

10 Key Takeaways from the Colorado School Finance Project's Inaugural Conference

1. Colorado school districts are facing the challenge of personnel shortages
 - a. Competition between districts creates haves and have nots within regions and across the state
 - b. Struggling to find the staff they need
 - c. Labor shortages are worse for specialized positions
 - d. Need to think about incentive structures that the state can have to attract staff
2. A refocusing on the Whole Child
 - a. Smaller class sizes for more individualized instruction
 - b. Social emotional supports
 - c. Extra curriculars
 - d. Opportunities for the Arts, CTE, STEM, foreign language (starting earlier)
3. Social and Emotional Supports for students, teachers, and community members are critical
 - a. There are not enough people for these positions
 - b. It is very expensive to contract out for these services
 - c. Have support at every school-
4. Postsecondary and workforce readiness are important to school districts.
 - a. Includes concurrent enrollment, career and technology education, and workforce preparedness courses
5. The need for interventionists to help with student well-being
 - a. Quality of individuals not the quantity of them
6. Schools as a community hub
 - a. Increase the community's involvement in student learning
 - b. Provide opportunities for families and individuals to use schools for learning, health care, food, and other purposes to achieve greater trust and have healthier communities
7. 1:1 technology is a necessity.
 - a. Access to technology is an important consideration for rural settings- can be cost prohibitive and unrealistic for low-income families
 - b. Replacement cycle and software license costs need to be considered and budgeted
8. Fixed costs for items are hard for all school districts but especially hard for smaller districts
9. Need to focus on facilities
10. Community partnerships are essential to school/student success