August 13, 2012

To the Denver Community:

The Denver Education Compact Board of Directors is pleased to support the proposed Mill Levy and Bond initiatives that Denver Public Schools (DPS) intends to place on the November 2012 ballot for voter approval. The district engaged in a rigorous, thorough and collaborative process that included convening a 74-member Community Planning Advisory Committee. The Committee was asked prioritize the proposed investments that will have a lasting, positive impact on all Denver students.

The Denver Education Compact, an initiative of Mayor Hancock, is comprised of Denver leaders representing philanthropic, education, business and nonprofit sectors. Committed to dramatically improving education throughout Denver, the Compact’s primary purpose is to focus the community’s efforts and resources in areas that will have the greatest impact in helping Denver’s children to succeed – from cradle to career. We have established three main areas of focus: ensuring that all children are prepared for kindergarten, that students graduate high school with the skills required for postsecondary work, and that they can access and complete a postsecondary pathway. We believe that the investments proposed for the November 2012 Mill Levy and Bond compliment the goals of this initiative and will provide critical resources to improve student achievement and success for all children attending a DPS school.

In June, our board set its first goal – at least 90 percent of DPS third grade students read proficiently by 2017. We will focus on children ages 0-8 in order to reach our goal. Access to quality preschool and full day kindergarten programs are a critical part of our strategy to improve child literacy and overall student achievement. We are excited that DPS is proposing to build on the success of early childhood education initiatives like the Denver Preschool Program, DPS preschool programs and full day kindergarten. The Mill Levy and Bond funding will allow for a much-needed expansion of early childhood education opportunities for four-year-olds and full day kindergarten for five-year-olds across the city.

The DPS Board of Education will make its decision at the end of August, voting on the actual ballot language and the final list of projects to be included on the November ballot. We encourage Denver residents to learn more about these proposed investments in our children, their futures, and the future of Denver. We urge you to support these proposals with your vote of approval in November.

Sincerely,

Denver Education Compact Board of Directors