

Colorado K-12 Education: An overview (Data from 2005-06)

Increase in Colorado students identified with “special needs.”

At-risk: 29% of students are eligible for free lunch (212,360).
A 48% increase since 2000-01 (143,498).

Special Ed: 11% of students have disabilities requiring special services (82,956).
A 6% increase since 2000-01 (78,334).

ELPA: 6% of students are learning English as a second language (43,080).
A 42% increase since 2000-01 (30,387).

Total student enrollment continues to increase in Colorado.

- Colorado’s 178 district enrollment from 2004-05 to 2005-06 increased 12,000 students which is equivalent in size to the 17th largest district in the state.

Colorado per pupil spending falls \$892 short of the national average.

- Colorado’s per pupil spending is \$8,130.
- The national average for per pupil spending is \$9,022.

Colorado invests less income in education than the national average.

- Revenue directed to Colorado K-12 education is equal to 3.38% of personal income.
- Revenue directed to K-12 education nationally is equal to 4.25% of personal income.

Colorado teachers’ earnings are \$4,629 less than the national average.

- The average Colorado teacher salary is \$44,480.
- The average national teacher salary is \$49,109.
(Note: This is the average salary, not a base salary.)

Colorado teachers’ years of experience continues to decrease.

- In 1993, Colorado teachers’ averaged 13 years of experience.
- In 2006, Colorado teachers’ averaged 9.1 years of experience.