For the data sources tracked (U.S. Census Bureau, Profile Data, Education Week Quality Counts, & National Center for Education Statistics) Colorado’s gap between per pupil funding and the national average has grown from less than $500 per student in the early to mid-90s to between $1,800 and $2,500 less per pupil by FY 2009.
In the 16 years between 1995 and 2011, Colorado’s student population increased by almost 198,000 students to 854,265 students (CDE Fall Student Count). As the number of public school students has increased, Colorado’s per pupil spending has fallen farther and farther behind the national average.