

## COLORADO SCHOOL FINANCE PROJECT

Support Children - Support The Future

The Negative Factor for FY 2015-16 is estimated to be \$855.1M.

FY 2015-16 begins the 7<sup>th</sup> year of Colorado's school finance Negative Factor. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Colorado School Finance Project ([CSFP](#)) asked all Colorado superintendents:

### **What Would You Do with Additional Funds?**

The CSFP began tweeting district responses on April 21st. All Tweets are listed below, by day tweeted.

**Colorado's school finance Negative Factor:** Since 2009, Colorado school districts have been negatively impacted by the Negative Factor / Rescissions; forcing districts to cut budgets and continue to make reductions.

7 years of Colorado's Negative Factor by Fiscal Year:

- FY 2009-10: \$130M
- FY 2010-11: \$381M
- FY2011-12: \$774M
- FY2012-13: \$1.001B
- FY 2013-14: \$1.004B
- FY 2014-15: \$880.1M
- FY 2015-16: Estimate \$855.1M

### ***DAILY TWEETS:***

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015 [@COSFP](#) Tweets (Round 12)**

**FY2015-16 7<sup>th</sup> year of Negative Factor, estimated \$855.1M-forces districts to cut budgets/make reductions #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor**

**We asked CO superintendents: What wld your district do w/additional funds?**

**<http://bit.ly/1P2Og6u> #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo**

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**All regions: Technology: Upgrade aging equipment, begin/invest in 1:1, purchase to support state-mandated testing.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**All regions: Purchase buses to replace buses with 200,000 – 300,000 – 400,000+ miles**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**All regions: Add back staff that has been cut; reduce student/teacher ratio** #k12needsco  
#coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**All regions: Add advanced classes, bring back language, music, art, advanced classes**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**All regions: Upgrade curriculum (10 + years old) science, history, Language Arts, etc.**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**All regions: Pay staff a competitive wage; eliminate freeze, retain high-quality teachers**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**All regions: Address: years of deferred maintenance issues; items past useful life; safety & security** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015 @COSFP Tweets (Round 11):**

**Western Slope COK12: Add SPED teacher; we cut 1 certified SPED teacher and replaced with aide due to budget cuts.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Western Slope COK12: Huge need for our neediest kids to have certified SPED teachers.**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Rural COK12: Update / Upgrade technology – currently needs deferred for over 10 years**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Suburban COK12: Add space for student population growth** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Central COK12: Purchase emergency preparedness items (generators, cisterns), keep school functioning if system failures** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Western Slope: Decrease deficit spending which reduces staff cuts and increases in class size**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

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**Suburban COK12: Upgrade bus fleet: 2 @ 400,000+ miles, 11 @ 300,000 – 400,000 miles**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015 @COSFP Tweets (Round 10):**

**We asked CO superintendents: What wld your district do w/additional funds?**

<http://bit.ly/1P2Og6u> #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Western Slope: Raises for teachers. Family of 4 on teacher salary qualifies for reduced lunch**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Suburban: Facilities no longer meet standards of compliance established by district**

#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Mountains COK12: Reinstate French classes in middle school.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Suburban COK12: Schools that absorbed prior cuts could reinstate programs and staff**

#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Southwest COK12: Target money for capital projects** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Northeast COK12: Additional funds equates to fewer cuts.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Suburban COK12: Items across district past useful lives: HVAC Controls, boilers, chillers, roofs, carpets** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Mountains COK12: Reinstate French classes in middle school.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Southeast COK12: Replace old curriculum in math and English** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015 @COSFP Tweets (Round 9):**

**Urban: Our 1:1 classroom tech woefully short & severely underfunded by about \$15 million**

#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

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**Mountains: Repair track & gym floor at high school** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Four Corners: Pay teachers competitive salary representative of their value AND not be forced into 3 year freeze** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Rural: Pay to keep teachers we have & not lose electives** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Rural: Replace: 4<sup>th</sup> grade social studies text 1974 text; HS science & social studies texts 10-15 years old** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**South: Most in need of: Textbooks, teacher & classroom supplies, building maintenance, buses, technology** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015 [@COSFP](#) Tweets (Round 8):**

**South West: Full-time VoTech teacher; add Spanish teacher** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Mountains: Improve safety concerns on campus** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Eastern Plains: We need to repair the gutters on most of our buildings** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Urban: Capital priorities for our schools** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Western Slope: Add elective opportunities in high school** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**NorthWest: Use funds to build partnership with parent/community to volunteer, reading programs for kids, enrichment** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**North: Hire tech integration specialists to assist teachers in successfully incorporating technology into classroom** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Urban: Stop spending down our reserves** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

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**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015 [@COSFP](#) Tweets (Round 7):**

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**We asked CO superintendents: What wld your district do w/additional funds?**

<http://bit.ly/1P2Og6u> #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Central Mountains: While grateful for grants, time-consuming & insufficient to meet needs.**

#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Mountains: Negative Factor directly impacts ability to turn around student achievement.**

#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Rural: Install security system, raises for teachers after 5 years of no change in pay scale.**

#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Eastern Plains: Try to bring teacher pay more up to date and update bus fleet.** #k12needsco

#coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Mountains: Add back in 8 paraprofessionals and 6 teaching positions lost over past 6 years.**

#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**SE Corner: Hire staff, improve facilities, replace old buses, address unplanned expenses (equipment breakdowns)** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

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**TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015 @COSFP Tweets (Round 6):**

**Northeast: Start the initiative for one-to-one computing. Transportation Needs** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**South: Acquire technology needed to support education delivery and state-mandated testing.**

#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**NW: Build a viable program: Professional development, hire staff, supplies to focus on reading intervention.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Urban: Books/Instructional materials** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Western Slope: Add computer science classes at middle and high school, STEM at elementary.**

#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Urban: Hire Asst. Principals at high schools to help with Educator Effectiveness Evaluation**

#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

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**SE Corner: Purchase supplies and materials put off for years simply because money not there.**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

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**MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015 @COSFP Tweets (Round 5):**

**Miss them – Responses to: What would your district do with additional funds?**

<http://bit.ly/1HOxvgt> #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**South/Urban: Capital projects such as repairs for maintenance we deferred since 2008.**

#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Mountain: Increase hours of special needs paraprofessional, add nurse & psychologist time.**

#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Rural: Transportation major issue. 3 buses > 200K miles, 5 buses: 150K - 200K, 2 buses: 100K - 150K.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**NE Corner: Support upper & lower 20% of academic progress. Improvements to school security.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Western Slope: Add 1 psychologist to district, would bring us to 2 for 2,000 plus students.**

#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Mountains: Give teachers raise-6 yrs w/no increases, impossible to hire/retain teachers in CO w/teacher shortage** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**C. Mountains: 2 schools on turnaround clock: no additional funding to support reforms needed.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015 @COSFP Tweets (Round 4):**

**COK12: District responses include uses for one-time and on-going funds.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**COK12: 40% of K-12 students represented by district responses as of today** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

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**Rural: Hire staff to support principals with evaluation (SB-191), discipline & site management**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Eastern Plains: Offer AP and upper level courses at secondary eliminating free hours for Juniors and Seniors** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Rural: Upgrade technology, deferred for over 10 years.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Western Slope: Update Language Arts, Social Studies, Science curriculum (10-15 years old).**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Suburban: mental health staff for elementary, deans for elementary to provide more support for students** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**South Mountains: Upgrade facilities to comply with basic codes of safety and construction, as planned prior to cuts** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Rural: Provide teachers and staff a salary increase, there has only been 1 increase in the last 5 years.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

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**THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015 [@COSFP](#) Tweets (Round 3):**

**COK12: Since 2009, school districts have cut & continue to cut due to Negative Factor.**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**#negfactor: 09-10: \$130M. 10-11 \$381M. 11-12 \$774M. 12-13 \$1B. 13-14 \$1B. 14-15 \$880M. 15-16: \$??M TBD** #k12needsco #coleg

**Rural COK12: Upgrade buses: most of our buses are over or near 200,000 miles.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Eastern Plains COK12: Unfreeze salaries that have been frozen off and on for years.**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Urban COK12: Allocate funds to unfunded mandate Breakfast After the Bell, mandated food program w/o funds.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor

**South: Address deferred maintenance-parking lots, playgrounds, on hold due to yrs of negative factor.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

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**Western Slope COK12: Bus replacement, building repairs – reinstate cuts due to Negative Factor.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**NE Corner COK12: Add new texts and supplies to classrooms to support instruction of updated standards.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

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**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015 @COSFP Tweets (Round 2):**

**CSFP Timeline: [School Finance & Ed Reform](#), includes Negative Factor & Rescissions**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor

**Urban COK12: Update curriculum (some not updated since 90's).** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Western Slope COK12: Begin replacing buses – newest buses purchased in 2004.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**SE Corner COK12: Add elementary teacher – currently have 3 grades per classroom.**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Eastern Plains COK12: Open our library all day, we closed it for 2 hours per day due to budget cuts.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**NW Mountains: Extra money would help us save teaching positions.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Western Slope: Technology purchases for CMAS & PARCC depleted our capital reserve.**  
#k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

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**TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015 @COSFP Tweets (Round 1):**

**We asked CO K12 districts how they'd spend additional funds. We will post responses using #k12needsco.** #coleg #negfactor #edcolo

**Rural COK12: Bring back staff and electives eliminated due to budget cuts.** #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo



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**Eastern Plains COK12: Provide intervention program for students below grade level in math and Language Arts. #k12needsco #coleg #edcolo**

**Four Corners COK12: Hire additional staff to support Special Education and Gifted students. #k12needsco #coleg #edcolo**

**Urban COK12: One time money – Upgrade our aging transportation fleet (buses). #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo**

**Western Slope COK12: Repair leaking roofs. #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo**

**COK12: Look for more responses from school districts on twitter tomorrow. #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo**