

Meeting Minutes
FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 26, 2025 at 9:30 a.m
Rescheduled for July 17, 2025

Member Facilitator: Cathy Watts, Academy 20

Call to Order

- Cathy called the meeting to order at 9:30am

Approval of Agenda

- Cathy requested approval of the Agenda. Mayra Ramirez made a motion to approve, Linda Warhoe seconded motion to approve. The Agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes

- Cathy requested approval of the prior meeting minutes. Craig Bailey made a motion to approve, Nancy Taylor and Mimi Livermore seconded motion to approve. The Agenda was approved.

Interest Free Loan Program (Slides 5 to 11)

- Anthony Singh provided an overview of the program.
- Districts must complete a cashflow worksheet, with help from RBC, to determine whether or not they will need to participate in the program. *Districts must demonstrate a negative cash flow in order to participate.* Due to the issuance being moved back one month, Districts will be able to utilize an actual July 1, 2025 cash balance.
- County assessors will provide refined assessed value estimates in August, 2025. Most districts will experience a large increase in assessed value.
 - CDE will recalculate state equalization funding based on actual 2025 assessed values and 'true-up' equalization funding through the months of December to June of 2026.
 - SB24-017 will further concentrate this true-up because no equalization will be received in March, May, and June.
 - See the timeline on slide 9 and contact information for Anthony and Dan O'Connell at RBS on slide 10.

Legislative Session (Slides 12 to 20)

- Tim provided an update on HB 25-1320. Most of this was presented at the April FPP meeting and the previous June meeting. It extends implementation from 6 to 7 years. The first year phase-in will be 15% of the new formula in FY 25-26, increasing to 30% and 45% in subsequent years. Note this is subject to change in future legislative sessions.
 - The formula maintains 4-yr averaging, reduced to 3-yr averaging in FY 26-27.
 - Hold harmless to FY 24-25 funding for FY 25-26 and FY26-67 school years. HH as written in 24-1448 will continue beginning in FY 27-28. The bill removes MDOL students in the size factor.
 - A comparison of the old vs the new formula and Total Program breakdown historically is provided on slides 9-11.

- See slide 15 for more details. Note: The passage of SB25-315 on the final day of the session changed ASCENT per pupil fun pupil funding in the formula to \$7,104. The funding spreadsheet has been updated and posted.
- Most districts have selected a 9 month payment cycle. There may need to be adjustments in February and May. Therefore, districts should follow the payments closely.
See Total Program Breakdown by State/Local Share on slide 18.
A new slide 19 was added since the earlier June meeting related to a charter school PPR pass through funding. Thanks to Pete Horsch at DPS, Gina Lanier and Aaron Oberg at Adams 12, and Dave Sever at CSI, who assisted in developing tools. CDE does not determine the pass through funding to charter schools. This is the responsibility of districts to do so, in concert with legal counsel as appropriate. CDE will simply provide optional tools IF districts would like to use these tools. This will be distributed shortly.
- SB25-315 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) - We don't have a lot of detail at this point as there are ongoing discussions planning for implementation of the bill. The bill does have three types of funding:
 - Start-Up (Seed) Fund will provide financial assistance to LEPs so they can develop or expand access to The Big Three. This will be based upon data that is available, which may include percent of FRL for grades 9-12, percent of MLL, chronic absenteeism in grades 9-12, high school graduation rate, drop out rate, and previous PWR participation. CDE is still working on specifics.
 - Sustain Fund will provide ongoing financial support tied to measurable student achievements in the Big 8 Three that align with Accountability and the Statewide Longitudinal Data System, meant to facilitate sustainability and continuous improvement. Again, CDE is still working on specifics.
 - Slide 21: Mill Levy Match - formula does not include the HB24-1448 adjustments for FY23-24. D
 - Funding and communication were sent out in June.
 - Non-recurring funds
 - Funding for FY25-26 is questionable and no appropriation for this funding currently exists.
- At the first June meeting, Jennifer mentioned that the School Auditing team was granted an additional FTE and will be hiring a new staff member to work specifically on the PWR programs.
- Mill Levy Match does not include HB 24-1448 adjustments for FY23-24. Funding and communications were distributed in June. It is non-recurring funding and FY25-26 funding is questionable and no appropriation currently exists to the projected state budget shortfall.

Rulemaking Updates (Slides 22 to 44)

SB 25-125 eliminated the 11-day window for counting students, including 5 days before and after the official count date (Rule 3.04) was in violation of statute. Rules changes per SB25-125, the rule related to student transfers expired on May 15, 2025. This is just students related to transfer enrollment, not related to attendance. If an enrolled student is absent on count day, they are still eligible for funding if they resume attendance within 30 calendar days. (see slides 15-17)

Proposed rules address 8 issues for SBE consideration (slides 26-44):

- Addressing Corrections of At-Risk counts (slides 28-29) CDE is reconsidering this proposed change in light of forthcoming changes to SNAP and Medicaid.
- Census Block Data Collection (slide 30)
 - HB25-1320 allows the SBE to pause of student-level census block data if it closely mirrors Free & Reduced-Price Lunch data to identify at-risk students. The Board may also restart data collection in the future if needed
 - Proposed language for the rule change is being developed
- Questions related to private school students (slides 31-32)
 - The described “partnerships” would not be appropriate as including these students in the district’s funded pupil count would use public funding to:
 - Reduce private school tuition for some students OR
 - Increase revenues of private school OR
 - Decrease expenses of private school
- Supplemental Online clarification (slides 34-35)
 - SB25-215 made rules changes
- Technical adjustments related to SB25-125 changes
- Meal time standards (slides 36-38)
 - SBE will consider setting minimum lunch break expectations as some homeschool students were not getting a lunch break during their 6-hour day. A lunch break of at least 20 minutes must be provided to students scheduled for more than five hours of daily instruction.
 - Jacqueline Wingard asked if there were going to be mandates for bathroom breaks in addition to lunch. Jennifer said No, there will not be any mandatory bathroom breaks
- Work-based learning definition (slides 39-40)
 - Align with SB25-315: demonstrated learned through work or at work
 - Note that CDE does not think this will impact WBL courses that can be included for funding.
- Special Education funding in School Finance (slides 42-43)
 - New formula includes Special Education funding based upon the Special Ed Pupil enrollment (as Special Education pupils are defined in statute)
 - Funding eligible pupils are considered special education pupil if they are identified as Special education based upon a reported primary disability as defined in statute.
 - Must be identified with an active IEP as of the applicable count date
- August 2025 Rulemaking Hearing (slide 44)
 - 1 CCR 301-39 - Rules for the Administration of the Public School Finance Act
- August 2025 Notice of Rulemaking
 - 1 CCR 301-14 - Rules for the Administration of the Public School Transportation Fund
 - Capital Outlay increasing from \$1000 to \$10,000
 - Son Hyesun asked “if the increased capital asset amount for the transportation is applicable for this upcoming CDE40 audit? Or is this effective for FY25-26?” Jennifer replied that it won’t be effective for FY24-25 as the rule change is not yet officially in place.
 - 1 CCR 301-11 - Rules for Accounting and Budgeting
 - Adding UPK and HSMA & removing reference to Breakfast After the Bell Nutrition Program

- 1 CCR 301-26 - Rules for the Operation, Maintenance, and Inspection of School Transportation Vehicles

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CDEC Updates (Slides 45 to 46) CDE shared some input from districts to CDEC and wanted to share this with FPP.

Office of the State Auditor (Slides 47 to 49) Crystal thanked districts that have provided input on the data to be used for the annual report.

Financial Reporting (Slides 50 to 63)

- Financial Transparency for Colorado Schools Website - this data was uploaded, including narratives that CDE received. Kelly Wiedemer reminded districts of the required documentation for the financial transparency websites and provided tips for website accessibility. Run the accessibility checks for the source document. Avoid merging cells in excel and add alternative text to all pictures, symbols, and screen shots. The CDE templates pass the accessibility checker. The slides have a link to a toolkit. The District audit may have issues with accessibility. Therefore, districts may have to work with their auditor on this.
 - Proposed changes per HB24-1448 - Starting in January 2026, there is a provision for CDE to publish per pupil funding and per pupil revenue figures. We will be adding this to the financial transparency website. CDE has developed a draft disclaimer and welcome your input on this.
- Collection Update : Financial December - On August 5th the soft open will be available. This won't have some of the tier 2 reports available. Official open date is pending - requires all districts to finalize FY23-24. There are planned office hours in the fall on Thursdays at 9am on August 14th, 21st, August 28th: Data Pipeline Submission, Pipeline/Cognos Reports, and then Data Pipeline Resources (in the data pipeline section on the PSFU website), respectively.
 - Note that a few resources (found in the data pipeline section) are not yet posted/updated (ie USDA Foods, PERA-OnBehalf modified accrual calculations, worksheet to calculate voter-approved mill levy overrides)
- FDW reports have been posted in PDF previously. We are planning to end this practice given accessibility issues. This data will be posted in Excel only.
- Collection Update : Pupil Route Transportation Reimbursement (CDE-40) - The second payments were sent the third week of June. The FY24-25 submission opened on July 1st. We have already had our first district submitted. The deadline is September 15th; there are no extensions. The first payment will be issued November 15th. There are resources on the website. The videos are quick and easy to go through. CDE has provided some collection recommendations. (See slide 58.) There will be a training on July 24th at 9AM.
- Updates to FPP Handbook and Chart of Accounts - VOTE
 - Yolanda reviewed the updates made and requested approval of posting the Draft of the FPP handbook now in July and the Final in August to include the elected FPP members. Mimi Livermore made a motion to approve, Cathy Watts seconded motion to approve. Present members approved the vote. No objections were made. The FPP Handbook was approved.
 - Yolanda reviewed the updates made and requested approval of posting the Draft of the Chart of Accounts now in July and the Final in August to include the

elected FPP members. Mimi Livermore made a motion to approve, Nancy Taylor seconded motion to approve. Present members approved the vote. No objections were made. The Chart of Accounts was approved.

Trainings (Slides 64 to 65) - The trainings have been posted on the School Finance webpage. Yolanda provided a summary of the upcoming PSFU trainings. (Slide 65.).

- Glenn will be hosting a NEW School Business Official/CFO training on July 29th from 1:00-4:00pm. There is a registration link for School Business Official/CFO training. Look for that link in the email from Glenn Gustafson.

Call for Membership (Slides 66 to 67) - In June, Yolanda sent out a communication of the vacancies. Currently there are 10 vacancies:

Five positions to be filled by school districts with terms ending in Aug 2028;

One position to be filled by school districts with terms ending in August 2026;

Three positions to be filled by a charter school represent with terms ending in August 2027

We still need a couple more district representatives. Yolanda will send out an email requesting additional applicants. A meeting will be held in August with the outgoing FPP members to review the applicants. Once they have recommended select members, a vote will be sent to FPP members in August and will be announced at the September FPP meeting. Thank you to members who have served and are retiring.

Other Topics of Interest (Slides 68 to 72)

CASBO (slide 69) - Mimi Livermore reminded everyone that the Fall Conference is a couple months away. The link is at: <https://coloradoasbo.org/page/fallconference>.

She also mentioned the new CASBO Summit Award which recognizes excellence in team collaboration. Nominate a team! <https://coloradoasbo.org/page/summitaward>

Stephanie Watson, CASBO Executive Director is retiring and there will be a celebration at the Fall conference in Vail. Enhance your district engagement with CASBO through the School District Organizational Plan (SDOP). There are different size packs that make it more affordable to participate.

CGFOA - Chelsea Bunker provided an update. Membership in CGFOA is a great resource for finance individuals in public organizations. It is only \$65 per year. They have a robust Mentor Program which has been in place for 2 years. This is a great opportunity to learn the ropes from a seasoned professional. It is free of charge. If you are an experienced finance professional and are interested in mentoring others, CGFOA has lots of resources to support this. Summer Conference in Glenwood Springs (July 24-25), Early bird registration is open for the Fall Conference in Loveland (November 18-21). There are a lot of trainings available. Chelsea can be contacted at chelsea@cgfoa.org with any questions. <https://cgfoa.org/>

No updates from CASB, COCPA or CASE-DBO.

Proposed Meetings FY 2025-2026 (Slides 72 to 73) - Dates were selected after a review of activity from partner organizations. No concerns were raised about the proposed dates.

- September 18th, 2025
- November 13th, 2025
- February 12th, 2026
- April 16th, 2026
- June 18th, 2026

Yolanda opened the chat to attendees.

Jennifer Martinez asked: “Is there an idea of how a SPED count during the October window might differ from the December Count?” Jennifer explained that there are slight differences given the two month difference. Some students will leave districts and some students will enroll during this time period. The largest difference in the counts is preschool schools. PK students are not included for funding in Student October/School Finance, but are included for Special Education funding in December.

She also asked, “Will categorical funding still be calculated on the December Count?” Jennifer Okes responded, “Yes.”

Jennifer Behring asked, “Charter School PPR Spreadsheet.. How do we access this?” Tim Kahle responded: “We will be sending out the charter school PPR calculation tool today or tomorrow at the latest.”

Adjourn. Participants were thanked for their grace and patience with the issues that occurred in June and the required second meeting in July.