

PLATTE CANYON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Educational Excellence in Safe Schools
P.O. Box 1069, Bailey, Colorado 80421
Dr. James Walpole, Superintendent

February 28, 2014

The Honorable Millie Hamner, Chair, House Education Committee
The Honorable Cheryl Peniston, Vice-Chair, House Education Committee
The Honorable John Buckner, House Education Committee
The Honorable Lois Court, House Education Committee
The Honorable Justin Everett, House Education Committee
The Honorable Rhonda Fields, House Education Committee
The Honorable Chris Holbert, House Education Committee
The Honorable Frank McNulty, House Education Committee
The Honorable Carol Murray, House Education Committee
The Honorable Brittany Pettersen, House Education Committee
The Honorable Kevin Priola, House Education Committee
The Honorable Jim Wilson, House Education Committee
The Honorable Dave Young, House Education Committee
Dear Members of the House Education Committee:

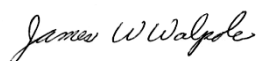
The Platte Canyon Educational Community thanks you for your efforts to restore funding that has not been available to Districts due to the State's revenue limitations. The negative factor translated to a reduction in a per pupil funding of \$1,001 in 2011-2012, \$1,300 in 2012-2013, \$1,340 in 2013-2014 and, as projected, \$1,257 for the coming 2014-2015 school year. These "negative factor" reductions of over a million dollars per year are having serious consequences for our District.

During these years we have experienced increased PERA costs, insurance costs, fuel costs, utility costs, tuition costs for special needs students, and additional paraprofessional requirements as well as additional therapy services for severe needs students.

We have strived to limit reductions in teacher positions to those justified by declining enrollment. We have frozen base salary increases. We have significantly reduced instructional materials and equipment allocations, reduced security services, support and administrative services, and deferred repairs and maintenance for aging facilities. Additionally, we are struggling to find resources necessary to address the new standards including 21st century skills. We are striving to provide students and teachers with technologies critical to preparing our students for post-secondary success, work place readiness, and responsible citizenship, but are very limited in our ability to provide the necessary infrastructure, equipment and training to do so.

We are currently involving our community in active committees to examine our programs, facilities and finances, to make recommendations for the coming years, and to consider how the local community can help with the serious financial limitations we are facing. However, we must receive increased resources from the State that can be used to address our specific educational needs. Reduction of the "negative factor" to increase our state formula funding, without specific directives on how the funds are to be used, is critical to our mission of Educational Excellence in Safe Schools. Please focus your legislative efforts toward this endeavor.

Sincerely,



James W. Walpole, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Cc Board of Education, District Accountability Committee, Strategic Planning Committees, Platte Canyon Staff