

Colorado Superintendents' Position Statement on School Funding

November 14, 2014

Endorsed by 174 Colorado superintendents representing more than 92 % of the public school students in our state, this statement communicates our collective position on the foundational issue of public school funding.

To meet the expectations that have been set forth for Colorado's schools and students, we must receive adequate funding to carry out this important work. We see both short- and long-term challenges to adequately funding Colorado's schools. This position statement addresses both short- and long-term aspects of these challenges.

Short-term challenges:

We are appreciative of the efforts last year to begin restoring school funding to constitutionally directed levels. But in spite of this effort, significant challenges remain as last year's \$110 million allocation represents only a little over 10% of what is being withheld from schools annually through the negative factor.

We are also appreciative of the increased level of school funding reflected in Governor Hickenlooper's FY 2015-16 State Budget Request. However, we believe there is an opportunity to make even greater investments in public school funding during the 2015 legislative session. To this end:

1. We propose that in addition to the funding outlined in the Governor's 2015-16 State Budget Request, the State provide:
 - \$50 million to school districts as a per-pupil allocation based on poverty levels as defined by the number of students eligible for either free or reduced-price school meals, and
 - \$20 million as a per-pupil allocation to districts defined as "small rural" school districts by the Rural Education Council (2013).
2. We further propose that decisions about the specific allocations and uses of the aforementioned funds, as well as funds included in the Governor's State Budget Request, should be made by local boards of education and not be directed by policymakers at the state level. More specifically, the legislature should avoid requiring expenditure of any of these funds toward specific programs, reforms, mandates, or other earmarks.

Long-term challenges:

While we hold that the short-term steps outlined above will provide some necessary relief for distressed Colorado schools, the more chronic problem of a structurally flawed system of financing Colorado schools still exists.

As such, we encourage, support, and are ready to assist Colorado's policymakers in the work of identifying solutions to the chronic funding dilemmas imposed by the myriad statutory and constitutional conflicts that currently exist in our state. In absence of this work and a resulting stable, reasonable, and adequate funding of schools in Colorado, we will continue to fall short of the excellent and globally competitive education system our students deserve.

Colorado Superintendents Endorsing the Position Statement on School Funding

Mark Hatchell, Academy 20
Chris Gdowski, Adams 12 Five Star Schools
Pat Sanchez, Adams County 14
Rico Munn, Adams-Arapahoe 28J
Kendra Ewing, Agate 300
Stacy Houser, Aguilar Reorganized 6
Brian Christensen, Akron R-1
Robert Alejo, Alamosa RE-11J
Linda Reed, Archuleta County 50 JT
Dave Clarkson, Arickaree R-2
Tom Arensdorf, Arriba-Flagler C-20
John Malloy, Aspen 1
Robert Ring, Ault-Highland RE-9
Troy Zabel, Bayfield 10 JT-R
Shila Adolf, Bethune R-5
Steve Wilson, Big Sandy 100J
Bruce Messinger, Boulder Valley RE 2
Brad Caldwell, Branson Reorganized 82
Rick Mondt, Briggsdale RE-10
Michelle Johnstone, Brush RE-2 (J)
Sue Holmes, Buena Vista R-31
Rob Sanders, Buffalo RE-4J
Tom Satterly, Burlington RE-6J
Tom Turrell, Byers 32J
Linda Miller, Calhan RJ-1
Nikki Johnson, Campo RE-6
Robin Gooldy, Cañon City RE-1
Brian Crowther, Centennial R-1
George Welsh, Center 26 JT
Tonya Rodwell, Cheraw 31
Harry Bull, Cherry Creek 5
Glen Bradshaw, Cheyenne County RE-5
Walt Cooper, Cheyenne Mountain 12
Roslin Marshall, Clear Creek RE-1
Nicholas Gledich, Colorado Springs 11
Randy Bohlander, Cotopaxi RE-3
Buck Stroh, Creede School District
Les Lindauer, Cripple Creek-Victor RE-1
Scott Cuckow, Crowley County RE-1-J
Chris Selle, Custer County School District C-1
Alan Dillon, De Beque 49JT
Robin Purdy, Deer Trail 26J
Nathan Smith, Del Norte C-7
Caryn Gibson, Delta County 50 (J)
Tom Boasberg, Denver County 1
Bruce Hankins, Dolores County RE No. 2
Scott Cooper, Dolores RE-4A
Glenn Smith, Eads RE-1
Jason Glass, Eagle County RE-50
Jody Mimmack, East Grand 2
Carol Noll, East Otero R-1
Pat Bershinsky, Edison 54 JT
Kelli Loflin Thompson, Elbert 200
Douglas Bissonette, Elizabeth C-1
Patrick Cullen, Ellicott 22
Brian Ewert, Englewood 1

Sheldon Rosenkrance, Estes Park R-3
Peter Hilts, Falcon 49
Ron Echols, Fort Morgan RE-3
Cheryl Serrano, Fountain-Ft. Carson 8
Steven Grasmick, Fowler R-4J
Rhonda Vendetti, Fremont RE-2
Steve McCracken, Frenchman RE-3
Ken Haptonstall, Garfield 16
Susan Birdsey, Garfield RE-2
Frank Reeves, Genoa-Hugo C113
Dave MacKenzie, Gilpin County RE-1
Ty Kemp, Granada RE-1
Wayne Eads, Greeley 6
Doug Tredway, Gunnison Watershed RE 1J
Paul McCarty, Hanover 28
Andre Spencer, Harrison 2
Darcy Garretson, Haxtun RE-2 J
Trudy Vader, Hayden RE-1
Michael Warren, Hi-Plains R-23
Leslie Nichols, Hinsdale County RE-1
Christine Barela, Hoehne Reorganized 3
Carlyn Yokum, Holly RE-3
Bret Miles, Holyoke RE-1-J
Michael Moore, Huerfano RE-1
Tim Krause, Idalia RJ-3
Rocco Fuschetto, Ignacio 11 JT
Dan McMinimee, Jefferson County R-1
Marty Foster, Johnstown-Milliken RE-5J
Shawn Ehnes, Julesburg RE-1
Brenda Smith, Karval RE-23
Monica Johnson, Kim Reorganized 88
Denise Pearson, Kiowa C-2
Gerald Keefe, Kit Carson R-1
Bree Lessar, La Veta RE-2
Wendy Wyman, Lake County R-1
Dave Tecklenburg, Lamar RE-2
Elsie Goines, Las Animas RE-1
Karen Brofft, Lewis-Palmer 38
John McCleary, Liberty J-4
Dave Marx, Limon RE-4 J
Scott Murphy, Littleton 6
Susan Sonnenberg, Lone Star 101
Brian Hanson, Mancos RE-6
Ed Longfield, Manitou Springs 14
Steve Sachez, Manzanola 3J
Charlotte Ciancio, Mapleton 1
Terry Weber, McClave RE-2
Mark Meyer, Meeker RE1
Steve Schultz, Mesa County Valley 51
Rick Walter, Miami/Yoder 60 JT
Kirk Banghart, Moffat 2
Brent Curtice, Moffat County RE-1
Bob Webb, Monte Vista C-8
Alex Carter, Montezuma-Cortez RE-1
Mark MacHale, Montrose County RE-1-J
Cory Doss, Mountain Valley RE 1
Curtis Wilson, North Conejos RE-1J
Jim Anderson, North Park R-1
Dave Crews, Norwood R-2J
Kendra Anderson, Otis R-3
Scott Pankow, Ouray R-1
Becky Minnis, Park County RE-2

Bret Robinson, Pawnee RE-12
Tim Kistler, Peyton 23 JT
John Kaufman, Plainview RE-2
Mark Collard, Plateau RE-5
Greg Randall, Plateau Valley 50
Jim Walpole, Platte Canyon 1
Sharon Green, Revere
Glenn McClain, Platte Valley RE-7
Sandra Smyser, Poudre R-1
Joe Kimmel, Prairie RE-11
Denille LePlatt, Primero Reorganized 2
Philip Trejo, Pritchett RE-3
Constance Jones, Pueblo City 60
Ed Smith, Pueblo County 70
Matthew Scoggins, Rangely RE-4
Steve Smith, Ridgway R-2
Diana Sirko, Roaring Fork RE-1
Kermit Snyder, Rocky Ford R-2
Darryl Webb, Salida R-32
Kevin Edgar, Sanford 6J
Brady Stagner, Sangre De Cristo RE-22J
Steve Marantino, Sargent RE-33J
Chris Fiedler, Brighton School District 27J
Michael Clough, Sheridan 2
Darren Edgar, Sierra Grande R-30
Kim White, Silverton 1
Jeff Bollinger, South Conejos RE-10
Darci Mohr, South Routt, RE 3
Richard Hargrove, Springfield RE-4
Don Haddad, St. Vrain Valley RE 1J
Brad Meeks, Steamboat Springs RE-2
Ed VanderTook, Strasburg 31 J
Jeff Durbin, Stratton R-4
Heidi Pace, Summit RE-1
Libby Hiza, Swink 33
Kyle Schumacher, Telluride R-1
Stan Scheer, Thompson R2-J
Scott Mader, Trinidad 1
Jan DeLay, RE-1 Valley
Mark Carara, Vilas RE-5
Kyle Hebbard, Walsh RE-1
Jo Barbie, Weld County RE-1
John Hoag, Weld County RE-8
Greg Rabenhorst, Weld RE-3 (J)
Doug Pfau, Weldon Valley RE-20 (J)
Mike Epright, West End RE-2
Mike Page, West Grand
Pamela Swanson, Westminster 50
Scott Campbell, Widefield 3
Gary Bruntz, Wiggins RE-50 (J)
Dave Eastin, Wiley RE-13 JT
Karen Trusler, Windsor RE-4
Jed Bowman, Woodland Park RE-2
Rose Cronk, Woodlin R-104
Susan Goettel, Wray RD-2
Rob Stannard, Yuma 1