School Finance - 21st Century

- Issues to consider: Goals?
- Colorado specific
- National trends
- Tax constraints
- Standards
- Assessments
Goals for Consideration

- Colorado: What are the goals for education?
- P-20
- 21st Century
- Tough Choices or Tough Times
- How does it all "fit"?

National Trends

- P-20
- Adequacy – Equity – Efficiency – Evidence Based
- Access to variety of programs
- Economic development
- 21st Century Skills
- Re-evaluating expectations

National Perspective

- Augenblick Palaich and Associates
- Allen Odden
- Richard Picus

- Similarities and differences

- One answer or combination?
National School Finance Issues

- NCLB
- Who pays?
- Methodology for implementation:
  * Adequacy
  * Equity
  * Efficiency
  * Evidence Based

Taxes – Resources – Revenue

- How to pay for the desired educational system? What would that system look like?

- Simultaneous:
  * How to measure the costs?
  * Are the goals measurable?

Colorado Tax System

- TABOR
- Byrd Arvescough
- Gallagher
- Amendment 23
- Ref C
- Mill Stabilization
Colorado Taxes

- Rankings
  * Effort
  * Dollar comparisons
  * National average

CASE - CASB - CEA
Believe in a Better Colorado

Colorado Taxes

- How much?
- Who pays?
- What effort?
- How much local?
- How to get there?
- How informed is the public?
- What does the public want to pay for?

Review Standards/Assessments

- Do the Standards measure the 21st Century goals?
- What are meaningful assessments?
- Who decides? Relevance – Rigor and Relationships
Why is this important?

- School finance must calculate the costs associated with
  - the goals.
  - the assessments.
  - and the learning environments.
- How it is calculated is equally important.

Methodology to calculate

- Your input is needed. What does it look like for the 21st century?
- Your hopes?
- How to get there?
- Your concerns?

What might you hear?

- Are you being efficient with your dollars?
  - Who decides?
  - Is it the primary goal?
  - Economies of scale?
  - Choice?
  - An array of offerings?
  - Throwing money at the problem?
What "evidence" do you have for your decisions?

- Is there an exact formula?
- Can success be measured in one way?
- Is research a variable or an absolute when creating a new finance formula?
- What is research?
- Research or ideology?

Equity-Adequacy *

- What does a P-20 finance system look like?
- Is time fixed or a variable?
- Are learning opportunities expanded?
- Who has access?
- What should the facility look like?

Concerns:

- Reform without assessing cost and providing adequate resources to implement.
- Ideology driving the process
- Politics vs. Policy
- Piecemeal
- Assessments won't measure the goals
What is next?

- Pockets of excellence – tell your story.
- Wholesale change or a “bite” at a time?
- Be part of the “conversations.”
- Be a spokesperson for reform and finance so an education system can be implemented for success.

Stay informed:

- Colorado School Finance Project
  website: www.cosfp.org
- Colorado School Stories Project:
  http://schoolstories.phanfare.com