How is our School District funded?

Colorado public schools receive funding from a variety of sources. However, most revenues to Colorado’s 178 school districts are provided through the Public School Finance Act of 1994. This legislation provides for funding to Colorado school districts via state taxes, local specific ownership (vehicle registration) taxes, and local property taxes.

The Public School Finance Act is a formula used to determine state and local funding amounts for the state’s schools. Funding is based on an annual October pupil count. Each school district counts pupil membership as of the school day nearest October 1 (the official count day).

Funding to school districts is based on a per-pupil formula. For each pupil funded in the October pupil count, the formula provides a base per-pupil amount of money plus additional money to recognize district-by-district variances in: (a) cost of living, (b) personnel costs, and (c) size. The amount also includes additional funding for at-risk pupils.

Starting in 2010-11, a new factor was introduced in the finance formula due, in part, to the economic downturn facing Colorado. The new factor is called the “Negative Factor”. It reduces the amount of funding districts receive in an equitable and fair manner.

What budget reductions has the District made in the last few years?

The following is a list of budget reductions, along with the associated savings: (The associated savings for staff reductions includes salary and benefits)

- Eliminated Director of Facilities position
  $70,000
- Eliminated Central Office TOSA position
  $55,000
- Eliminated an assistant principal at EHS
  $77,000
- Eliminated District Librarian Director position
  $65,000
- Eliminated 4 custodial positions, one each at EMS, EHS, FHS and .5 at SHE and RCE
  $157,000
- Eliminated counselor at EHS
  $57,000
- Eliminated counselor at FHS
  $35,000
- Eliminated teachers assistant at FHS
  $20,000
- Lowered office staff hours at FHS
  $8,000
- Reduced full-time GT Specialist at each elementary to a shared position between RCE and SHE
  $50,000
- Reduced district-wide instructional budget
  $70,000
- Eliminated after-school activity busses
  $22,000
- Eliminated registrar position at EMS
  $42,000
- Eliminated 6 teaching positions at RCE
  $300,000
- Eliminated 3 teaching positions at SHE
  $150,000
- Eliminated 2 teaching positions at EMS
  $100,000
- Eliminated 4 teaching positions at EHS
  $200,000

*A portion of the staff reductions were due to a drop in enrollment.*
Many homeowners have refinanced their mortgages. Has the District refinanced their outstanding debt obligations?

In 2012, the school district refinanced a portion of their outstanding debt. Due to this refinancing, the District realized a saving of $329,956.84 over the remaining life of the debt. This savings is being passed on to the property owners in the form of lower tax payments.

What is the District’s rank in state per pupil funding?

When including Mill Levy Overrides, the District is in the bottom 5% of per pupil funding statewide. 95% of schools in the state receive more money per pupil. The District ranks 170 out of 178 school districts in the state.

How can districts address increasing capital/building needs resulting from decreases in state funding for schools?

One avenue through which a school district may meet its capital/building needs is Bonded Indebtedness (C.R.S. 22-42-102). A district may hold an election to authorize it to issue bonds to meet its capital needs. Principal and interest payments on bonds are paid from increased property tax revenues generated by a separate, additional mill that the District must be authorized to levy.

How are the district's annual operating expenses allocated?

![Pie chart showing the allocation of annual operating expenses.]

- Transportation: 6%
- Capital Projects: 2%
- School Buildings: 67%
- Instructional Improvements and SPED: 6%
- Central Admin & BOE: 4%
- Fiscal Services: 3%
- Operations: 7%
- Technology: 4%
- Preschool and Child Care: 2%

Students are at the ❤️ of everything we do! August 1, 2013