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Date: September 24, 2014 at 3:46:48 PM MDT

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: A Call for Transparency Petition

Dear Petition Signer:

Thank you for your interest in Douglas County Schools. We have received notice that you signed a petition initiated by the Strong Schools Coalition entitled '*A Call for Transparency - Abide by the Intent of the Colorado Innovation Schools Act.*' We very much appreciate your concern and engagement with DCSD, unfortunately, much of the information propagated in this petition is not factually correct. You can learn more about the innovation waiver and the 'testing madness' issue at <https://www.dcsdk12.org/district/testing-madness>.

The following are some brief facts:

What is the Waiver...

Earlier this month, the DCSD Board of Education passed a resolution authorizing the DCSD to apply for an innovation waiver from the State Board of Education.

The purpose of the waiver is to provide relief from the over-abundance of state mandated tests- specifically the READ Act. We want to give our schools the choice to forgo participation in the state mandated READ Act assessments and measure student literacy in a way that is better suited to their students. Any school participation is voluntary and must have support of its teaching staff and SAC before even proceeding with the process.

If the district were to pursue waivers a, the issue would be at a noticed board meeting with public input just as the schools do with their SACs.

What the Waiver is NOT...

DCSD has received a number of questions about the process. Here are some quick facts:

- You only get waivers from the statutes you request. Currently, DCSD is seeking a waiver from the READ ACT only.
- Receiving a READ Act waiver does not transform neighborhood schools into charter schools. Rather, the waiver allows a school to forgo READ Act testing.
- Nothing a school would do is "irreversible". A school could merely go back to complying with all state laws if it wanted to.
- Neither the district nor any school has even discussed a waiver of SB 191 or the teacher compensation and dismissal act or licensing.
- The Board of Education is not requesting to be designated as a "district of innovation." Individual schools are considering whether to seek waivers from the requirements of the READ Act. That was all that was in the board resolution.

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