

# Alamosa School District Board Meeting: Colorado K-12 Funding

Tracie Rainey, Executive Director  
Colorado School Finance Project  
January 13, 2022

COLORADO SCHOOL FINANCE PROJECT

Support Children - Support The Future

# Colorado School Finance Project

Non-profit, non-partisan- Supported by school district contributions- School finance analysis for local and state policy makers since 1995- Governed by a board comprised of national and state experts on school finance

**Our Mission:** *To compile, collect and distribute research-based, non-partisan information and data on topics related to school finance for state and local policymakers.*

## Goals of Presentation

- School Finance Refresher
- Alamosa School District funding
- State Outlook for School Finance
  - December Forecast
- Statewide Issues – that impact your district

# How Schools are funded in Colorado

## Colorado's School Finance System 2020-21

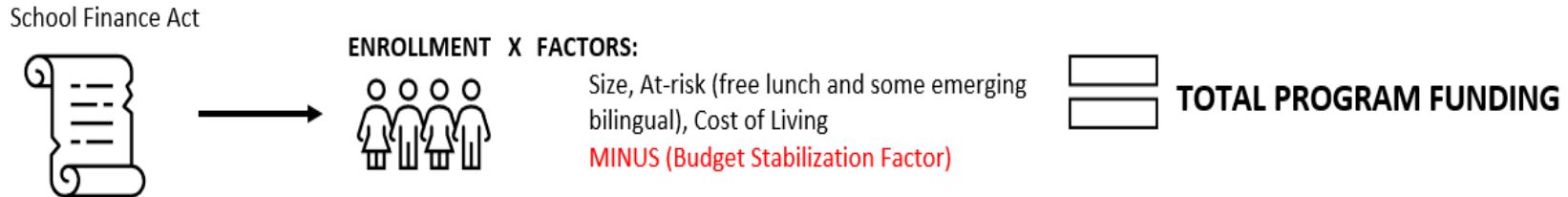
### Revenue Sources for School Finance



### OUTSIDE THE FORMULA REVENUE:

- Federal Funds 5%-6% annually, targeted populations
- Categoricals – General Fund and State Ed Fund
- Stimulus Funds- ONE-TIME dollars with targeted uses for COVID-19

### How Revenue is Distributed to Colorado Schools

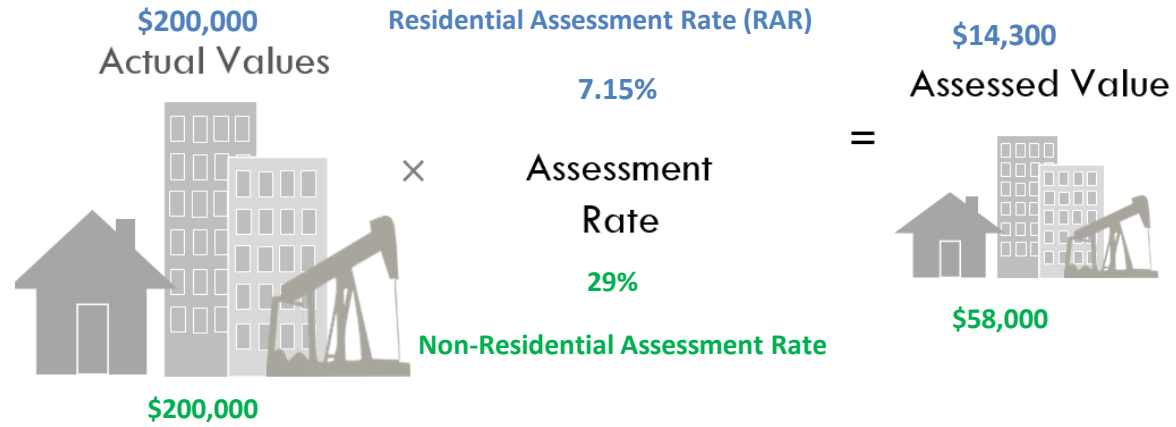


Distributes majority of \$7+ billion BASE Per-pupil Allocation (\$7083.61)

### OUTSIDE THE FORMULA:

- Categorical Funding= \$311,871,933 Every district receives an allocation
  - o For special education, emerging bilingual, gifted and talented, career and technical education students, transportation and small attendance centers
- Grants, Local District and Individual School Fundraising, Foundation Support and Local Overrides- These VARY greatly district to district across the state and in many cases are targeted for specific programs for a limited amount of time.

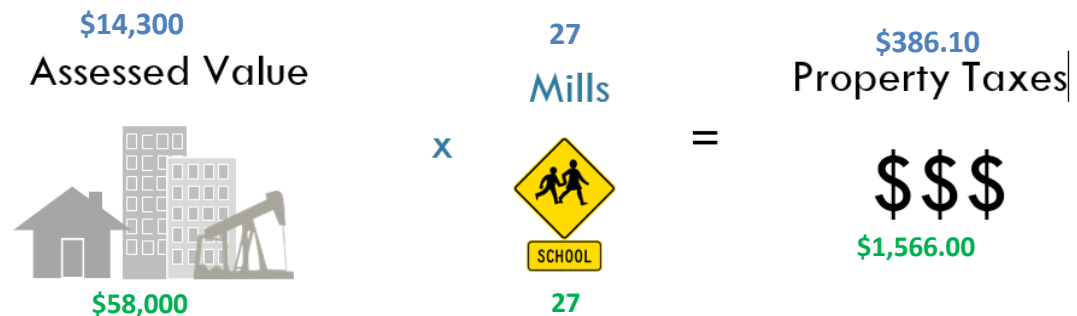
# Understanding Mills



- *Assessed Value Per Pupil* measures a district's property tax base on a per pupil basis – and determines how much a given mill levy will generate per pupil.

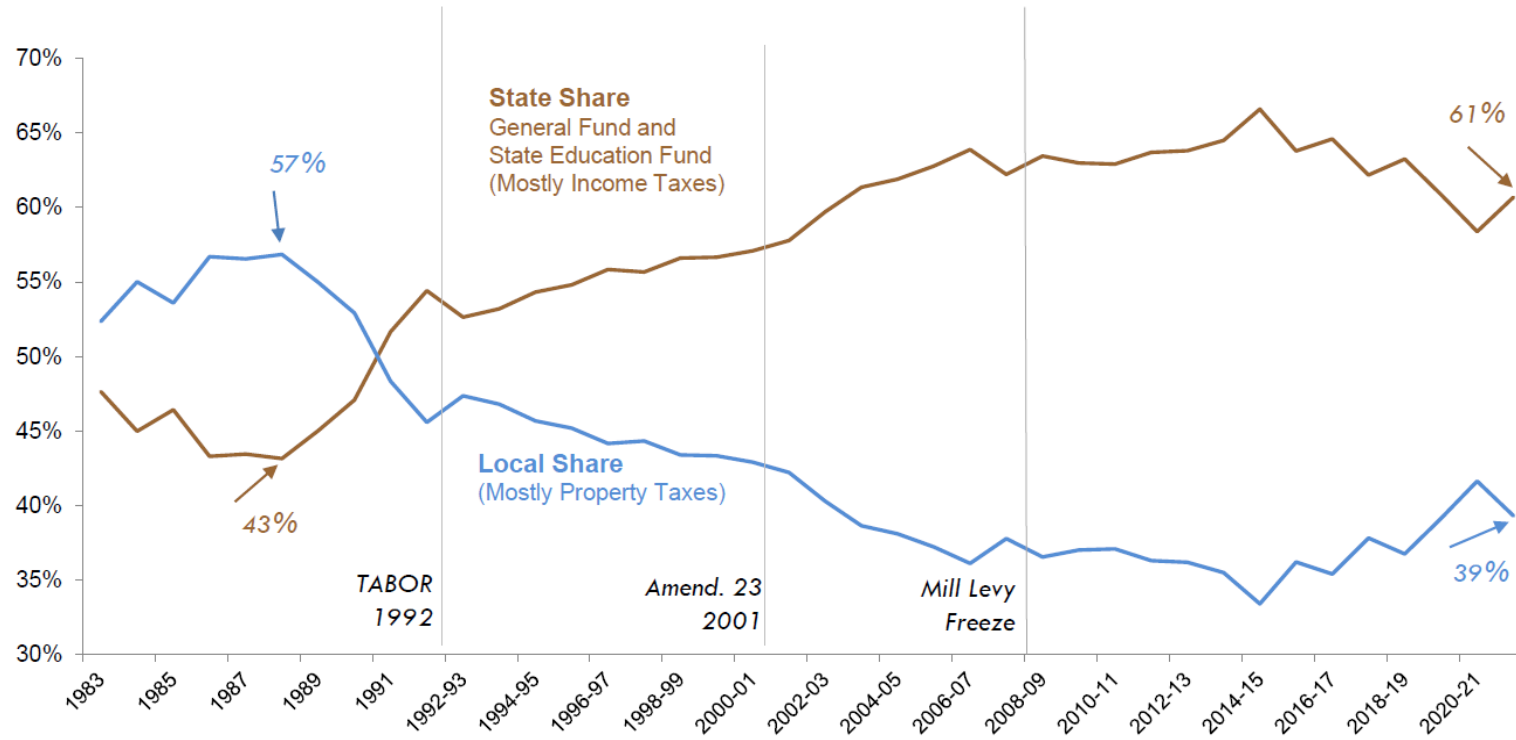
The *Mill Levy* is the tax rate.

- A mill is equal to 1/1000, so each mill generates one dollar per \$1,000 of assessed value.



# State and Local Shares of School Finance

## 1983 to FY 2021-22



Note: Prior to 1993, K-12 funding was done on a calendar year basis

Source: Legislative Council Staff

# Facts about Alamosa School District in 2021-22

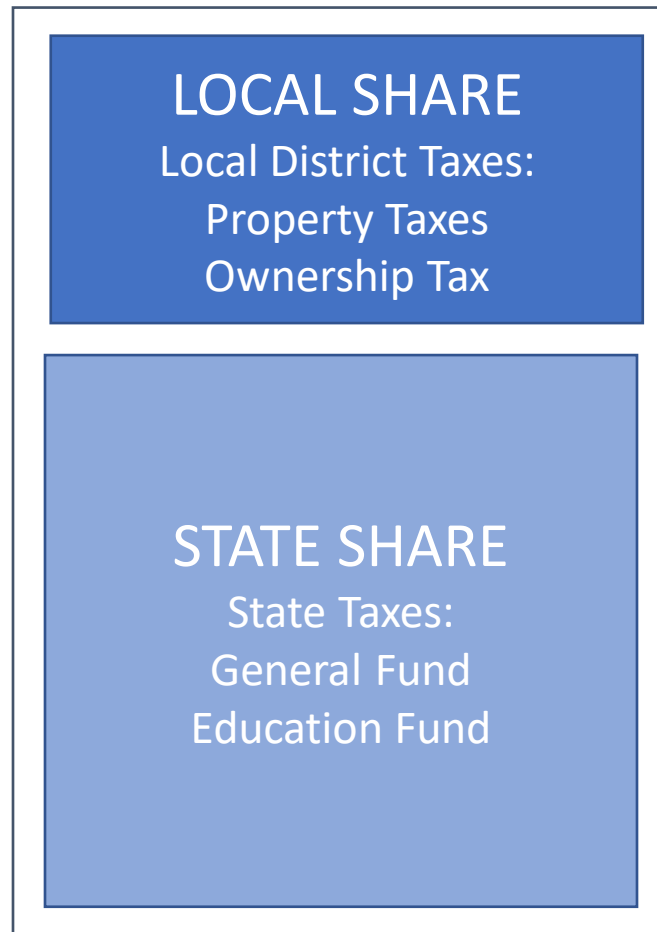
- 2,356 students (Funded Pupil Count not membership)
- 60% of students identified as at-risk (1,301 students)
- 11% of students identified as Special Education (230 students)
- 7% of Emerging bilingual students\* (156 students)
- 2% of students identified as Gifted (52 students)
- Per Pupil Revenue: \$8,470

Student count, At-risk, Emerging Bilingual, and Per Pupil Revenue numbers are from CDE's 2021-22 funding workbook  
Special Education and Gifted Students are from 2020-21 and can be found on CDE's enrollment pages

\*Emerging bilinguals are students that are funded not students who need language acquisition help

# State & Local Share Varies (by design)

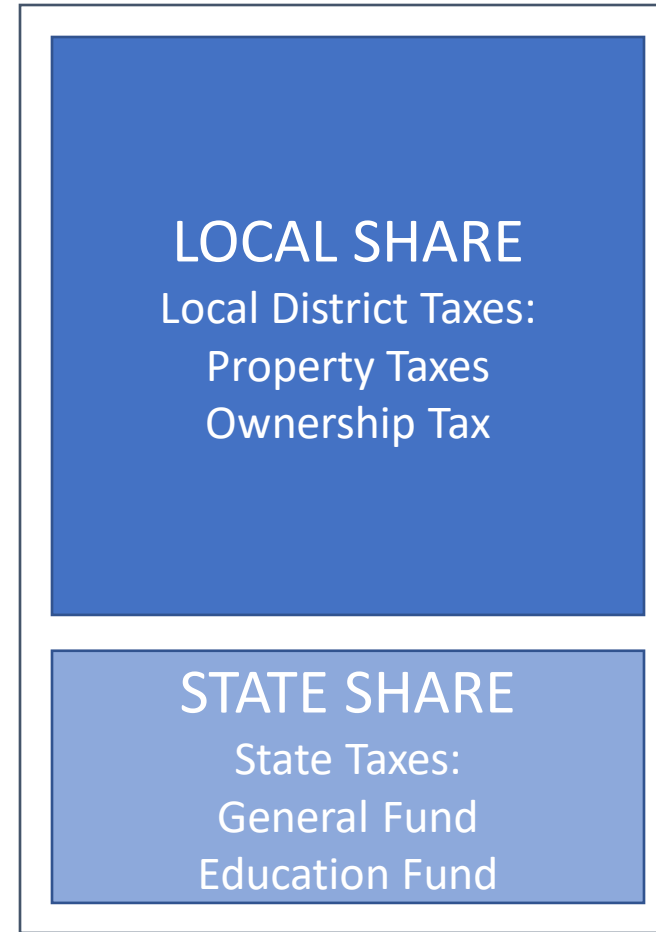
District A



23% for Alamosa

77% for Alamosa

District B





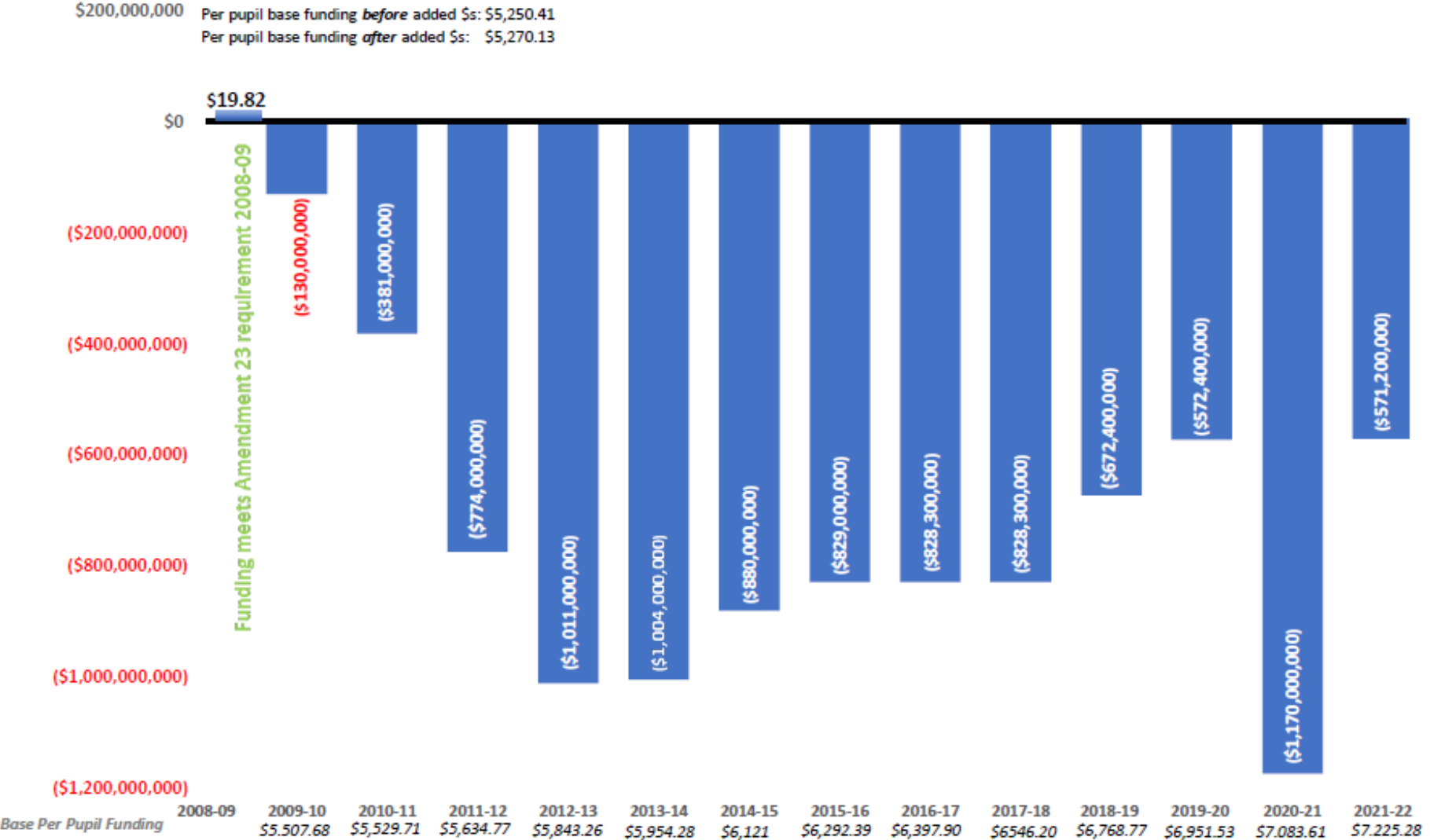
# Financial Facts for Alamosa Schools

- Per Pupil Revenue: \$8,470
- 2020-21 Total Program Mills: 27
- Override mills: 0
- “De-bruced” in 1998
  - Mills at time of “de-brucing” 37.505
- In 2021-22, 1 mill raised \$154,028 or \$65 per student

**Budget Stabilization Factor Statewide Total:  
2009-10 to 2021-22**

Alamosa BSF  
2021-22:  
**\$1,518,203**

Alamosa BSF  
since 2009:  
**\$25,192,639**



# State Forecast Budget, K-12 Enrollment, and Assessed Valuation

- Most recent forecast presented in December
  - Economy continues to improve
  - Project a surplus of almost \$2B 2022, 2023, AND 2024
    - This results in TABOR refunds of about \$400 per person and less money for the general fund
- Forecast for Consumer Price Index (inflation) is 3.7%
  - This increases the state's obligation to fund education as they must increase by inflation
- K-12 enrollment decreased by **.03** statewide in 2021-22
  - The San Luis Valley declined by **1.3%**
  - This will continue next year as well
- Assessed Valuation increased 4.4%
  - Residential increased by 11.3%
  - Nonresidential decreased by **1.6%**

Re-capping where  
we have been  
and looking  
ahead

- January 2020 – budget outlook appeared strong and robust
- March 2020 – Colorado shut down from COVID - \$3 billion budget reduction
- September 2020 to December 2021– improving economy
- Concerns arising over 1 time stimulus ending in 2024
- TABOR refunds – next 3 years anticipated – almost \$6 billion loss in general fund

# Federal COVID assistance: ESSER

- Federal assistance provided for COVID-19 pandemic
- One-time dollars with restricted uses
- ESSER I money must be spent by September 2022
- ESSER II money must be spent by September 2023
- ESSER III money must be spent by September 2024
- There is a community engagement requirement

## Legislation

- Mill Levy Override State Matching
- Increased funding for Special Education
- Definition of At-risk
- Student Count
- Universal Preschool begins in 2023

# Questions & Stay Connected

- **Tracie Rainey**
- [T.Rainey@cosfp.org](mailto:T.Rainey@cosfp.org)
- 303-860-9136
  
- **Stay connected**
- <https://cosfp.org/>
- @COSFP
- Colorado School Finance Project - Facebook