

Ups & Downs and What's Up in School Finance

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Tracie Rainey – Colorado School Finance Project

Justin Silverstein – Augenblick, Palaich and Associates



Outline

- Current Reality
- Near Future
- Moving Forward



Current Reality

- ❑ \$744 million in K-12 cuts
- ❑ Colorado's student population continues to grow.
- ❑ The number of students identified as at-risk, homeless, and whose primary language isn't English all continue to grow.
- ❑ Current economic conditions make passing bonds or mill levy's even more uncertain.



Current Reality

- ❑ New standards being implemented – CAP4K
- ❑ Transitioning to new assessments – CAP4K
- ❑ New Accreditation/Accountability
- ❑ ICAP – implemented
- ❑ Educator Effectiveness implementation
- ❑ NCLB – still in effect



Current Reality

- ❑ Budget reductions have weakened factors in formula
- ❑ Budget reductions have weakened categoricals
- ❑ Current finance act not connected to reforms and costs – Gifts? Grants? Donations?
- ❑ Violating: A-23, Gallagher, thorough & uniform, and local control



Near Future

- Lobato Trial
- Ballot Initiative – 2011
- Graduation guidelines/endorsements/diploma
- Potential cuts of additional \$200 million
- Continued implementation of CAP4K – Educator Effectiveness etc.



Moving Forward

- It is possible to create a finance system supporting educational reforms.
- Are current statutes being interpreted correctly?
- Are 1994 school finance goals 2011 goals?
- Lobato Success – public/legislative/legal
- Other States – what can be learned?



Moving Forward

- Define role and goal of a school finance act
 - What it is or is not
 - What is or isn't included
 - What is education policy for state and for local districts?
 - What are constitutional requirements? How do you evaluate?



Questions – Contact Info.

- Tracie Rainey – Executive Director, Colorado School Finance Project – tracie.rainey@earthlink.net
- Justin Silverstein – Vice President, Augenblick, Palaich and Associates
jrs@apaconsulting.net