

Who are Colorado's Public School Students? (as of January 2013)

1. Enrollment has increased over 110,000 students in the past 10 years, now over 860,000.
2. Students identified at-risk (free-lunch proxy for district funding) are 33% of the student population (297,167). Including reduced-lunch students, brings this group to 41% (358,899) of the population. Free and Reduced Lunch students are the fastest growing population group in Colorado.
3. Colorado serves over 124,000 students (in 186 languages) – whose primary language is not English. The state provides funding that covers about \$.25 for every dollar spent by districts.
4. Colorado's special education population is less than 10% of its population, one of the lowest 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 has dropped to \$139 per student per year.

Data Source: CDE: Instructional Program Counts; PK-12 Free & Reduced Lunch Eligibility; Understanding Colorado School Finance, July 2012