

How does Colorado compare?

Standards and Accountability

Grade=B; 84%

Grades range from New York (100%) to Iowa (33%)

- School report cards in Colorado do not disaggregate information based on race, low income, limited English proficiency or special education/disability.
- 382 of 1,662 schools in Colorado did not make Adequate Yearly Progress in 2003-04.
- While Colorado is one of 29 states that sanctions low-performing schools, it is one of 15 states that does not provide assistance to these schools.

School Climate

Grade=B; 85%

Grades range from Delaware (85%) to Maryland (67%)

- Data from the federal 2000 Schools and Staffing survey show that average elementary school class size, 23.2, is among the highest in the nation.
- Colorado does not have a system to monitor the condition of its school facilities.

Equity

Grade=C+; 77%

Grades range from Hawaii (100%) to Vermont (58%)

- Colorado ranks 37th on the wealth-neutrality score, which measures inequities in funding that stem from differences in local property wealth.
- Colorado ranks 20th, 94.5%, on the McLoone Index: the amount spent on pupils below the median/amount needed to be spent to achieve equity
- Colorado is among the 23 states who do not adjust the school finance formula to address the needs of special education students.
- Colorado is among the 26 states who do not adjust the school finance formula to address the needs of English language learners.
- Colorado is one of 23 states adjusting the school finance formula to address the needs of students in poverty, only free lunch.
- Colorado is one of 35 states that require a minimum local effort for districts to receive state aid.

Spending

N/A

- Colorado ranks 40th in education spending per student.
- In 2002, Colorado spent 3.2% of its total taxable resources on education, a spending level that earned it a rank of 45th nationwide.
- The US average annual rate of change in per pupil expenditures, adjusted for inflation, between 1992 and 2002 was 1.8%. Colorado's increase during this time period was 1.5%.