

School Finance Simulation Tool

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Legislative Council Staff

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School Finance Interim Committee



Background on School Finance Simulation Tool

- Created by EdBuild for the committee in 2019
- Intended to allow members to explore school finance formula changes and the district by district impacts
 - Cost of Living
 - Size / Remote
 - Grade level
 - At-risk options
 - Special education, gifted and talented
 - Weights for each factor
 - Cost of changes
- EdBuild provided the tool to Legislative Council Staff, and are no longer in business.

EdBuild School Finance Simulation Tool

Formula Inputs

Financial Variables

State Formula Budget:
\$5,140,936,167

Balance:
\$-1,017.72

Student Base

\$6768.77

Weights

[instructions](#)

Change At Risk Funding to Economic Distress?

Yes No

Change ELL to Formula Weight?

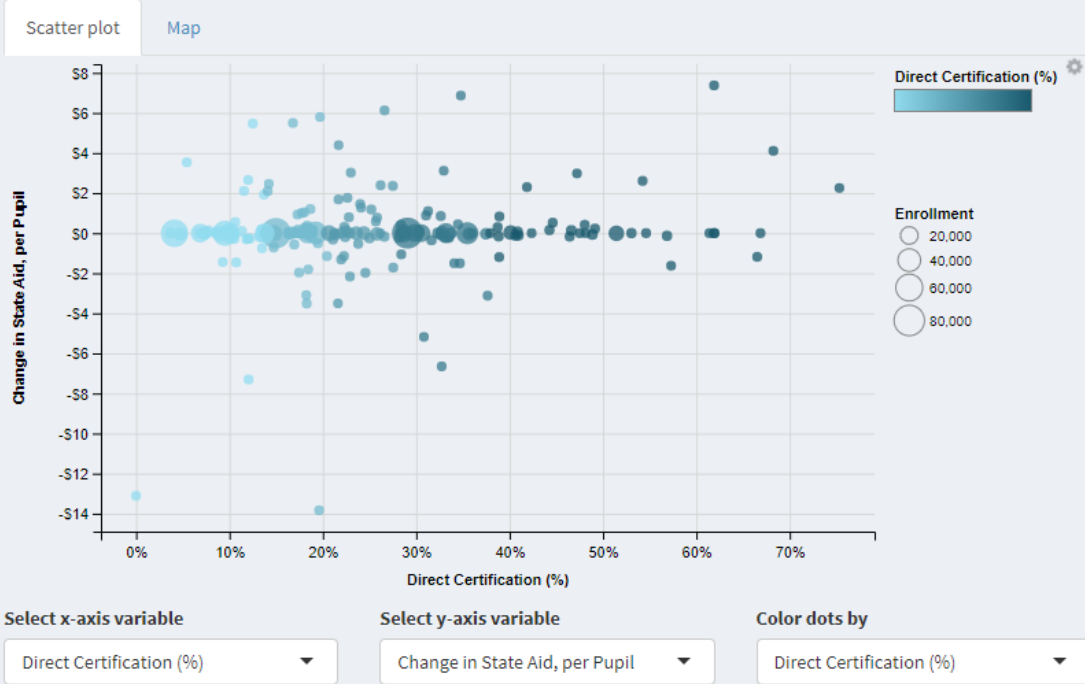
Yes No

Change Special Education to Formula Weight?

Yes No

Change Cost of Living to Formula Weight?

Yes No



District	Change in State Aid, per Pupil	Enrollment
ACADEMY 20	\$0	24,947.5
ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS	\$0	41,343.5
ADAMS-ARAPAHOE 28J	-\$0	37,550.0
ADAMS COUNTY 14	-\$0	7,085.5
AGATE 300	\$7	42.5

Formula Projections

Dollars needed to hold harmless:

\$-20,839.02

Legal Requirements:

State—Student Base:

\$-135.38

Categorical funding is within legal range

Special Education funding is within legal range

[Link for current settings](#)

[Bookmark...](#)

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Table Inputs

Filter districts by:

District

County

EdBuild School Finance Simulation Tool

Formula Inputs

Financial Variables

State Formula Budget:

\$5,140,936,167

Balance:

\$-47,212,991

Student Base

\$6768.77

Weights

[instructions](#)

Change At Risk Funding to Economic Distress?

What measure?

- Direct Certification
- Free Lunch
- Free & Reduced Lunch
- Medicaid

Economic Distress Weight

0.12

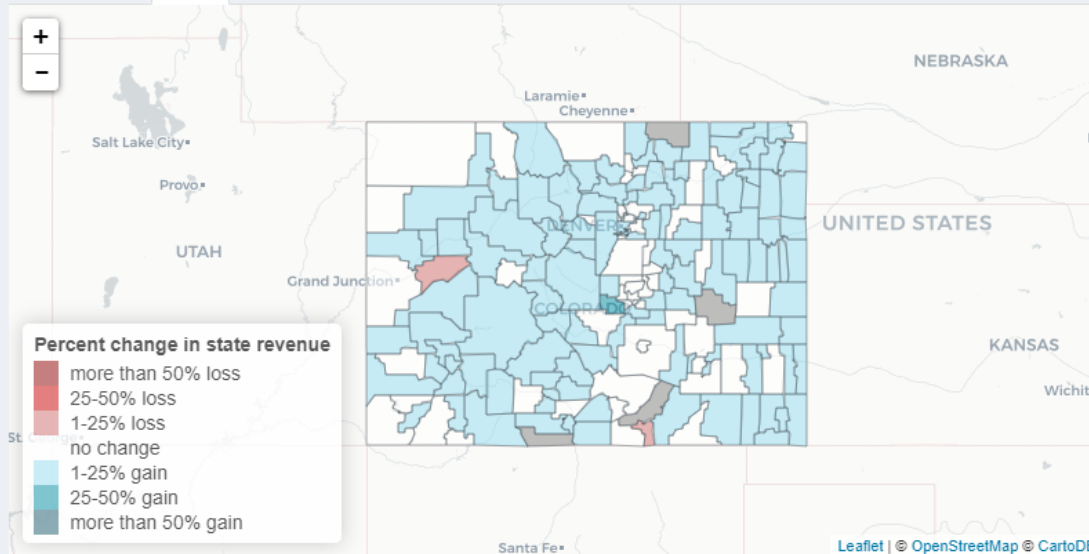
Economic Distress Max

0.3

Change ELL to

Scatter plot

Map



Revenue change for:

- State revenue alone
- State revenue alone
- Total revenue

District	Change in State Aid, per Pupil	Enrollment
ACADEMY 20	\$9	24,947.5
ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS	\$37	41,343.5
ADAMS-ARAPAHOE 28J	-\$17	37,550.0

Formula Projections

Dollars needed to hold harmless:

\$-2,182,151

Legal Requirements:

State—Student Base:

\$-135.38

Categorical funding is within legal range

Special Education funding is within legal range

Link for current settings

[Bookmark...](#)

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Table Inputs

Options Within the Tool

Student Base

\$6768.77

Weights

Change At Risk Funding to Economic Distress?

Yes No

Change ELL to Formula Weight?

Yes No

Change Special Education to Formula Weight?

Yes No

Change Cost of Living to Formula Weight?

Yes No

Cost of Living Strength

0 1

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1

instructions

Weight: A weight is used to provide additional dollars to a demographic group. If the ELL weight is set to 0.2, for instance, all ELL students in a school district will receive an additional 20% on top of the student base set in the field above this section.

Change to Formula Weight: Currently ELL, special education, and gifted students are funded through categorical grants. If the user indicates they would like to shift these funds into the formula as weights, the tool will automatically shift those dollars into the state budget and the user will need to set an appropriate weight to reallocate those funds through the formula itself.

Change Size Factor to Formula Weight?

Yes No

Size Factor Strength

0 1

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1

Include remoteness in size factor?

Yes No

Change Grade Weights?

Yes No

Change Gifted to Formula Weight?

Yes No

Remove formula's minimum funding requirement?

Yes No

The default value is the average amount each district received per student in the prior year.

Cost of Living and Size Factor: Cost of living and the size factor currently modify the student base directly. This tool allows the user to change the calculation so that either component is pulled out and reinserted as a traditional weight, like those used for ELL or special-education students. The relative strength of each measure can be decreased using the provided slider. 1 = 100% strength, .5 = 50%, .2 = 20%, etc.

Options Within the Tool

District	Change in State Aid, per Pupil	Enrollment
ACADEMY 20	\$0	24,947.5
ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS	\$0	41,343.5
ADAMS-ARAPAHOE 28J	-\$0	37,550.0
ADAMS COUNTY 14	-\$0	7,085.5
AGATE 300	\$7	42.5
AGUILAR REORGANIZED 6	\$0	99.0
AKRON R-1	\$1	351.5
ALAMOSA RE-11J	-\$0	2,247.5
ARCHULETA COUNTY 50 JT	-\$0	1,645.0
ARICKAREE R-2	\$6	101.5
ARRIBA-FLAGLER C-20	\$2	142.0
ASPEN 1	-\$0	1,600.0
AULT-HIGHLAND RE-9	-\$0	904.5
BAYFIELD 10 JT-R	-\$0	1,317.5
BENNETT 29J	-\$0	996.0
BETHUNE R-5	\$3	93.0
BIG SANDY 100J	\$1	285.0

State Aid Totals

- Current State Aid
- Current State Aid, per Pupil
- Proposed State Aid
- Proposed State Aid, per Pupil
- Change in State Aid (\$)
- Change in State Aid (%)
- Change in State Aid, per Pupil

Formula Totals

- Current Total Program
- Current Total Program, per Pupil
- Proposed Total Program
- Proposed Total Program, per Pupil
- Property Tax Revenues
- Specific Ownership Tax
- Local Share of Total Program (%)
- Current State Share of Total Program
- Current State Share of Total Program (%)
- Proposed State Share of Total Program
- Proposed State Share of Total Program (%)

Pupil Counts & Demographics

- Enrollment
- Funded Pupil Count
- Preschool
- Kindergarten
- Grades 1-3
- Grades 4-8
- Grades 9-12
- At-Risk Pupil Count
- At-Risk (%)
- Direct Certification (%)

- Free Lunch (%)
- Free & Reduced Lunch (%)
- ELL (%)

Other Variables

- County
- CDE ID
- Current Total Revenue, per Pupil
- Proposed Total Revenue
- Proposed Total Revenue, per Pupil
- Change in Total Revenue (\$)
- Change in Total Revenue (%)
- Change in Total Revenue, per Pupil
- Transportation Categorical
- Voc Ed Categorical
- ELL Categorical
- Special Education Categorical
- Gifted Categorical
- Small Attendance Categorical
- Total Categorical Funding
- Mill Levy Override
- Online Enrollment
- ASCENT Enrollment
- Online/ASCENT Funding
- Minimum Formula Funding
- Assessed Value
- Assessed Value, per Pupil
- Equalized Mill Levy
- Categorical Buyout Mill
- Median Household Income
- Median Owner-Occupied Housing Value

Next Steps

- We are in the process of updating the tool with recent data and legislative changes, as the current tool is out of date.
- Aiming to have the model available for the committee for the 2022 interim
- We would like your input and feedback.
- Consider:
 - What did you like about the tool?
 - What did you not like about the tool?
 - What changes would be helpful?

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