



Strengthening Education Policy Through Teacher Insight



### CLIENT QUOTE

**“Teacher licensure is a critical issue and needs to be revamped. We’re so grateful to the teachers who participated in the Idea Exchange because their recommendations, grounded in practice and experience, are a touchstone for us as we try to develop a licensing process that’s effective and supportive of teachers.”**

-- a legislator who is currently in the assembly



TO READ A COMPLETE REPORT ON THIS VIVA IDEA EXCHANGE, go to:[http://vivateachers.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/VIVACEA-IE\\_Final\\_R1\\_web.pdf](http://vivateachers.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/VIVACEA-IE_Final_R1_web.pdf)

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## Ensuring an Effective and Supportive Teacher Licensure and Renewal System in Colorado

## CASE STUDY

The VIVA Project and its partners, the Colorado Education Association (CEA) and the National Education Association (NEA), invited educators from throughout Colorado to share their ideas about ways to improve teacher licensure and teacher license renewal that would ultimately lead to better recruitment, support and retention of talented teachers. Powered by an innovative online platform and expert facilitation, these teachers were able to develop actionable recommendations focused on:

- Improving the online license application process
- Simplifying reciprocity between states
- Properly supporting new and seasoned teachers with mentors and coaches

### THE NUMBERS

**Partners: The Colorado Education Association and the National Education Association**

**Geographic Reach: Across the state of Colorado**

**Idea Exchange Participants: 205**

**Timeframe Start to Finish: 17 days**

**Number of Recommendations: 9**

### AS A RESULT:

The recommendations of the writing collaborative were presented to CEA President Kerrie Dallman and other CEA leadership on December 16, 2013 and ultimately informed the CEA’s position on licensure legislation that was introduced in the Colorado General Assembly in 2014. As a result:

- The specific recommendations from the VIVA Idea Exchange are being used as a point of reference in the Colorado Department of Education rulemaking process for teacher licensure.
- The rewrite of the law is grounded in actual practice because teachers were consulted and will therefore make the law more meaningful and relevant.

### VIVA IDEA EXCHANGE DISCUSSION QUESTION

The VIVA Project’s Idea Exchange process and carefully crafted question were designed to inspire teachers’ creativity while focusing their discussion on strategies to redefine the teacher licensure and renewal processes and offer support to their teachers:

How can we ensure our licensing and renewal system is effective at attracting and supporting teachers?

### KEY OUTCOMES

This initiative was part of a comprehensive Ed reform law that garnered a lot of teacher skepticism but they came together and turned it into something positive.

- Teachers agreed that the current licensure requirements did not need to be discarded but the process needed refining and consistency needed to be addressed across the state.
- Teachers affirmed that current practices should be retained and strengthened through additional support for new teachers and those new to Colorado; while leadership, mentorship and professional development opportunities should be provided for experienced educators.