chart has switched colors, switched the writing and math sections and made it impossible to compare the changes between 2009 and 2013 as DCSD dropped the 2009 and 2010 years off of their graph.

Furthermore, the incorrect State Assessment Performance information still resides on the DCSD website and Facebook page and the District has issued no statement that a mistake was made and incorrect information was released to the community. This is the second time since May of 2013 that [inaccurate information](#) has been released to the public without a public statement from the District stating that the information is inaccurate.

It has been brought to our attention that members of the South Metro Chamber and the Northwest Douglas County Economic Development Corporation have incorrectly assumed that the State Assessment Performance data that was released on August 15th, 2013 is accurate and the results show a significant improvement in student performance. Public school districts have an obligation to report accurate and complete Student Assessment Performance data. While we understand that a mistake could have been made, it is vital that Douglas County School District be transparent and accountable for that mistake. Therefore, we would like to ask your help in requesting that DCSD issue a formal acknowledgment of the release of inaccurate Student Assessment Performance data to the community in the next release of the District's Newsline and republish the accurate data in the same format that was published on August 15th.

Respectfully,

Laura Mutton
President
Strong Schools Coalition