Colorado School Finance Project

School finance research since 1995.

Who are Colorado's Public School Students?

(as of January 2014)

- 1. **Enrollment** has **increased over 125,000 students** in the past 11 years, **now totaling 877,000**.
- Students identified at-risk (free-lunch proxy for district funding) are 35% of the student population (304,962). Including reduced-lunch students, brings this group to 42% (367,784) of the population. Free and Reduced Lunch students are the fastest growing population in Colorado.
- 3. Colorado serves over 126,700 students (in 191 languages) whose primary language is not English. The state provides funding that covers \$.25 for every dollar spent by districts.
- 4. Colorado's special education population is about 10% or 87,000 students, one of the lowest percentages in the country. State and Federal funding cover about \$.30 for every dollar spent by districts.
- 5. Colorado's gifted population continues to increase, now over 66,000 students, as funding since 2005 has decreased to \$144 per student per year.

More information: Student Trends tab on our website cosfp.org

Data Source: CDE: Instructional Program Counts; Understanding Colorado School Finance, July 2013