

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colorado Education Commissioner Visits GOAL High School Thornton Drop-In Center

Thornton, Colo. — Colorado Commissioner of Education **Susana Córdova** visited GOAL High School’s Thornton Drop-In Center to learn more about the school’s personalized, relationship-focused approach to education.

She was joined by **Jill Toussaint**, CEO of GOAL High School; **Ted Del Duca**, GOAL Board President; **Dr. Derek Staves**, Denver Region Principal; and **Andy Swanson**, Director for Accountability Pathways at the Colorado Department of Education.

Following a tour of the site, the group discussed GOAL’s mission, student engagement, and outcomes. During the meeting, Commissioner Córdova asked detailed questions about how GOAL supports students with different academic starting points. Jill Toussaint noted that many students come to GOAL performing several grade levels below expectations in literacy and numeracy. She said that the school responds with targeted remediation, internal assessments, and goal setting to help students measure growth, build confidence, and stay on track toward graduation.

Three GOAL students, **Marley Guerra**, **Amyia Garcia**, and **Navaeh “Missy” Salazar** were invited to share their experiences. Students described GOAL as supportive, flexible, and student-focused.

“There’s no drama,” one student shared, explaining that GOAL provides a calm learning environment with strong staff support.

In closing, Jill Toussaint explained how GOAL evaluates seniors who are nearing graduation. **“Last year, 97% of students we identified as being able to graduate within one year earned their diploma,”** Toussaint said. The conversation also touched on how GOAL groups seniors by credit completion and readiness, an approach Commissioner Córdova said was similar to one she used in a previous role to identify students facing credit deficiency and age-out challenges.

GOAL High School is a statewide, tuition-free Colorado public charter school serving students in grades 9–12 through a personalized, online learning model with Drop-In Centers across the state.