



Friday, May 22, 2015

Dear School Leaders,

Thank you for the time you spent in our webinars outlining the increased flexibilities available to you in curriculum, interim assessments and professional learning starting in 2015-16. Despite the short timeline and the questions we are still working hard to answer, I am gratified by the excitement you expressed about this new opportunity for our teachers and our kids.

Our vision of you - our school leaders - as critical drivers of change in Denver Public Schools is not a vision of the status quo. Our job is about challenging the status quo, about change and creating opportunities for kids, particularly kids who do not have - and have not had - the kinds of opportunities we know will lead them to graduate ready for college and career in our increasingly global society.

Flexibility Resources

Visit flexibility.dpsk12.org for resources, including FAQs and a calendar of useful dates, such as Tuesday's sessions for learning more about district choices in curriculum and professional learning.

Several of you indicated concern with the timeline for opting in to district curriculum, interim assessments and professional learning - or declining to opt in and making other choices - for fall 2015. We hear you. We know some of you may have been thinking about these kinds of choices for some time; others may not have had the chance to do so.

Please realize this is a great opportunity, but it is not an obligation. Nor is this a one-time choice. These increased flexibilities are available to you as early as the coming school year - but they will also be available in 2016-17 and in the years moving forward. You need not rush into a decision and neither will you be locked into one.

Our role is to challenge you, support you and empower you. We will provide guidance, coaching and research on best practices; investigate the quality and effectiveness of curriculum, assessments and professional learning; and share what's working in innovative classrooms across the district, the state, the country and even the world. Our kids deserve no less.

We have very deep respect for you as leaders and we are incredibly excited about the leadership teams we have at our schools. We are tremendously excited to go on this journey with you.

*Best,
Tom*