

# Overview of Costing Out Analysis

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## Constitution

- State's were required to include an "education clause" in their constitution in order to receive statehood
- Colorado's constitution guarantees a "thorough and uniform" system of education in addition to the local control clause

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## History of Costing Out Studies

- Began with the implementation of Standard's- became easier to assess resources for goals.
- Started with standards based reform in the 90s, pushed further by NCLB
  - States setting what they expected districts, schools, and students to accomplish
  - Creating methods to measure what was being accomplished
  - Holding districts, schools, and students accountable
- Costing out looked to see if resources were available to accomplish the goals

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## History of Costing Out Studies

- Four approaches developed overtime to undertake costing out
  - Professional Judgment
  - Successful School Districts
  - Evidence Based
  - Statistical
- Each of the four has pros/cons and they can identify different parameters

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## History of Costing Out Studies

- Many states have undertaken costing out studies including Arkansas, Connecticut, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wyoming
- A number have used the results as part of new finance system including Kansas, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania

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## History of Colorado Costing Out

- First full costing out study for Colorado was undertaken by CSFP in early 2000s and was completed in 2002
- CSFP has since updated the work in 2006 and 2008
- Updates are necessary as standards and requirements change and a better understanding of what needs to be done to meet the standards and requirements

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## Current Study

- Focused on the current standards and requirements for districts, schools, and educators
  - CAP4K – inclusive of early readiness and PWR
  - Senate Bill 191 -Educator Effectiveness
  - Accreditation System – annual growth
  - ICAP
  - Others

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## Current Study

- Incorporated three of costing out approaches
  - Fully implemented both the Successful School Districts and Professional Judgment
  - Incorporated the Evidence Based approach into the Professional Judgment work
- Study did not include transportation, food service, adult education or capital.

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## Current Study

- Successful School Districts
  - Relied on the new accreditation system to identify “successful” districts, used the 13 “accredited with distinction districts”
- Professional Judgment
  - Over 80 Colorado educators participated during 18 panels – over 5 months – included school level, district level, special needs, technology, Ascent, and other panels

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## Results

- All figures for the 2008-09 year
- SSD total cost was \$8.1 billion, this is \$1.35 billion more than 08-09 expenditures, \$1.94 billion more when overrides are excluded
- PJ total cost was \$10.3 billion, \$3.58 billion or \$4.15 billion more

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## Results

- The results from the two approaches measure different standards and requirements.
- SSD only looks at what districts could spend under the current funding system to meet current goals – not reflecting all requirements
- PJ focuses on what is needed to accomplish all standards and requirements for all students, and implementation of new reforms

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