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• Out of date classroom materials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 7th 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: 4th 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

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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
• cosfp.org  |  @COSFP