



COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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The Colorado State Board of Education 2011 Legislative Priorities

1. School Finance

Support efforts to improve the long-term financial stability of education funding and develop a comprehensive school finance solution.

- a. Support efforts to prevent further cuts to k-12 education funding.
- b. Encourage allocation of school finance resources to be prioritized. First, ensure that all students have access to the resources necessary to meet their basic educational needs. Second, ensure that students with persistently low performance receive resources (financial or other) to improve their outcomes. And third, ensure that students who have shown significant improvement despite having significant needs continue to receive the resources (financial or otherwise) they need to maintain such outcomes.
- c. Encourage school finance incentives for those schools that achieve high academic growth for all students, including high achieving students, while reducing the achievement gap.
- d. Support a school finance formula that includes the use of multiple count dates, or average daily membership or attendance, to ensure that financing is equitable and incentivizes increased rates of graduation and student attendance.
- e. Support the use of resources to advance the goals and objectives of the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K), including fully funding the implementation of standards and the redesign of assessments.
- f. Continue to support efforts that lead to the replacement of the current system of funding based on seat time with one based on student performance and content mastery.
- g. Support financial incentives to promote administrative efficiencies among small districts.

2. Support Colorado's Education Reform Agenda

Maintain Colorado's current education reform efforts and permit sufficient time and resources for complete implementation, including but not limited to:

- a. Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (SB08-212)
- b. Innovation Schools Act (SB08-130)
- c. Concurrent Enrollment Act (HB09-1319)
- d. Educator Identifier Act (HB09-1065)
- e. Education Accountability Act of 2009 (SB09-163)
- f. Ensuring Quality Through Educator Effectiveness (SB10-191)
- g. Dropout Prevention and Student Re-Engagement Act (HB09-1243)

3. Great Teachers and Leaders

Bob Schaffer
Chairman

4th Congressional District

Marcia Neal
Vice-Chairman

3rd Congressional District

Elaine Gantz Berman
1st Congressional District

Jane Goff
7th Congressional District

Paul Lundeen
5th Congressional District

Debora Scheffel
6th Congressional District

Angelika Schroeder
2nd Congressional District

Support implementation of legislation to ensure Colorado students have great teachers and leaders in every classroom.

- a. Support efforts to identify, attract and recruit promising individuals to the education professional.
- b. Support the development of rigorous, transparent and equitable evaluation processes for assessing the effectiveness of educators and educator preparation programs.
- c. Support educator evaluations that use three or more rating categories and include, at a minimum, student performance, peer reviews and demonstration of instructional strategies that address the needs of all students.
- d. Recognize, reward and compensate effective educators.
- e. Reassess the process the department uses to reauthorize educator preparation programs to ensure that the effectiveness of graduates becomes a central focus.
- f. Support systems to ensure appropriate and effective educator induction and ongoing professional development.
- g. Support practices that allow districts to transition teachers from probationary to non-probationary status based on demonstrated effectiveness.
- h. Support both (1) a fair and efficient dismissal process that is appropriate for teachers who fail, after ample support, to demonstrate effectiveness and (2) a distinctive, fair and efficient dismissal process for teachers who must be discharged for inappropriate conduct.

4. Statewide System of Accountability and Support

Continue to develop a consistent and comprehensive statewide system of support that helps schools and districts build the capacity needed to achieve ambitious student outcomes.

- a. Support federal legislation reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in a manner that allows Colorado to implement SB 09-163 as its single accountability system. This would permit states to establish ambitious but attainable performance targets for districts and schools, rather than the federal government establishing uniform AYP targets applicable to all districts and schools.
- b. Encourage legislation that enables the state to better support schools through the use of diverse education service providers (also known as a portfolio management approach), including supplemental service providers.

5. Closing the Achievement Gap

Continue efforts and funding to implement proven, evidence-based programs and strategies for closing the achievement gap.

- a. Support efforts to expand the school day and year for students in chronically low-performing schools.

6. Standards and Assessments

Continue statewide transition to and implementation of internationally benchmarked Colorado standards that are aligned with the Common Core standards.

- a. Support the development of Colorado's new assessment system which will provide ongoing signals and measurements of students' progress toward postsecondary and workforce readiness.
- b. Support a new system that shall produce the timely delivery of results and include the following components:
 - Statewide summative assessment for grades 3-11 to measure science, math, and English language arts (including reading and writing) and science and social studies at least once in elementary, middle and high school.
 - School Readiness measurements for grades preschool through 2nd grade
 - Formative instructional supports and Interim assessments
 - Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness evidence
 - 11th grade nationally recognized college placement assessment
 - Capable of being administered online

7. Innovation and Choice

Support Colorado's ability to assure a high-quality public school choice for every student.

- a. Support continued efforts to allow all students educational choices that include at least one form of public school that is high-performing.
- b. Support continued development and oversight of high-quality online programs, charter schools, innovation schools, schools of choice, and other innovative educational options to ensure strong student results.
- c. Support policies that provide more flexibility to schools, school districts and the Colorado Department of Education to deliver high quality education services.
- d. Continuously examine how rules, regulations and statutes might prevent innovative approaches in public education. Examine requests for waivers from rules, regulations and statutes and determine where changes in the law could provide more flexibility to schools state-wide.
- e. Support alterations to the Innovation Schools Act that permit accelerated status for schools on turnaround, clarify the process for new schools to seek innovation status, and encourage districts

to maximize the funding under the direct control of the innovation school.

- f. Support more opportunities for Colorado students to experience blended learning models.
- g. Support innovative use of time in structuring school schedules and student progression to ensure an opportunity for all students to master content standards.

8. Early Childhood Education

Support efforts to increase access to family literacy and high-quality, voluntary, early-childhood education.

- a. Encourage interagency collaboration in the development and improvement of early-childhood education.
- b. Recognize the value of investing in early intervention and prevention strategies through high-quality, voluntary, early-childhood, preschool and kindergarten programs.
- c. Include voluntary early-childhood education as a vital component in the development of a seamless P-20 system.

9. Data Collection and Access

Support approaches to measuring postsecondary and workforce readiness beyond student scores on state assessments.

- a. Support efforts to appraise the extent to which students are on track based on standards-based measures that include intermediate or interim assessments to gauge student progress toward accomplishing state standards, and also gauge how well students perform when compared to students internationally.
- b. Support efforts to monitor and collect at the state level the postsecondary plans of students, including Individual Career and Academic Plans, which provide important leading indicators and early warning signs related to postsecondary and workforce readiness, while adhering to all applicable privacy requirements.

10. State Board Authority

Support the Colorado State Board of Education's constitutional responsibility for public schools through collaboration opportunities with the legislative and executive branches and with the private sector and through designation of the rulemaking authority rather than prescriptive statute.