



2014 Legislative Priorities

1. School Finance

Support development of a comprehensive, equitable, and predictable approach to financing Colorado's public schools.

- a. Create a system of funding which moves away from a single count date to more of a funding emphasis on students and mastery of the Colorado Academic Standards.
- b. Prioritize school finance resources to:
 1. Ensure that all students have access to resources to meet Colorado Academic Standards.
 2. Support schools and districts in their efforts to improve outcomes for students with persistently low performance.
 3. Support both in-school classroom learning and blended, distance, and online learning options.
 4. Promote administrative efficiencies among all districts.
- c. Reward teachers and schools whose students out-perform in growth and reduce achievement gaps.
- d. Oppose state policies which create unfunded mandates on schools, districts, and the Department of Education.
- e. Recognizing that the Permanent Fund was established with a goal of providing for Colorado students, now and in the future, work to enhance and improve the fund and to oppose any legislation that will further deplete it.

2. Great Teachers and Leaders

Support policies which ensure all Colorado students have great teachers and leaders.

- a. Support policies which help schools and districts identify, attract and recruit promising individuals to the education profession.
- b. Support policies which identify, recognize, and reward highly effective educators.
- c. Create an aligned system of educator licensure, induction, professional development, and evaluation.
- d. Ensure that educator preparation programs are accountable for the effectiveness of their graduates.
- e. Leverage quality education beyond the classroom through online options and partnerships.

3. Statewide System of Accountability and Support

- a. Fully fund the state's accountability and improvement system.
- b. Provide targeted support and authority to enable a range of pathways to turn around the state's lowest performing schools and districts.
- c. Identify and reward schools and districts that are successfully decreasing achievement gaps and provide targeted interventions to those struggling with persistent and large gaps.
- d. Promote and support policies that positively impact the closing of student achievement gaps in Colorado.

4. Standards and Assessments

- a. Support policies which focus on student mastery of the Colorado Academic Standards through multiple pathways that move beyond seat time and Carnegie units.
- b. Fully fund the development and implementation of a comprehensive system of statewide assessments.

5. Increased Flexibility

Provide regulatory relief to districts and schools by maintaining existing flexibility while supporting legislation which eliminates redundant or obsolete requirements and provides more flexibility to schools and school districts and the Colorado Department of Education to deliver high quality education services.

6. Innovation and Choice

Support policies which:

- a. Assure that every student has educational choices to best meet his/her individual learning needs.
- b. Increase opportunities for Colorado students to experience effective blended learning models and expanded learning opportunities.
- c. Allow for the restructuring of the school day and/or school year to close achievement gaps and maximize learning time for all students.

7. Early Childhood Education

Support state policies that increase opportunities for children to participate in programs which will increase their ability to be ready to learn in Kindergarten.

8. Data Collection and Access

- a. Continue and increase support for the development of the state's student longitudinal data system to enable greater efficiencies in data collection, reporting, sharing, and use in a manner that is secure and consistent with a standards-based approach.
- b. Continue and increase support for the refinement and enhancement of SchoolView to enable public access to school and district performance data.
- c. Enhance safe schools through an amendment to Safe School Reporting requirements under 22-32-109.1(2)(b), C.R.S. to include reporting of instances of marijuana use resulting in conduct and discipline code violations.
- d. Support enhanced measures of data security for next generation data use.

9. State Board Authority

Support the Colorado State Board of Education's constitutional responsibility for the general supervision of the public schools through collaboration with the legislative and executive branches and with non-profit organizations and the private sector. In furtherance of its constitutional responsibility, support the authority of the state board through recognition of its rulemaking authority rather than through prescriptive statute.