

**Weld County School District Re-3J  
RESOLUTION ON ERASING THE NEGATIVE FACTOR**

WHEREAS, to ensure that every student in Colorado has the same educational opportunities regardless of where the student lives, Colorado's school finance formula since 1994 has included both a base amount of per pupil funding and an additional amount based on "factors" to account for unique local conditions and equalize total per pupil funding across school districts.

WHEREAS, the factors funded through Colorado's school finance formula address significant variables, including district size, personnel costs, cost of living and number of at-risk students in a district.

WHEREAS, starting in fiscal year 2010–11, the legislature added a new "negative factor" to make across-the-board cuts to education spending. The negative factor applies the same percentage cut across districts, resulting in a higher funding loss to districts that rely most heavily on the factors, thereby destroying the equalizing mechanism of the school finance formula and disproportionately impacting the districts and communities with the highest needs.

WHEREAS, when Colorado voters passed Amendment 23 in 2000, the constitutional provision was designed to help Colorado's public school funding catch up to the national average and to keep it at that level. In contravention of this expressed will of the people, the legislature's invention of the negative factor leaves Colorado 42<sup>nd</sup>, more than \$2,500, below the national average in per pupil funding.

WHEREAS, in the 2013–14 fiscal year alone, the negative factor extracted more than \$1 billion from the state's support for public education.

Whereas, without the negative factor, the School Finance Act formula would have provided the Weld County School District Re-3J with an additional \$2,017,049 in the 2011-2012 school year, an additional \$2,598,452 in the 2012-2013 school year, and an additional \$2,706,801 in the 2013-2014 school year. As a result, the Weld County School District Re-3J School Board has had to make the following reductions:

*The following reductions are not exhaustive of all reductions made during the past four fiscal years but represent major areas that have had a significant impact on the community stakeholder groups in Weld Re-3J. The District has worked to reduce areas that have had not had a direct impact on people (i.e., staff and students); however, the current year deficit and projected deficit for FY15 will require reduction or elimination of programs that will directly impact students and staff.*

*Major Reduction Areas over 4 year period:*

- *Annual reductions in supplies and materials on a per pupil allocation to the schools and including a reduction for new textbook adoptions at the district level; Over the past four years, the budget has been reduced from \$90,000 to current year budget of \$13,000 over four years resulting in no new textbook/curriculum adoptions; The district is using some textbooks which are more than a decade old and do not meet the needs of the current academic standards;*
- *Significant cuts over the course of the last three years in the area of technology infrastructure. The district has not replaced servers or improved bandwidth. The initial cut was \$100,000 which has not been replaced.*
- *The District cut the budget in the areas of Facilities and Transportation which has resulted in delayed repairs and upkeep to district facilities including parking lots, roofs, school buses, etc. Over four years, this has resulted in over \$2,000,000 in deferred costs.*
- *The district has not granted annual wage and salary increases to staff on a consistent basis over the past four years. The base teacher salary has not changed over the past four fiscal years which has*

*impacted recruitment of teachers.*

**2010-2011**

- *Eliminated elementary summer school programs (\$30,000)*
- *Reduced .50 FTE Music Position at High School*
- *Increased deductibles and co-pays for standard health insurance plan*
- *Reduced Capital Reserve Budget by \$550,000 which included cuts to facility repairs/maintenance and transportation (buses & other district vehicles)*

**2011-2012**

- *Intervention Budget cut from \$200,000 to \$100,000. This has had a direct impact on student outcomes because of the reduced services.*
- *Eliminated 1.0 FTE Elementary Counselor resulting in less direct service to students*
- *District Instructional Coach eliminated which was designed to support implementation of the Colorado Academic Standards (Common Core State Standards)*
- *Reduction of 1.0 FTE Teacher at the High School resulting increased class sizes*
- *Reduced Maintenance Staff from 3.0 to 2.0 FTE resulting in less preventive maintenance occurring*

**2012-2013**

- *Eliminated District Licensed Librarian resulting in a less coordinated library program across the district*
- *Reduced 0.25 FTE Music Position at High School*


**2013-2014**

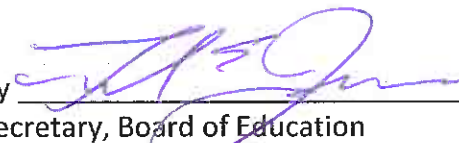
- *No salary and wage increases for licensed or classified staff. This has resulted in significant turnover of staff and difficulty filling positions, particularly in the licensed area of mathematics and in the classified area of bus drivers*
- *Reduced 0.25 FTE Music Position at High Schools (overall reduction of 1.0 position over four year time period)*

*If funding was restored, the district would prioritize based on the most significant needs of the district. Current priorities would include increasing wage and salary schedules to a competitive level in order to recruit and retain licensed and classified staff, purchasing curriculum supplies and materials that match the Colorado Academic Standards and performance expectations, upgrading safety and security systems at all school buildings, and making incremental steps to replacing and repairing neglected capital expenses.*

WHEREAS, even as the legislature continues to reduce school funding, the legislature has passed multiple significant reform efforts, including but not limited to the Preschool to Postsecondary Education Alignment Act (CAP4K) (Senate Bill 08-212), the Education Accountability Act of 2009 (Senate Bill 09-163), the Educator Effectiveness Law (Senate Bill 10-191), and the Colorado READ Act (House Bill 12-1238), without adequate revenue support.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014  
WELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT Re-3J

By   
President, Board of Education

By   
Secretary, Board of Education