

2008 Update
Adequacy/Costing Out Analysis

The Colorado School Finance Project (CSFP) did its original Adequacy/Costing Out analysis in 2003. We have updated our work three times to reflect changes in law and additional understanding of regulations after implementation of NCLB and the CCHE guidelines. This work was conducted by the national consultants of Augenblick, Palaich and Associates (APA).

The analysis utilized the approaches of Successful Schools, the Professional Judgment and the Evidence Based models. The target or focus was the proficiency expectations set by the state and federal requirements. The analysis looked at where districts are in the continuum towards the 100% goal.

The analysis has been very detailed and utilized multiple approaches. During the analysis, educators came to understand that moving from “universal access” to “universal proficiency” is a profound change in how students are educated. Underlying themes that rose from the analysis:

Time – Longer days, longer years, quality before and after school programs, summer school – full day kindergarten for all students and pre-school for at-risk students.

Special Needs students – The individualized type programs needed for a growing number of at-risk, non English speaking, special education and gifted and talented students.

The importance of an **enriching curriculum** which includes career and technical education, International Baccalaureate programs, advanced placement classes, the arts, music, physical education, world languages, internships, etc.

Technology – This includes 3 distinct components: *Infrastructure* (wired building, internet access), *the computer, software, and other technologies* (including distance or online) and the *integration* of the technologies in classroom instruction (integration for instruction and data collection).

Staff development – Includes teachers and all individuals, administrators to non certified employees - focusing on a more individualized instruction for students as they attempt to meet the 100% proficiency goals. Staff development is continuous throughout the year, every year.

Each of these five areas is complex and has been the focus of national research and analysis. As the CSFP moves forward, we will:

- Analyze available research evidence on which programs and resources might make a difference.
- Look at what other states have done as they investigate changing their educational systems (including programs and resources).
- Compare Colorado to other states in relation to achievement and investment in education.