

## Presentation to Interim Committee August 2005

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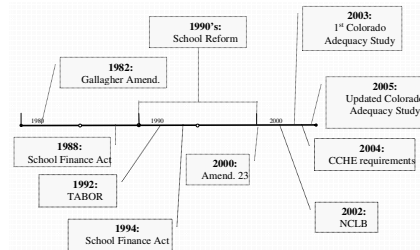
## Colorado School Finance Project

- History – Began in 1994
- “Profile” created for districts and the state.
- Represents Colorado Association of School Boards, Colorado Association of School Executives, Colorado Education Association and the Colorado BOCES.

## Mission – Vision – Purpose 2005

- To educate policy makers, business community and the education community on the concept of Adequacy.
- To model a school finance system and test its Adequacy in achieving the academic expectations established in a standards based system.

## School Reform in Colorado



## Why an Adequacy Study ?

- It is based on statistics
- It is results driven
- It is not anecdotal
- It connects academic achievement and the resources needed to accomplish the goals.
- It is defensible

## Adequacy Study Process:

- The School Finance Project hired the national firm of Augenblick, Palaich and Associates.
- The decision to model two approaches.
- Establish a review committee that included legislators, state board members the education organizations and stakeholders across the state.

### Advisory Committees Objectives:

- Oversee the process of the Adequacy Study.
- To create guiding principles for resource allocation.
- To collect information from the public in what they wanted from the public school system – what made them successful?

### Successful School Approach

- How is success defined?
- How are resources measured?
- Does it account for community or student differences?

### Professional Judgement Approach

- Review panels established - 3 levels.
- Size of districts reflected – 5 sub groups.
- Recognition of differences in population of students served – at-risk, special education and non English speaking.
- Recognition of programs needed to accomplish academic expectations.

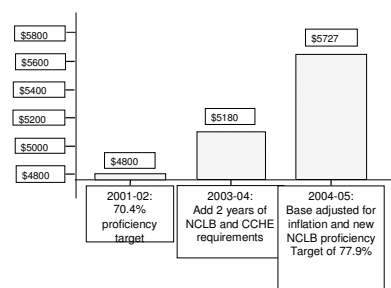
### Not included in Adequacy Studies

- Transportation
- Capital Construction
- Food Services
- How instruction should be delivered or configuration of districts or schools.

### Results of Adequacy Study:

- Two methods and two different base amounts.
- Successful Schools measures a point in time – January 2003.
- Professional Judgement measures the goal at the end – 100% proficient.
- Professional Judgement reflects data on district size and populations served.

### How and why does the base change?



### Other findings from the study:

- Guiding Principles as important as the Adequacy Study.
- Cost of choice needs to be addressed.
- Size of a school district in relation to the special populations of students its serving are important to program offerings.
- Capital and transportation need to be part of a new finance formula.

### What are the needs/base amount:

- Staff development – full day kindergarten
- Preschool for at-risk – technology –
- Basic literacy and GT programs –
- Annual AYP all students – summer school and after and before school for at-risk, counselors, nurses, social workers.
- Performing arts to athletics – safe secure sites. Instructional materials.

### What are the guiding Principles

- 95% of funding through a formula.
- Funding a base amount to meet academic expectations + adjustments.
- Local effort with reasonable effort.
- Local overrides important.
- Districts allocate resources to sites.
- State funding for capital based on needs of district, fiscal capacity and local effort.

### Guiding Principles cont.

- Funding for transportation should reflect district differences.
- Reimburse a portion of a district's overhead expenses for offering choice.
- State can hold districts accountable for performance not how funds are spent.
- These principles act as a whole and are inclusive. This system should build capacity for school districts.

### Adequacy Study, then what?

- How can results be used in a new formula?
- What are the components that became important and relevant?
- How is it tied to academic expectations?

### How is a finance system evaluated?

- Is it:
- Equitable
- Adequate
- Accountable
- Adaptable (flexible)
- Understandable
- Supportive of local community values

Adequacy work 2005

- Analysis reflects two years of NCLB.
- Reflects new CCHE requirements.
- Reflects current district salaries.
- Reflects academic growth changes in NCLB.

Questions – Comments ?

Empty box for notes or comments.