

# Metropolitan State College of Denver

Department of Mathematical Sciences

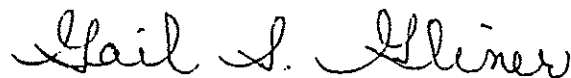
July 12, 1991

Open letter to the members of the Colorado Department of Education:

We, the members of the Rocky Mountain section of the Mathematical Association of America, share the nationwide concern that students are not prepared to understand and use mathematics. We endorse the standards for change in curriculum and evaluation set forth by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. These changes involve fostering mathematical insight, reasoning, and problem solving at all grade levels. We recognize the need to educate prospective teachers so that they can teach the program outlined by the NCTM. We endorse the professional standards for the teaching of mathematics from the NCTM that puts major responsibility on the colleges and universities to provide leadership in both preservice and inservice mathematics education and encourages collaboration with schools and teachers in designing appropriate college courses.

Our concern for the education of prospective teachers is heightened by the fact that the Colorado Department of Education has no mathematics course requirement for those preparing to teach at the presecondary level. The MAA Committee on the Mathematical Education of Teachers recommends a minimum of nine semester hours in college mathematics content courses for K-4 teachers and fifteen semester hours for grades 5-8 teachers. While it may be difficult for many colleges to require that much coursework in an undergraduate program, we feel that some minimum course hour requirement is necessary in order to develop mathematical understanding and the means to impart ideas from the NCTM Standards. We feel that a passing grade on the California Achievement Test, required in Colorado, does not assure that a teacher can teach mathematical reasoning and problem solving. We urge the Colorado Department of Education to consider adopting a minimum requirement of college-level mathematics courses for preservice teachers.

Sincerely yours,



Members of the Rocky Mountain  
section Mathematical  
Association of America  
Gail Gliner, Chair