

# Pinnacle Partners Advocacy U

August 18, 2017

Tracie Rainey  
Executive Director  
Colorado School Finance Project

# Legislative Reduction to PK-12 Funding

Beginning in 2009 – the Legislature reduced funding to PK-12 funding as a result of the Great Recession.

- 2009 – Mid-year cuts
- 2010 – Legislature created State Budget Stabilization Factor
- 2011 – 2016 – renamed to Negative Factor
- 2017 – ongoing? - renamed to Budget Stabilization (BS) Factor

# 9 Yrs - CO School Funding Cuts

# Budget Stabilization Factor: Impacts districts differently

- Larger class sizes
- Fewer program
- Challenges retaining staff
- Challenges attracting staff
- Fewer school days

# Budget Stabilization Factor: Impacts districts differently

- Reduction to school building maintenance
- Buses with over 300K – 400K miles (optimal replacement 175K – 200K miles)
- Out of date classroom materials

# April-May 2015

## Facing the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the Budget Stabilization / Negative Factor

CSFP asked Superintendents, Boards,  
CFO/Budget Managers:  
*What would you do with extra funds?*

Following are their responses:

# Western Slope – if more funds

- Add SPED teacher; we cut 1 certified SPED teacher and replaced with aide due to budget cuts.
- Huge need for our neediest kids to have certified SPED teachers.
- Decrease deficit spending which reduces staff cuts and increases in class size
- Raises for teachers. Family of 4 on teacher salary qualifies for reduced lunch

# Western Slope – if more funds

- Add elective opportunities in high school
- Add computer science classes at middle and high school, STEM at elementary
- Add 1 psychologist to district, would bring us to 2 for 2,000 plus students
- Update Language Arts, Social Studies, Science curriculum (10-15 years old)



# Western Slope – if more funds

- Bus replacement, building repairs – reinstate cuts due to Negative Factor
- Begin replacing buses – newest buses purchased in 2004
- Technology purchases for CMAS & PARCC depleted our capital reserve
- Repair leaking roofs

# Eastern Plains – if more funds

- We need to repair the gutters on most of our buildings
- Try to bring teacher pay more up to date and update bus fleet
- Offer AP and upper level courses at secondary eliminating free hours for Juniors and Seniors

# Eastern Plains – if more funds

- Unfreeze salaries that have been frozen off and on for years
- Open our library all day, we closed it for 2 hours per day due to budget cuts
- Provide intervention program for students below grade level in math and Language Arts

# Rural – if more funds

- Update / Upgrade technology – currently needs deferred for over 10 years
- Pay to keep teachers we have & not lose electives
- Replace: 4<sup>th</sup> grade social studies text 1974 text; HS science & social studies texts 10-15 years old
- Install security system, raises for teachers after 5 years of no change in pay scale

# Rural – if more funds

- Hire staff to support principals with evaluation (SB-191), discipline & site management
- Upgrade technology, deferred for over 10 years
- Provide teachers and staff a salary increase, there has only been 1 increase in the last 5 years
- Bring back staff and electives eliminated due to budget cuts

# Suburban – if more funds

- Add space for student population growth
- Upgrade bus fleet: 2 @ 400,000+ miles, 11 @ 300,000 – 400,000 miles
- Facilities no longer meet standards of compliance established by district

# Suburban – if more funds

- Schools that absorbed prior cuts could reinstate programs and staff
- Items across district past useful lives: HVAC Controls, boilers, chillers, roofs, carpets
- Mental health staff for elementary, deans for elementary to provide more support for students

# Urban – if more funds

- Our 1:1 classroom tech woefully short & severely underfunded by about \$15 million
- Capital priorities for our schools
- Stop spending down our reserves
- Books/Instructional materials
- Hire Asst. Principals at high schools to help with Educator Effectiveness Evaluation



# Urban – if more funds

- Capital projects such as repairs for maintenance we deferred since 2008
- Update curriculum (some not updated since 90's)

# Central – if more funds

- Purchase emergency preparedness items (generators, cisterns), keep school functioning if system failures
- While grateful for grants, time-consuming & insufficient to meet needs

# Mountains – if more funds

- Reinstate French classes in middle school
- Repair track & gym floor at high school
- Improve safety concerns on campus
- Negative Factor directly impacts ability to turn around student achievement
- Add back in 8 paraprofessionals and 6 teaching positions lost over past 6 years

# Mountains – if more funds

- Increase hours of special needs paraprofessional, add nurse & psychologist time
- Give teachers raise-6 years w/no increases, impossible to hire/retain teachers in CO w/teacher shortage
- 2 schools on turnaround clock: no additional funding to support reforms needed

# South – if more funds

- Most in need of: Textbooks, teacher & classroom supplies, building maintenance, buses, technology
- Full-time Vocational Tech teacher; add Spanish teacher
- Acquire technology needed to support education delivery and state-mandated testing

# South – if more funds

- Capital projects such as repairs for maintenance we deferred since 2008
- Upgrade facilities to comply with basic codes of safety and construction, as planned prior to cuts
- Address deferred maintenance-parking lots, playgrounds, on hold due to yrs of negative factor

# Southwest – if more funds

- Target money for capital projects
- Pay teachers competitive salary representative of their value AND not be forced into 3-year freeze

# Northeast – if more funds

- Additional funds equate to fewer cuts
- Start the initiative for one-to-one computing.  
Transportation Needs
- Support upper & lower 20% of academic progress. Improvements to school security
- Add new texts and supplies to classrooms to support instruction of updated standards



# Southeast – if more funds

- Replace old curriculum in math and English
- Purchase supplies and materials put off for years simply because money not there
- Add elementary teacher – currently have 3 grades per classroom

# Northwest – if more funds

- Use funds to build partnership with parent/community to volunteer, reading programs for kids, enrichment
- Build a viable program: Professional development, hire staff, supplies to focus on reading intervention
- Extra money would help us save teaching positions
- Extra money would help us save teaching positions

# Northwest – if more funds

- Use funds to build partnership with parent/community to volunteer, reading programs for kids, enrichment
- Build a viable program: Professional development, hire staff, supplies to focus on reading intervention
- Hire tech integration specialists to assist teachers in successfully incorporating technology into classroom

# Questions & Concerns

- Today
- Later –  
contact me



# Contact Information

- Tracie Rainey – 303-860-9136
- [T.Rainey@cosfp.org](mailto:T.Rainey@cosfp.org)
- cosfp.org | @COSFP