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School Finance Interim Committee

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Colorado School Finance Project

1

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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

2

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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

3

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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

4

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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?

5

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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?

6

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- 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?

7

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

8

○○○ | **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

9

○○○ | **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

10

○○○ | **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?

11

○○○ | **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

12

○○○ | **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?

13

○○○ | **Questions/Comments**

- Colorado School Finance Project additional information: www.cosfp.org

14