

**BOCES Conference  
July 9, 2007**

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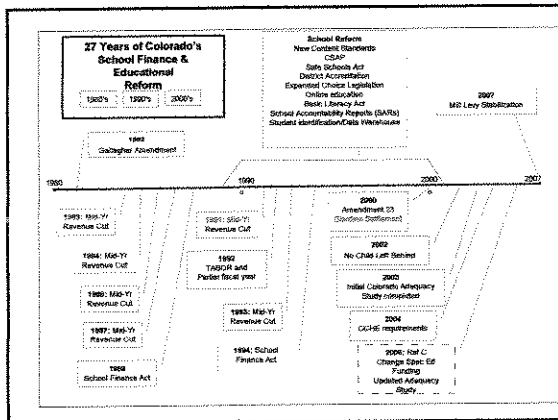
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**School Finance - 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

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

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**Goals for Consideration**

- Colorado: What are the goals for education?
- P – 20
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Tough Choices or Tough Times
  
- How does it all “fit”?

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**National Trends**

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

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**National Perspective**

- Augenblick Palaich and Associates
- Allen Odden
- Richard Picus
  
- Similarities and differences
  
- One answer or combination?

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**National School Finance Issues**

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

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**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?

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**Colorado Tax System**

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

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**Colorado Taxes**

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- Rankings
  - Effort
  - Dollar comparisons
  - National average

**CASE – CASB – CEA**  
***Believe in a Better Colorado***

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**Colorado Taxes**

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- 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?

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**Review Standards/Assessments**

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- Do the Standards measure the 21<sup>st</sup> Century goals?
- What are meaningful assessments?
- Who decides? Relevance – Rigor and Relationships

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**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.

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**Methodology to calculate**

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

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**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?

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**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?

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**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?

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**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

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**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.

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**Stay informed:**

- Colorado School Finance Project  
website: [www.cosfp.org](http://www.cosfp.org)
  
- Colorado School Stories Project:  
<http://schoolstories.phanfare.com>

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