

University of Denver – Class August 11, 2012

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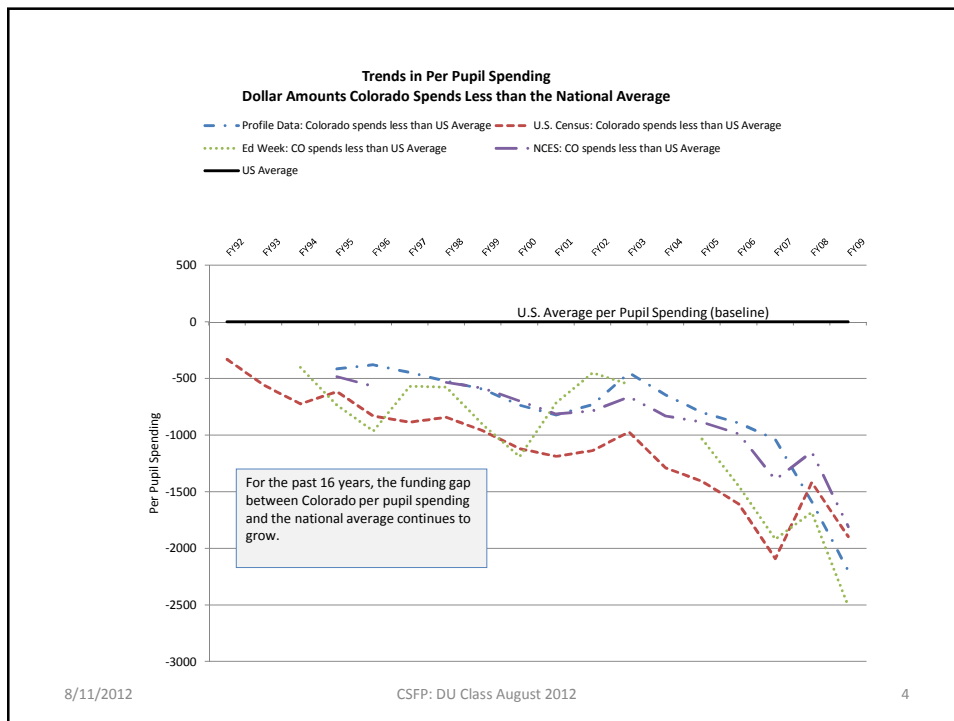
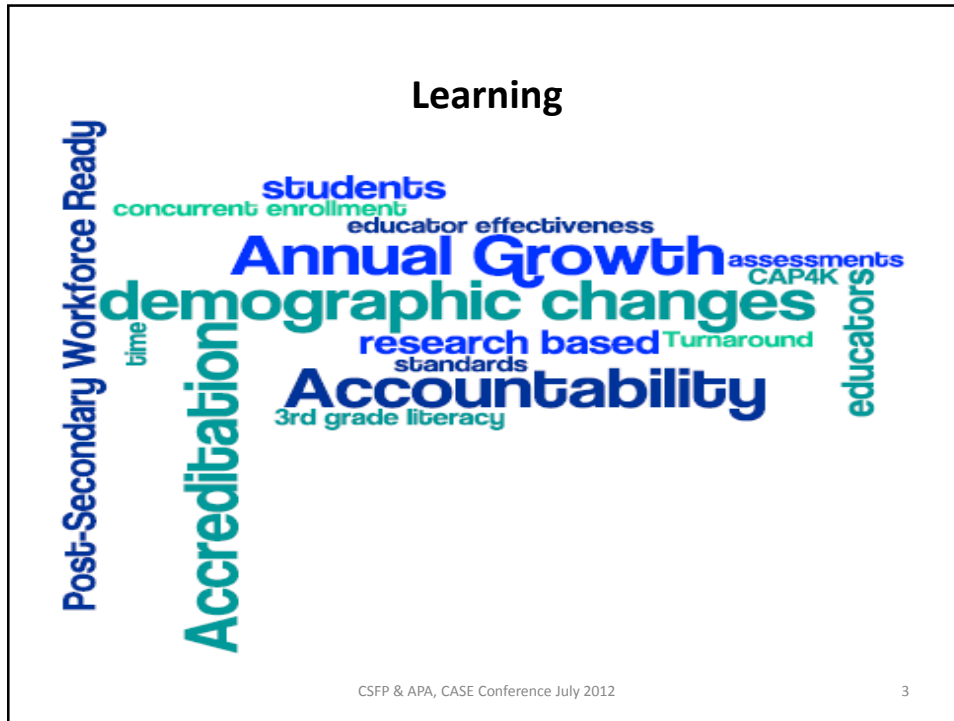
Do I need to know about school finance?

- As a principal or administrator why is it important?
- Can I influence decisions?
- I'm an instructional leader – not a finance person.
- I'm just given a budget – I have to make it work.
- The finance stuff is just too hard.
- Someone else will explain to my communities.

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School Finance System

- Does school finance system:
 - support the learning objectives?
 - meet the constitutional objectives?
 - address student and district variances?
 - support accountability and accreditation?

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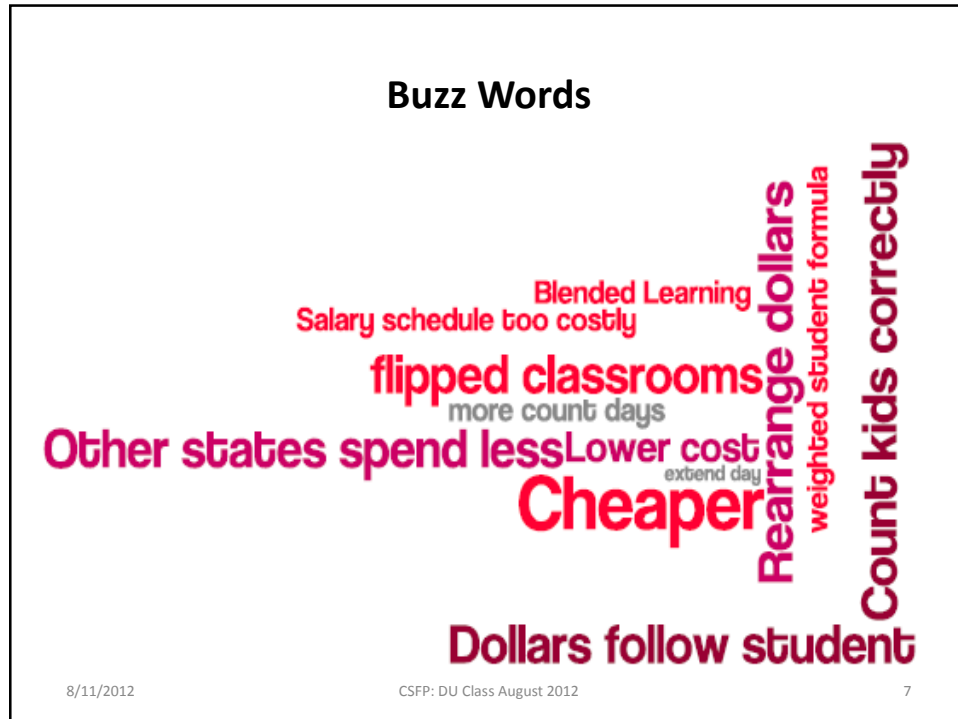
School Finance System

- Simple answer is No to all questions.
- How to move from No to YES?
- What does a plan look like?
- Have other states been successful?
- What are the “buzz words for School Finance”?
- What are just “buzz words”?

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Learning

- Learning for students – primary objective
- How do “Buzz Words” fit into conversation?
Are they a help? Hindrance? A tool for all students? Distraction?
- **Is it research based?**
- Is it a requirement?
- Does it improve learning? Or adjust funding?
- Is it truly **school finance**?

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Policy vs. School Finance

- Education Policy determines direction & potential requirements of education system.
- Policies must be supported by resources so **all 800,000 plus students** in CO can have **access, opportunity for success** and **quality of program**.
- Resources needed must be reflected in the formula.

School finance *supports* policy.

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Statehood - Constitution

- Colorado was granted statehood based on the Educational Clause in the Constitution.
- Constitutional compliance can and should be addressed in the legislative arena – if legislative branch does not address then remedied through the courts.
- Lobato litigation – currently awaiting Colorado Supreme Court

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Questions?

- Does the legislature know how much the education system costs? Reforms implemented – waivers granted. Individual students, schools, districts and educators are being held to expectations.
- Does the 1994 act reflect the education system of 2012?
- Is the legislature accessing all the revenue it is allowed under TABOR?

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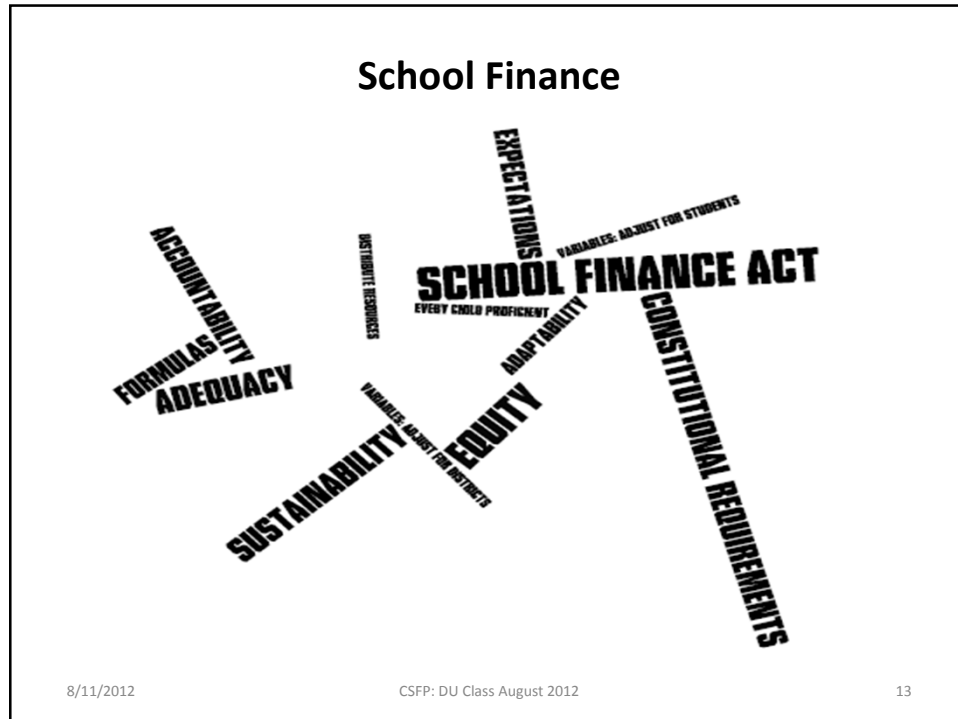
More Questions?

- Is the legislature trying to solve the funding crisis? Are they complying with “thorough and uniform” provision? Are they providing adequate resources to implement the educational reforms? Are they addressing revenue shortfalls?
- What is the 1 year – 5 year and 10 year plan for funding education in Colorado? More cuts or adequate and sustainable funding?

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Why the urgency?

- We continue to have 9,000+ new students
- Free Lunch – over 1/3 of students
- Teacher salaries equate to 2005-06 levels and are \$6,400 below national average today
- We lost 500 teachers in one year as a direct result of \$644 less in per pupil revenue when adjusted for inflation

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Is there capacity to fix?

- Colorado's personal income continues to increase
- Colorado's effort in K-12 education investment continues to decrease.
 - If Colorado made **same effort** as it did in **1992** there would be **\$1.2 billion more dollars yearly.**
 - If made **national average investment** would have **\$2.248 billion more dollars yearly.**

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Questions – Contact Info

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Find us here:

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Contact me with questions anytime. Today.
Next week. 6 months from now. A year from
now. Anytime.

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