Colorado adds between 8,000 – 10,000 new students every year.

Colorado is responsible for the education of about 900,000 students in 178 districts & the Charter School Institute.

Between 30% – 40% of our students require additional services.
Colorado funds our students based upon historical funding or what is available.

Funding is not based upon what is needed for all students to reach the graduation goals established by the state.

Colorado funds our students over $2,600 below the U.S. Average.
Some Colorado Spending Facts:

$-2,685 per pupil below the U.S. Average.

Colorado ranks 41st in per pupil spending.

Data Source: Education Week, Quality Counts 2017, 2014-15 audited data

2014-15 Per Pupil Spending

- Colorado: $9,471
- U.S. Average: $12,156
- Average Top 5 States: $18,194

Data Source: Education Week, Quality Counts 2017, audited data
Colorado’s funding for students with special needs is not based on any quantifiable analysis of student need.

It is based upon historical funding or what is available.

Funding Facts for Students Requiring Additional Services

- Funding for students in Special Education covers about 30% of costs.
- Funding for students learning English covers less than 30% of costs.
- Funding for Gifted & Talented students provides enough to cover GT assessments.

Data Source: Colorado Department of Education
In 2010-11 the legislature created the “Negative Factor” due to the budget challenges Colorado faced.

In 2017-18 the Negative Factor is projected to be about $828.3M+.

The Negative Factor reduces funding to districts & students, forcing cuts and reducing options for students.

Currently, the state has no plan to eliminate or pay back the debt owed to its students.

The Negative Factor by School Year

2017-18: $828.3M+ projected       2013-14: $1.004B
2016-17: $830.7M                   2012-13: $1.001B
2015-16: $830.7M                   2011-12: $774M
2014-15: $880.1M                   2010-11: $381M
The Negative Factor impacts each district / student differently.

The Negative Factor forces districts to reduce spending to balance budgets.

Over the past 7 years, what have districts cut or eliminated to balance budgets?
Increased class size

*Reduced / cut teacher professional development*

Cut teachers & staff

4-day school weeks

Spent down reserves (drain savings)

Reduced / froze salaries

Closed schools

Eliminated technology updates

Cut building & bus maintenance

Spent down reserves (drain savings)

No updates for out-of-date learning materials

Fewer learning opportunities for students

As the Negative Factor continues to function as a way to balance Colorado’s budget, what are some options school districts have to continue reducing spending to balance their budgets?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase class size</th>
<th>Cut teachers &amp; staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-day school weeks</td>
<td>Fewer days in school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce / cut teacher professional development</td>
<td>Spend down reserves (drain savings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close schools</td>
<td>Reduce / freeze salaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer learning opportunities for students</td>
<td>No updates for out-of-date learning materials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Districts on Four Day School Weeks**

All schools / students in district on 4-day week: 77 districts

Multiple schools in district on 4-day week: 5 districts
Graduating from high school is vital to both our students and Colorado’s future.

How does Colorado’s 4-year graduation rate compare to the U.S. average?
Comparing the U.S. Average & Colorado 4-Year Graduation Rates

U.S. Average 4-year graduation rate: 83%

Colorado’s 4-year graduation rate: 77%

Source: NCES 2014 audited data

Colorado’s Graduation Ranking:

Colorado ranks in the bottom 5 states. Colorado ranks below the U.S. Average in every category.

Source: NCES 2014 audited data
To thrive, our children and communities need:

Vibrant public schools, with qualified, well-prepared, culturally competent teachers for every student.

Learning opportunities that meet the needs and curiosity of every child.

Individual attention, support & mental health services that ensure no child’s future is defined by deprivations, challenges or trauma.

Looking to Colorado’s Future

Enrollment projected to increase between 8,000 – 10,000 students annually.

Colorado needs a well-educated citizenry and workforce.

Our school finance system was designed in 1994. It needs updating to reflect today’s student needs.
Paying for Educational Excellence

More money – well-spent – improves student education.

Modernizing Colorado’s 1994 school finance act is a critical first step.

Colorado must create & support K-12 opportunities for all our students so they are college / workforce ready.

For a strong economic environment, Colorado needs all our K-12 students to be well-educated.

K-12 students need Colorado’s financial support.
K-12 needs Colorado

Colorado needs K-12

COLORADO SCHOOL FINANCE PROJECT
Support Children - Support The Future

Founded in 1995, the Colorado School Finance Project (CSFP) is a non-profit whose mission is to compile, collect and distribute research-based, non-partisan information and data on topics related to school finance for state and local policy makers.

www.cosfp.org  @COSFP