

School Finance so far in 2021

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COLORADO SCHOOL FINANCE PROJECT

Support Children - Support The Future

**Bills impacting
school finance
this year**

SB21-205: Long Bill

SB21-268:
Public School Finance

HB21-1164: Mill Levy Stabilization

HB21-1325: Funding Public
Schools Formula

**SB21- 205
Long Bill**

\$10M for Special Education
categoricals

\$1M for bullying prevention

SB21- 205 Long Bill

Placeholders for:

- SB21-207 - \$100M to BEST
- State match for Colorado Imagination Library
- SB21-185 (Teacher Recruitment Toolkit)
- K12 grant programs in SB21-268
- Budget Stabilization Factor buydown

SB21- 268 Public School Finance

- 2% Base per pupil increase \$141.67
- Decreases Budget Stabilization Factor by \$481.4 million
- Formula changes:
 - Adds reduced lunch to at-risk and REMOVES subset of ELL from at-risk
 - Adds a new ELL factor (.08 weight)
Does not remove ELL students from Categoricals

SB21- 268

Public School Finance

Restores funding for following grants:

- \$800,000 for 9th Grade Success Program
- \$375,807 for School Leadership Pilot
- \$280,730 for Accelerated College Opportunity Exam Fee Program
- \$250,000 for John Buckner Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses Grant Program

SB21- 268

Public School Finance

Restores funding for following grants:

- \$2.5M for K-5 Social Emotional Health Pilot Program
- \$493,907 for Local Accountability Systems Grant Program
- \$3M for Behavioral Health Care Professionals Grant Program
- \$2M School Counselors Corps Grant Program (removes cap for the program, too)

SB21- 268

Public School Finance

- \$1.75M for Concurrent Enrollment and Innovation Grant Program (ARPA \$s)
- \$1.75M for Career Development Success Program (ARPA \$s)
- Provides an additional \$2M for CSI Mill Levy Equalization

HB21-1164: Total Program Mill Levy Tax Credit

- Supreme Court ruled on interrogatory
- CDE will increase 1 mill a year for 19 years:
 1. The number of mills needed to fully fund total program;
 2. The number of mills levied when the district received voter approval; or
 3. 27 mills.

HB21-1325: Funding Public Schools Formula

- Establishes an interim committee on school finance in 2021 and 2022
- Equal party representation- four Senators and four Representatives

HB21-1325: Funding Public Schools Formula

Committee will consider:

- How to modernize formula (more transparent, equitable, and student-centered)
- Look at whether the current method for identifying at-risk is appropriate and accurate
- Whether to redesign cost-of-living and personnel costs to only high cost districts

HB21-1325: Funding Public Schools Formula

Committee will consider:

- The appropriate method to address small, remote, and rural school district funding
- Funding equity related to total program mill levy and mill levy overrides
- Alternative educator supports for K-2 students
- Benefits and challenges of bring Special Education into the formula

**QUESTIONS
after today?**

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