

Colorado School Finance Project

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School Finance Update 2007 State Legislative Sessions

Source: Ed Week August 1, 2007

What is happening in other states?

1. Oregon and Nevada legislature approved 18% increases in funding.
2. Utah legislature approved a 20% increase in funding.
3. Arkansas legislature approved an additional \$40 million to pre-kindergarten with a total investment of \$111 million.
4. Tennessee legislature approved an additional \$25 million to pre-kindergarten with a total investment of over \$80 million.
5. Pennsylvania legislature invested \$75 million more to 3 and 4 year olds, this reaches an additional 11,000 kids. The program, called Pre-K Counts, will ensure its teachers have Bachelor's degrees, ongoing staff development, low class sizes, and low teacher ratios.
6. Louisiana legislature invested an additional \$462 million – targeting an increase in teacher salaries, high school initiatives to halve the dropout rate and increase graduation rates, and technology – including laptops to every 6th grader.
7. Florida cut local property taxes putting the legislature in the position of backfilling lost tax dollars or cutting K-12 funding.
8. North Dakota legislature increased funding by 13%, which settled the adequacy lawsuit that was filed against the state.
9. Ohio legislature and the governor froze tuition increases in higher-ed and approved a \$100 million dollar scholarship program for math and science students.