

Colorado Superintendents' Advocacy for Adequate School Funding

January 2016

As Colorado school district superintendents, we are proud to serve as educational leaders in our communities that deeply value Colorado's public schools. We have both a professional and moral commitment to delivering on the promise of an effective education for each and every child in our state through an excellent public school system. In order to deliver on this promise to our children, Colorado schools must receive stable and adequate funding.

We are appreciative of the efforts over the last two years restoring a small portion of the \$5.12 billion withheld from Colorado's schools since 2010 via the negative factor; however, this debt owed to Colorado schools has continued long enough.

We hold firmly to the belief that voters' intent in passing Amendment 23 was for schools to realize year-over-year funding increases of at least inflation plus student growth, and this intent needs to be reflected in the state's FY 2016-17 budget and supported by all legislation considered by the 2016 General Assembly.

During the 2016 legislative session, we specifically advocate for the General Assembly to:

1. Uphold the intent of the General Assembly, detailed in SB 15-267, and not reduce state appropriations for the 2015-2016 School Finance Act as a result of increases in state-wide assessed property values and consideration of other factors including economic forecast and state-wide enrollment changes. (*see attached Exhibit A*)
2. Support a supplemental appropriation for 2015-2016 if necessary to ensure per pupil funding is not reduced as a result of enrollment growth or the number of at-risk pupils enrolled.
3. Avoid increasing the negative factor in FY 2016-17.
4. Increase total program funding in FY 2016-17 by the rate of inflation and additional amounts necessary to account for increases in pupil enrollment and the number of at-risk students enrolled.

Furthermore, we strongly support the reclassification of the Hospital Provider Fee to an enterprise fund during the 2016 legislative session as a short-term measure to provide additional funding for Colorado's schools. We also encourage policy makers to identify additional short and long-term strategies to achieve adequate funding for all schools.

The time has come for Colorado's elected representatives to provide strong leadership and restore Colorado's reputation as a state where public schools are highly valued and stable and adequate funding are top priorities.

We stand ready to work in partnership with Colorado's policy makers to find new solutions to the challenges ahead so every Colorado student receives the education they deserve.

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Exhibit A

The first component of the Colorado Superintendents' Advocacy Statement reads:

1. Uphold the intent of the General Assembly, detailed in SB 15-267, and not reduce state appropriations for the 2015-2016 School Finance Act as a result of increases in statewide assessed property values and consideration of other factors including economic forecast and statewide enrollment changes.

The table below illustrates the impact of the aforementioned legislative intent utilizing budget data supplied by the Colorado Department of Education January 2016.

Maintaining state share in SB 15-267 at \$4.113 billion provides an additional \$133,529,912 available in the 2015-16 School Finance Act that has not been allocated to school districts.

	Local Property Tax Collection	Specific Ownership Tax Collection	Total State Share	Adjusted Total Program Funding	Total Additional Dollars Available in the School Finance Act with No Increase in State Share
Revised January 2016	\$ 2,104,957,889	\$ 154,827,923	\$ 4,113,308,875	\$ 6,373,094,687	
Original August 2015	\$ 1,976,577,292	\$ 149,678,608	\$ 4,113,308,875	\$ 6,239,564,775	
Increase / (Decrease)	\$ 128,380,597	\$ 5,149,315	\$ 0	\$ 133,529,912	\$ 133,529,912

Colorado Superintendents in Support of Advocacy for Adequate School Funding

January 2016

Mark Hatchell, Academy 20
Chris Gdowski, Adams 12 Five Star Schools
Rico Munn, Aurora Public Schools
Kendra Ewing, Agate 300
Stacy Houser, Aguilar Reorganized 6
Brian Christensen, Akron R-1
Robert Alejo, Alamosa RE-11J
Linda Reed, Archuleta County 50 JT
Dave Clarkson, Arickaree R-2
Valorie McCleary, Arriba-Flagler C-20
John Maloy, Aspen 1
Troy Zabel, Bayfield 10 JT-R
Shila Adolf, Bethune R-5
Steve Wilson, Big Sandy 100J
Bruce Messinger, Boulder Valley RE 2
Brad Caldwell, Branson Reorganized 82
Rick Mondt, Briggsdale RE-10
Chris Fiedler, Brighton School District 27J
Bill Wilson, Brush RE-2 (J)
Sue Holmes, Buena Vista R-31
Rob Sanders, Buffalo RE-4J
Tom Satterly, Burlington RE-6J
Tom Turrell, Byers 32J
Linda Miller, Calhan RJ-1
Nikki Johnson, Campo RE-6
George Welsh, Cañon City RE-1
Brian Crowther, Centennial R-1
Chris Vance, Center 26 JT
Tonya Rodwell, Cheraw 31
Harry Bull, Cherry Creek 5
Glen Bradshaw, Cheyenne County RE-5
Walt Cooper, Cheyenne Mountain 12
Roslin Marshall, Clear Creek RE-1
Nicholas Gledich, Colorado Springs 11
Randy Bohlander, Cotopaxi RE-3
Buck Stroh, Creede School District
Les Lindauer, Cripple Creek-Victor RE-1
Scott Cuckow, Crowley County RE-1-J
Mark Payler, Custer County School District C-1

Alan Dillon, De Beque 49JT
Kevin Schott, Deer Trail 26J
Nathan Smith, Del Norte C-7
Caryn Gibson, Delta County 50 (J)
Tom Boasberg, Denver Public Schools
Scott Cooper, Dolores RE-4A
Dan Snowberger, Durango
Glenn Smith, Eads RE-1
Jason Glass, Eagle County RE-50
Jody Mimmack, East Grand 2
Rick Lovato, Jr., East Otero R-1
Randy Miller, Eaton RE-2
Pat Bershinsky, Edison 54 JT
Kelli Thompson, Elbert 200
Patrick Cullen, Ellicott 22
Wendy Rubin, Englewood 1
Sheldon Rosenkrance, Estes Park R-3
Ron Echols, Fort Morgan RE-3
Keith Owen, Fountain-Ft. Carson 8
Steven Grasmick, Fowler R-4J
Rhonda Roberts Fremont RE-2
Steve McCracken, Frenchman RE-3
Dave Lindenberg, Garfield RE-2
Ken Haptonstall, Garfield 16
Frank Reeves, Genoa-Hugo C113
Dave MacKenzie, Gilpin County RE-1
Ty Kemp, Granada RE-1
Deirdre Pilch, Greeley 6
Doug Tredway, Gunnison Watershed RE 1J
Grant Schmidt, Hanover 28
Andre Spencer, Harrison 2
Darcy Garretson, Haxtun RE-2 J
Phil Kasper, Hayden RE-1
Michael Warren, Hi-Plains R-23
Leslie Nichols, Hinsdale County RE-1
Christine Barela, Hoehne Reorganized 3
John McCleary, Holyoke RE-1-J
Michael Moore, Huerfano RE-1
Tim Krause, Idalia RJ-3

Colorado Superintendents in Support of Advocacy for Adequate School Funding

January 2016

Rocco Fuschetto, Ignacio 11 JT

Dan McMinimee, Jefferson County R-1

Marty Foster, Johnstown-Milliken RE-5J

Shawn Ehnes, Julesburg RE-1

Brenda Smith, Karval RE-23

Blake Byall, Kim Reorganized 88

Denise Pearson, Kiowa C-2

Robert Framel, Kit Carson R-1

Bree Lessar, La Veta RE-2

Wendy Wyman, Lake County R-1

Dave Tecklenburg, Lamar RE-2

Elsie Goines, Las Animas RE-1

Karen Brofft, Lewis-Palmer 38

Rick Walter, Liberty J-4

Dave Marx, Limon RE-4 J

Brian Ewert, Littleton 6

Susan Sonnenberg, Lone Star 101

Brian Hanson, Mancos RE-6

Ed Longfield, Manitou Springs 14

Thomas Wilke, Manzanola 3J

Charlotte Ciano, Mapleton 1

Terry Weber, McClave RE-2

Chris Selle, Meeker RE1

Steve Schultz, Mesa County Valley 51

Dwight Barnes, Miami/Yoder 60 JT

Kirk Banghart, Moffat 2

Brent Curtice, Moffat County RE-1

Bob Webb, Monte Vista C-8

Alex Carter, Montezuma-Cortez RE-1

Stephen Schiell, Montrose County RE-1-J

Cory Doss, Mountain Valley RE 1

Curtis Wilson, North Conejos RE-1J

Dave Crews, Norwood R-2J

Kendra Anderson, Otis R-3

Scott Pankow, Ouray R-1

Becky Minnis, Park County RE-2

Bret Robinson, Pawnee RE-12

Tim Kistler, Peyton 23 JT

Jennifer Wilson, Plainview RE-2

Mark Collard, Plateau RE-5

Greg Randall, Plateau Valley 50

Brenda Krage, Platte Canyon 1

Sharon Green, Revere

Glenn McClain, Platte Valley RE-7

Sandra Smyser, Poudre R-1

Joe Kimmel, Prairie RE-11

Denille LePlatt, Primero Reorganized 2

Terry Bishop, Pritchett RE-3

Constance Jones, Pueblo City 60

Ed Smith, Pueblo County 70

Matthew Scoggins, Rangely RE-4

Steve Smith, Ridgway R-2

Diana Sirko, Roaring Fork RE-1

Kermit Snyder, Rocky Ford R-2

Darryl Webb, Salida R-32

Kevin Edgar, Sanford 6J

Brady Stagner, Sangre De Cristo RE-22J

Steve Marantino, Sargent RE-33J

Michael Clough, Sheridan 2

Darren Edgar, Sierra Grande R-30

Kim White, Silverton 1

Carla Archuleta, South Conejos RE-10

Darci Mohr, South Routt, RE 3

Richard Hargrove, Springfield RE-4

Brad Meeks, Steamboat Springs RE-2

Monica Johnson, Strasburg 31 J

Jeff Durbin, Stratton R-4

Heidi Pace, Summit RE-1

Libby Hiza, Swink 33

Michael Gass, Telluride R-1

Stan Scheer, Thompson R2-J

Scott Mader, Trinidad 1

Dianna Chrisman, Yuma 1

Jan DeLay, RE-1 Valley

Samantha Yocam, Vilas RE-5

Don Rangel, Weld County RE-1

John Hoag, Weld County RE-8

Greg Rabenhorst, Weld RE-3 (J)

Colorado Superintendents in Support of Advocacy for Adequate School Funding

January 2016

Doug Pfau, Weldon Valley RE-20 (J)

Mike Epright, West End RE-2

Mike Page, West Grand

Pamela Swanson, Westminster 50

Scott Campbell, Widefield 3

Dave Eastin, Wiley RE-13 JT

Gary Bruntz, Wiggins RE-50 (J)

Dan Seegmiller Windsor RE-4

Levi Kramer, Wray RD-2

Jed Bowman, Woodland Park RE-2

Rose Cronk, Woodlin R-104