

## Mill Levy Overrides between 2009-2014

### Mid-Year Rescissions and Negative Factor Years

Between 2009 and 2014, Colorado experienced the Great Recession and the beginning of an economic recovery. During this time, the **Colorado State Legislature first instituted Mid-Year rescissions, and then created the Negative Factor to balance the state's budget.** The Negative Factor grew to over \$1,000,000,000 and for 2014-15 was \$880,000,000.

Colorado has **178 schools districts serving 889,006 PK-12 students.** 59 districts passed a MLO between 2009 and 2014, while 119 did not.

### Mill Levy Overrides (MLO)

- The capacity to pass a Mill Levy Override (MLO) between 2009-2014
  - **59 school districts passed a MLO.**
    - Districts that have the capacity to pass a MLO generate additional local dollars for their budget.
    - **453,600 students are served by the 59 districts** – 51% of students
  - **119 districts did not pass a MLO.**
    - **435,406 students (49%) - no additional funds from MLO.**
  - From **2009-2014 59 MLOs passed, 37 failed; a 55.6% pass rate.**
- The dollars generated from 1 mill varies widely from one school district to another.
  - A **low of \$11,470 per mill** in one district.
  - To a **high of \$11,400,000 per mill** in another district.
  - The **average dollar generated from 1 mill is \$719,000, the median \$199,700.**
  - The **buying power of one mill varies significantly** between districts.
    - A mill that raises \$11,470 does not cover the annual salary and benefits for one teacher.
    - A mill that raises over \$11,000,000 could pay the annual salary and benefits for many teachers.
- The relationship between MLOs - Negative Factor and district budgets
  - Districts that had the capacity to **pass a MLO between 2009 and 2014 had the option to make fewer cuts to their budgets and/or used less of their reserves.**
  - Many of the **districts without a MLO between 2009 and 2014 made and continue to make more cuts to their budgets and use their reserves** to balance their budgets.
  - Colorado School Finance Project (CSFP) list of [District Budget Conversations for 2014-15](#).
  - CSFP information on past years of district budget cuts is available [here](#).

Data Sources: Colorado Department of Education, Colorado School Finance Project (CSFP)