Making 2013
The Year of the Student

Colorado School Finance Project
September 28, 2012

When you walk away today, remember these three things:

• Colorado, we’ve got a problem.
• It’s a problem that can be fixed.
• It’ll be fixed when we demand that it be fixed.
Colorado, we have a problem.

**Stats and Facts**
- $1,809 less per pupil than nat’l ave.
- Bottom quintile in:
  - Student-teacher ratios
  - Technology
  - Teacher salaries (comparable jobs)
  - Achievement gaps
- 49th in state & local support for higher ed
- Gained 9,000 students, lost 500 teachers from 09-10 to 10-11

Colorado, we have a problem.

**Stories**
- Increasing fees & supply lists
- Reduction in graduation requirements and coursework
- Overcrowded classes
- No textbooks, old technology
- Who is touring U of W?
Colorado, we have a problem.

**Graphs**

K-12 Per-Pupil Funding: Colorado vs. National Average

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

- Gallagher Amendment Passed
- TABOR Passed
- Amendment 23 Passed

**Why the cuts are happening:**

Average Per-Pupil Funding in Colorado

- $6,073
- $6,169
- $6,350
- $6,668
- $6,874
- $7,077
- $6,813
- $6,488

- Average spending per pupil
- Cut from Amendment 23
1991-2011
Colorado dropped from 35th to 49th in state & local per capita support of higher ed.

That’s a drop from 87% of national average to 55%.

That’s how we got to the “Colorado Conversation”

• We’re talking about how to hurt kids the least, rather than how to help them the most.
• Pits kids against kids – preschool vs. K-12 vs. higher ed, at-risk vs. special ed.
• But it’s an easy, comfortable status quo.
Colorado, we have a problem.

WHO CARES?

Who Cares?

- We do.
- Parents.
- Grandparents.
- Students.
- Educators.
- Faith Leaders.
- Businesspeople.
- Community Leaders.
That’s several hundred thousand Coloradoans... who haven’t had a way to take action together.

Next Question:

Who can fix it?
Who *can* fix it?

- **State leaders.**
  - Even though they say they can’t.
  - They’ve got options
  - But they *won’t* fix it, until there’s demand & support.

**Last Question:**

Who will demand action?
Who Will Demand that State Leaders Act?

• *We will.*
  • All those Parents, Grandparents, Students, Educators, Businesspeople, and Faith & Civic Leaders
  • We will empower, encourage, and enable action.

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*We can create the will to fix it.*

“2013: The Year of the Student”

• Demand action in 2013 - together
• Strengthen the resolve of leaders who care
• Build the army to ensure action
2013: Year of the Student
90+ organizations & boards have signed on:
- School boards
- Parents, teachers, students and seniors
- Rural, urban, suburban
- Special education, gifted
- Businesses
- Faith community
- Higher education

Ways to Get Involved

Sign the call to action
Help us Grow the YOS Partner list
Carry a call to action and/or encourage others
Schedule a presentation
What is the 2013: Year of the Student Project?

Sign the "Call to Action" Online!

- Check out hard-copy "Call to Action" packets
- Use the "Tell-a-friend" tool to grow the Project
- Sign-up your group!
- Check out the latest YOS news

2013forstudents.org

We Can Do This.

If not us, who?
If not now, when?
Contact Us

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