National Developments in Education

Colorado School Finance Project
Denver, Colorado
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Education Commission of the State

Education Commission of the States

- The only nationwide education interstate compact
- Founded in 1965 to enlighten, equip and engage education policy makers
- 53 member states, territories and the District of Columbia
- Web Site: www.ecs.org
Overview

- Current trends in education funding
- Emerging issues
  - The Common Core
  - Virtual schools
  - Blended learning

The Great Recession

The recession officially started in December, 2007 and lasted until June, 2009 (18 months)

It was the longest recession in the post World War II era

The average length of a recession in the modern era is 11 months
State Spending on K-12 Education
(In millions)

- 2005-06: $236,769
- 2006-07: $256,025
- 2007-08: $276,150
- 2008-09: $272,557
- 2009-10: $258,382
- 2010-11: $261,708

Federal Funding For K-12 Education
(In millions)

- 2005-06: $45,344
- 2006-07: $45,323
- 2007-08: $45,401
- 2008-09: $56,437
- 2009-10: $70,678
- 2010-11: $72,961
- 2012-13: $55,000
- 2013-14: $45,500
Things are getting better, but ...

- Some states still have budgetary issues (California)

- Student populations continued to grow while budgets shrank

- Health and pension costs are increasing

- Local tax revenues have yet to stabilize
School Funding Comparisons

- How does Colorado’s school funding system compare:
  - Structure of the funding formula
  - High-cost student populations
    - Special education
    - At-risk
    - Gifted and talented
  - Full-day Kindergarten and early learning
Upcoming School Funding Issues

- Virtual learning
- Performance pay
- Changing demographics/declining populations

Common Core State Standards
A National Picture

46 states + DC have adopted the standards
*Note: MN adopted ELA only

Non-adopting states: TX, VA, NE, AK
*Note: Anchorage, AK - only district to independently adopt standards
Support/Criticism of CCSS

- Commonly cited reasons for adopting the Common Core:
  - Consistency across states
  - Increased rigor
  - A common measure for college readiness
  - Informed by top-performing countries

- Commonly cited reasons for not adopting the Common Core:
  - Perceived as federal overreach
  - Perceived loss of local control
  - State standards are superior
  - Costs

Costs Associated with Implementation

- Instructional materials
- Ongoing [effective] professional development
- Remedial services
- Infrastructure costs for online assessments
- Alignment with early learning and higher ed
- Revising teacher prep programs
Assessment Consortia

- **SMARTER Balanced** – 21 governing/4 participatory states
- **PARCC** – 19 governing (incl. CO)/4 participatory states
  - **Utah** is the only state that is not a member of either consortia
  - Three states are a member of both consortia
- **S.B. 172** directed Colorado to become a PARCC governing state, Colorado will now have:
  - The opportunity to participate in making major policy and operational decisions
  - A voice in the design of the assessment system, the procurement strategy, and the common achievement levels for the assessments

CCSS Implementation Timeline

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<tr>
<td>Align instructional materials</td>
<td>Adopt aligned instructional materials</td>
<td>Full implementation of standards and assessment!</td>
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<td>Professional development for administrators/educators</td>
<td>Field test assessment items</td>
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<td>Pilot assessment items from consortia</td>
<td>Test capabilities of technological infrastructure within schools</td>
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<td>Ensure schools are technologically prepared for assessments</td>
<td>Ongoing professional development for administrators/educators</td>
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Colorado Timeline Highlights (CDE)

- Colorado’s Model Curriculum Development Project:
  - May-July 2012: Curriculum Framework and Process Guides
  - Aug 2012-May 2013: Curriculum blueprint
  - June 2013: Final Instructional Units
  - 2012-2013: Schools/Districts expected to transition to new standards
  - 2013-2014: Full implementation of standards
  - 2014-2015: Full implementation of PARCC assessment

Virtual Schools

- What are virtual schools? They are schools that provide 100% of their education on-line

  - Enrollment
    - 2008-09: 200,000
    - 2012-13 (est.): 400,000 (just under 1% of all students)

- There is a movement away from state run virtual schools towards schools run by private providers

- K-12, Inc., and Connections Academy together enrolled nearly half of all full-time online students
Blended Learning

- What is it? A program that combines some face to-face courses and some online courses.

- One of the fastest grow areas of K-12

- States are beginning to require that blended learning programs be made available to all students
  - In 2011 Florida mandate that all students have the option for blended learning
  - Idaho now requires that all students take at least two virtual courses prior to graduation

Blended Learning

Challenges to Implementation

- **Bandwidth and hardware capacity**, especially in rural and urban areas

- **Funding systems** that take into account the unique structure of blended programs

- **Accountability**
  Need for digital formative and summative assessments that provide some measure of course quality and teacher effectiveness through “student learning data.” Need for mechanisms that “hold schools and providers accountable to achievement and growth.”

- **Teacher preparation and professional development**
  The Digital Learning Council (DLC) points to the need for states to offer “alternative certification routes, including online instruction and performance-based certification ... reciprocity for online instructors certified by another state ... [and] the opportunity for multi-location instruction.”