School Finance Interim Committee

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Colorado School Finance Project
- Created in 1994 after the current act was adopted
- Provides research and school finance analysis to state and local policy makers
- Supported by local school districts and education organizations
- Non-lobbying entity

2005 Interim Committee
- Constitution - “local control” and school districts’ responsibilities of organization and instruction.
- Adopted principles for a new Act
- Challenge of addressing equity – adequacy – sustainability – flexibility
- Acknowledged some students cost more

2009 – Questions?
- Are you implementing a standards based system of school finance?
- What would a foundation formula include today?
- CAP4K – vision and goals have been defined – Costing Out Analysis connects to school finance

Standards Based System
- New Standards - 2009
- Growth Model
- New Assessments
- New Accountability System
- Resources are provided to implement – how to determine a base?
- What components in a new finance system?

Foundation Formula
- Base Amount – An amount that equates to resources needed for a student who has no special circumstances – in a district with no uncontrollable cost pressures
- What others adjustments in the formula? Definitions? Categoricals?
Formula Factors
- School District Size
- Cost of living or cost of doing business?
- Personnel cost factor
- At-risk, Special Education or English Language Learners?
- How to adjust for choice - i.e. inter-district, out of district movement, on-line, etc.?
- How to adjust for time?

Other components?
- Kindergarten - Preschool
- Summer School
- Before and After school programs
- Teacher mentoring/staff development
- Technology
- Concurrent enrollment
- Uncontrollable costs to districts

Implementation
- Establish goals for 2009
- Goals 1994:
  - Foundation formula
  - A 50/50 split of state and local dollars – districts to raise approximately 40 mills
  - Equity (taxpayer) as primary objective
  - Academic goal of universal access
  - Beginning of standards

Learning from the past
- Goals of 1994 Act not reviewed as part of yearly school finance discussion
- Unintended consequences of Gallagher – TABOR – School Finance Act
- Result: $1.65 Billion in Local Tax relief in 15 years – loss to K-12

Plan to implement – 2009?
- What is the structure of a formula?
- How is it tied to CAP4K? Can the growth model define academic progress for all students?
- Can a framework be designed and a timeline for implementation as resources are available?

How to Pay?
- Local and State?
- What are revenue streams for K-12?
- Challenges for state and districts
- School districts making decisions about 18 months ahead of state budget – concerns:
  - stability
  - reliability
  - equity (student and taxpayer)
  - adequate amount
**Additional Issues**

- Taxpayer Equity – wealth of property balanced with income wealth of a community
- Student Equity – how are variances in program opportunity accounted for?
- Adequate funding to accomplish expectations – what is local and state split?

**Questions/Comments**

- Colorado School Finance Project
  additional information: [www.cosfp.org](http://www.cosfp.org)