STUDENTS ARE COLORADO’S GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE
Can you imagine a Colorado where:

- Education is recognized as being fundamental to our families, communities, state and the economy;
- Colorado invests adequately and equitably in education and our students; and
- The public is informed and engaged with education funding?
900,000 STUDENTS in Colorado

178 Districts
75% are Rural

75% are in 20 districts

- 42% free and reduced lunch (365,000 students)
- 35% free lunch (300,000 students)
- 14% learning English (129,000 students)
- 10% special education (93,000 students)
- 8% gifted (69,000 students)
All students deserve a great education.
Great education requires many things... and adequate resources are required.

- Well-supported, inspiring, culturally competent teachers
- A great start with quality early childhood education
- Rich curriculum
- Safe schools & classrooms
- Up-to-date technology & textbooks
- Individual attention & reasonable class size

COLORADO EDUCATION NETWORK

#ColoEdNetwork
Great education happens every day, yet...

funding shortfalls mean:

It’s not universal.
It’s not sustainable.
It’s not available for every child.

#ColoEdNetwork
Colorado has one of the fastest growing economies in the country, yet we are not adequately or equitably funding education.
Colorado’s investment compared to other states has plummeted.

**K-12 Per Pupil Funding: Colorado versus National Average**

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

- Gallagher Amendment Passed
- TABOR passed
- Amendment 23 Passed

Negative Factor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National Average</th>
<th>Colorado</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>~$500</td>
<td>~$232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>~$2,070</td>
<td>~$2,302</td>
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#ColoEdNetwork
A 2013 update of the “adequacy study” commissioned for the *Lobato* case established:

- The “base per pupil funding” necessary for a student with no special needs in a district with no special circumstances to meet all standards and requirements.
- The additional funding needed to ensure that students who do have special needs meet those standards.

Source: Colorado School Finance Project
**Every Child: Basic funding**

The study found that Colorado’s base funding would have to increase by almost $2,000 to meet the needs of a student with no special needs in a district with no special characteristics.

**Comparison of Adequacy & Colorado: Base funding**

![Bar chart showing comparison between Adequacy and Colorado base funding.](chart.png)

*Source: Colorado School Finance Project*
Every Child: At-Risk Funding

The study found that an additional 35% is needed to ensure students eligible for free lunch (at-risk proxy) meet standards.

Colorado provides 12% per at-risk pupil on a lower base.

Comparison of Adequacy & Colorado: At-Risk

Source: Colorado School Finance Project
**Every Child: Rural Funding**

The study found that an additional 140% is needed to ensure that students without special needs in small rural districts (200-500 students) can meet standards.

*Colorado’s school finance formula doesn’t come close.*

Source: Colorado School Finance Project
Every Child: Rural Funding

The study found that an additional 114% is needed to ensure that students without special needs in small rural districts (1800) can meet standards.

Colorado’s school finance formula doesn’t come close.

Source: Colorado School Finance Project
Every Child: ELL Funding

The study found that an additional 47% is necessary to ensure students who are learning English can meet standards.

Colorado provides less than $500 per ELL pupil on top of a lower base.

Source: Colorado School Finance Project
Every Child: Gifted & Talented

The study found that meeting the needs of students identified as Gifted and Talented require an additional 25% in funding.

*Colorado provides about $139 per identified pupil on top of the inadequate base.*

Source: Colorado School Finance Project
Every Child: Special Ed

The study found that an additional 73 - 700% is necessary to meet the needs of special ed students, depending on severity of disabilities.

Colorado caps total special ed funding. In 2015, the average per student was $1800 or about 30%.

Source: Colorado School Finance Project
WHAT
IS THE IMPACT ON OUR SCHOOLS?
Every student deserves great teachers, yet ... Colorado ranks last in wage competitiveness.

Teacher compensation vs. professions with similar education

COLORADO EDUCATION NETWORK

#ColoEdNetwork
Every community deserves thriving schools, yet... inequities across school districts are growing.
Every student deserves options and opportunities, yet ...
Our students are losing out on educational options and opportunities.

“My daughter’s Chemistry class had 40 kids jam-packed into it. Larger classes, fewer was to go on supplies, teachers cut; this is our school’s story.

“... we have had four years of salary freezes and furloughs, closed three schools, neglected facility maintenance, increased costs, and lost our highly qualified teachers to neighboring states like Wyoming and Texas because the starting pay there is $10,000 higher.

Our history textbooks are as old as I am. Our students are losing out on educational options and opportunities.
WHO DECIDES HOW MUCH WE INVEST IN EDUCATION?
Colorado’s Constitution

- Places limits on the legislature’s ability to set budget policy and priorities.
- *Generally*, the legislature divides the pie.
- *Generally*, the voters decide how large the pie will be.
Colorado is the only state where legislators cannot set tax policy.
Who can fix this?
We can, and it’s our responsibility.
HOW CAN I HELP?
If you believe:

- Education is fundamental to our families, communities, state and economy;
- Colorado is not investing adequately or equitably in education and our students; and
- You want to be informed and part of the solution.

Text “CEN” to 94502 to Join the Network
Stay engaged and help us inform others by:

✓ Sign up to become part of the Colorado Education Network
✓ Invite us to speak to your PTA, PTO, or other civic organization
✓ Follow us on Facebook & Twitter — share our content!

#ColoEdNetwork