FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 5, 2007

Contact: Angela Landers
(202) 306-7568, Angela.landers@strongamericanschools.org

Mary Ann Strombitski
(303) 299-3609, mstrombitski@ecs.org

FORMER GOVERNOR ROY ROMER TO EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES: URGE THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO ADDRESS AMERICA’S EDUCATION CRISIS

Draws link between America’s growing education crisis and declining position in the global economy

DENVER, CO – Former Governor Roy Romer, who currently serves as the chairman of ED in ’08, today urged education policymakers from across the nation at the Education Commission of the States’ (ECS) fall meeting to challenge the presidential candidates to lay out common sense strategies that will address America’s education crisis. Romer cautioned that fixing America’s schools is essential to ensuring its economic standing.

“An educated workforce is vital to our country’s success in the global market. If America could raise the skills of its students to the middle of the pack of European nations over the next decade, our economy would grow by an additional five percent over 30 years. That would mean an extra $1.5 trillion in 2037 alone—more than triple what we currently spend on K-12 public education. We must call on our presidential candidates to offer real solutions and strong leadership on education,” said Romer.

Romer was joined by members of the ED in ’08 leadership team, including ECS Chair, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius and ECS member, Barbara Cegavske in asking ECS members to join with the ED in ’08 campaign.

“I am calling on the next president to work with state leaders to set rigorous expectations so that all students acquire the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for college, work, and life,” Romer continued. “We can’t always leave these kinds of reforms to the political whims of the states, governors, and local school boards. They are a necessary part of the process, but to effect change for schools in all fifty states we need a president who is prepared to roll up their sleeves and raise the trajectory of student achievement.”

“We are at a critical juncture in the U.S. that requires stakeholders in each state to work together to equip students to compete globally. ECS is committed to helping state policymakers work together to get the desired results,” said ECS President Roger Sampson.

The Education Commission of the States (www.ecs.org) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit interstate compact created by the states and the U.S. Congress that helps governors, legislators, state education officials, business leaders and others identify, develop and implement public policies to improve student learning at all levels. ECS is the only nationwide interstate compact devoted to education.

The Strong American Schools’ ED in ‘08 campaign (www.edin08.com), a nonpartisan movement supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, calls on all presidential candidates to improve America’s public schools.

To join the “ED in ’08” campaign, or for more information, visit, www.EDin08.com.
Strong American Schools, a project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, is a nonpartisan campaign supported by The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation promoting sound education policies for all Americans. SAS does not support or oppose any candidate for public office and does not take positions on legislation.