Where is Colorado after 2019 Legislative Session?
A look at progress toward equitable and more adequate school funding.

Total Per Pupil Funding Differences

- National Average Per Pupil Revenue: $12,561
- CO Average Per Pupil Revenue for HB17-1232: $9,896
- Current CO Average Per Pupil Revenue- NO BS factor: $9,197
- Current CO Average Per Pupil Revenue- BS factor: $8,569

Funding Full-day Kindergarten: Prior, Current, and Needed
- $22,656,006
- $85,000,000
- $357,298,315

Funding for Preschool: Current versus Needed
- $683,810,436
- $168,512,891

Funding for Students in Poverty: Current versus Needed
- $357,911,117
- $452,925,989

Funding Special Education: Current versus Needed
- $330,839,254
- $195,383,360

Funding ELL Students: Current versus Needed
- $170,486,790
- $22,994,436

Funding for Gifted and Talented: Current versus Needed
- $62,368,458
- $9,569,779

Notes:
- Enrollment data from COE 2019-20
- National comparisons from the US Census Bureau
- Poverty are students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch program
- Colorado revenue is reflective of local property tax, specific ownership tax, and state sales tax and state income tax. Revenue calculations exclude individual district grants and federal dollars
- Budget Stabilization Factor/Negative Factor – a mechanism created by the general assembly to remove dollars beginning in the great recession from K-12. The current dollars owed is $572 million. The cumulative last year to date is $8.1 billion
- HB18-1232 – school finance legislation that was introduced that had the support of over 170 of the school districts in the state – reflecting the principles of adequacy, equity, sustainability and adaptability
Funding for Capital:
Current versus Needed

$17,900,000,000 *

$256,657,010 **

* Needed dollars are forecasted through FY18 by CDE on Statewide Facility Assessment

**Sources of BEST Grant Funding:

- Marijuana Excise Tax- $40,000,000
- State Land Trust Funds- $56,000,000
- Colorado Lottery Spillover- $1,000,000
- Interest Earned on Assistance Fund- $3,927,599
COLORADO SUPERINTENDENTS' 
School Finance 
Legislative Values

COLORADO RANKS LAST IN THE NATION ON 
PROVIDING TEACHERS A COMPETITIVE WAGE 
Teacher compensation vs. professions with similar education

3000 
unfilled teaching positions

$ 
95% 
of Colorado’s rural teachers have salaries that do not meet the cost of living in their own community

K-12 Per Pupil Funding

16% 
reduction in people entering Colorado educator preparation programs between 2013-2017

QUALITY SCHOOL FUNDING MUST CHECK ALL THESE BOXES

ADEQUACY

☑ Adequate school funding includes annual Amendment 23 increases for inflation and pupil growth as well as

☑ Significant buy-down of the Budget Stabilization Factor

EQUITY

☑ An equitable school finance act recognizes the unique learning needs of Each Student

☑ Including students who are impacted or advanced by factors such as Poverty, Disability, English as a Second Language, and Gifted and Talented

☑ Access for all students to Full Day Kindergarten

OPPORTUNITY GAPS

☑ Superintendents understand that there are also issues of district adequacy and equity to be considered

A QUALITY EDUCATION SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON ZIP CODE