Colorado’s Statistics
Does Money Matter?
CEI STEM Update
October 24, 2016
Colorado School Finance Project
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Colorado 2014-15 Graduation Rate:
Lower than National Average

4 Year Graduation Rates: 2014-15

U.S. Average  Colorado

Data: NCES

Colorado ranks 5th from the bottom
Instructional Days in the School Year

• Colorado: 160 days (one of the lowest)

• Majority of states: 175 to 180 days

Data: Education Commission of the States

4-Day School Weeks in Colorado

• 49% of Colorado school districts (88 of 178) are on or have some schools on a 4-day week

• Number of schools on 4-day weeks more than doubled since 2000.

• “Initial reasons for going from five to four days of school per week have generally been financial.”

Data: Four-Day School Week Manual: Colorado Department of Education (August 2016)
Average Teacher Pay 2014-15

- **Colorado Average Teacher Pay was**
  - $9,143 less than National Average
    - Colorado: $48,277  National: $57,420

- **CO adjust for inflation $7,500 less than 2009-10**
  - 2009-10: $55,970
  - 2014-15: $48,277

Data: State Profile Reports 2016

Declining Number of Teachers in Colorado

- **Short about 300 teachers annually**
- **Downward trend in educator prep programs at colleges & universities since 2011.**
  - 6.1% decline in 2014-15
- Increase in experienced educators leaving classroom
- Shortage more prevalent in rural districts
- Colorado following the national trend

Source: Colorado Department of Higher Education - 2015
Colorado’s Funding in: FY 2013-14 per U.S. Census

• Colorado ranks 40th

• $-2,024 below the US Average

Percent Total Taxable Revenue Spent on Education

CO Rank: 37th

Colorado: 2.8%
U.S. Average: 3.4%

Data: Education Week: Quality Counts 2016, 2013 data
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CSFP Information

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