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**Great Schools Thriving Communities Coalition Launches Volunteer Petition
Signature Drive for Initiative #63 to Better Support Students and Teachers without
Raising Tax Rates**

Advocates: "Teachers: We see you. We appreciate you. Help is on the way."

Denver – Stating that Colorado voters should have the opportunity to decide whether they want to harness the state’s economic rebound to address Colorado’s teacher shortage, the *Great Schools, Thriving Communities* (GSTC) Coalition this week launched their volunteer petition signature drive for [Initiative 63](#). The ballot measure would divert annually over \$800 million in *already collected* income taxes to the State Education Fund, where it must be used to “attract, retain, and compensate teachers and student support professionals.”

Public education supporters who want to get involved in the statewide volunteer effort can sign up immediately at a [one-stop website](#), where they can get more information, request a petition to circulate, pledge to sign, and/or make donations. <https://www.greatedaction.org/>

“Our polling shows that Coloradans overwhelmingly agree that our schools need more funding so we can attract and retain the best teachers and support staff and expand educational experiences for our students,” explained Initiative 63 proponent and Poudre School District Board of Education member, DJ Anderson. “Because of Colorado’s rapid economic recovery, we have a chance now to increase school funding without raising taxes. This is a unique opportunity to support our children and I’m excited to be a part of it.”

Lea Steed, a proponent of the initiative and Director of Equity Matters at Great Education Colorado, noted that the volunteer signature-gathering effort is in keeping with the GSTC Coalition’s inclusive, grassroots philosophy. “Initiative 63 was developed through a years-long policy process that engaged diverse organizations and individuals who believe in public schools and are alarmed by the state’s worsening staffing shortage. We are excited by the energy we’re feeling from folks who are ready to talk to their neighbors, family and friends about getting this on the ballot.”

“We are hearing from parents, students and teachers that we simply can’t wait. If we want experienced professionals in our schools, we have got to let our teachers know: We see you, we appreciate you, and help is on the way,” Steed added.

