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

FY 2015-16 begins the 7th year of Colorado’s school finance Negative Factor. On April 20th, 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
- FY 2011-12: $774M
- FY 2012-13: $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 7th 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](http://bit.ly/1P2Og6u) #k12needsco #coleg #negfactor #edcolo
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
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
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: 4th 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 parternership 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 parapros 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

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

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

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
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

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
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

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

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
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