Overview of Costing Out Analysis

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APA at CSFP

Constitution

- State’s were required to include an “education clause” in their constitution in order to receive statehood
- Colorado’s constitution guarantees a “thorough and uniform” system of education in addition to the local control clause
History of Costing Out Studies

• Began with the implementation of Standard’s—became easier to assess resources for goals.
• Started with standards based reform in the 90s, pushed further by NCLB
  – States setting what they expected districts, schools, and students to accomplish
  – Creating methods to measure what was being accomplished
  – Holding districts, schools, and students accountable
• Costing out looked to see if resources were available to accomplish the goals

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History of Costing Out Studies

• Four approaches developed overtime to undertake costing out
  – Professional Judgment
  – Successful School Districts
  – Evidence Based
  – Statistical
• Each of the four has pros/cons and they can identify different parameters

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History of Costing Out Studies

- Many states have undertaken costing out studies including Arkansas, Connecticut, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wyoming
- A number have used the results as part of new finance system including Kansas, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania

History of Colorado Costing Out

- First full costing out study for Colorado was undertaken by CSFP in early 2000s and was completed in 2002
- CSFP has since updated the work in 2006 and 2008
- Updates are necessary as standards and requirements change and a better understanding of what needs to be done to meet the standards and requirements
Current Study

- Focused on the current standards and requirements for districts, schools, and educators
  - CAP4K – inclusive of early readiness and PWR
  - Senate Bill 191 - Educator Effectiveness
  - Accreditation System – annual growth
  - ICAP
  - Others

Current Study

- Incorporated three of costing out approaches
  - Fully implemented both the Successful School Districts and Professional Judgment
  - Incorporated the Evidence Based approach into the Professional Judgment work
- Study did not include transportation, food service, adult education or capital.
Current Study

- **Successful School Districts**
  - Relied on the new accreditation system to identify “successful” districts, used the 13 “accredited with distinction districts”
- **Professional Judgment**
  - Over 80 Colorado educators participated during 18 panels – over 5 months – included school level, district level, special needs, technology, Ascent, and other panels

Results

- All figures for the 2008-09 year
- SSD total cost was $8.1 billion, this is $1.35 billion more than 08-09 expenditures, $1.94 billion more when overrides are excluded
- PJ total cost was $10.3 billion, $3.58 billion or $4.15 billion more
Results

• The results from the two approaches measure different standards and requirements.
• SSD only looks at what districts could spend under the current funding system to meet current goals – not reflecting all requirements
• PJ focuses on what is needed to accomplish all standards and requirements for all students, and implementation of new reforms