



GreatEducation
COLORADO

Grassroots Powering Education

A Vision for Colorado

- A Colorado where *every* student graduates ready to succeed;
- Thriving communities throughout Colorado, a vibrant economy, and a strong democracy on a sustained basis.

Through a more adequate, equitable, sustainable school finance system.



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SCHOOLS
THRIVING
COMMUNITIES

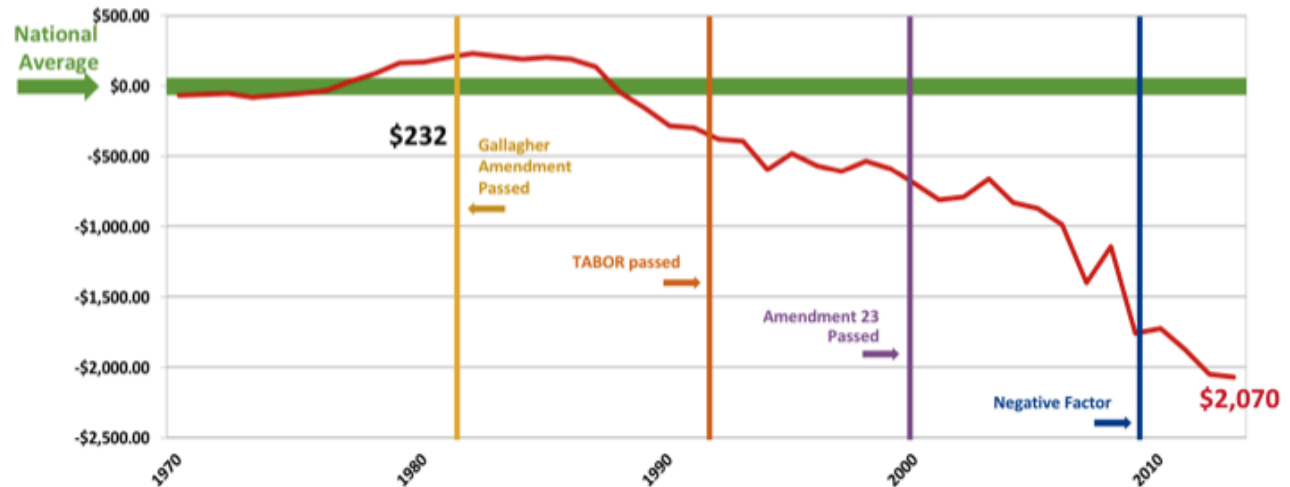


Why did we go to the ballot?

- Effects of inadequate and inequitable funding

- Reaching the national average would cost \$2.1 - 2.8 billion
- Current funding is \$672 million or \$700+ per pupil behind inflation from 2008.
- Total loss since the Great Recession: \$7.5B

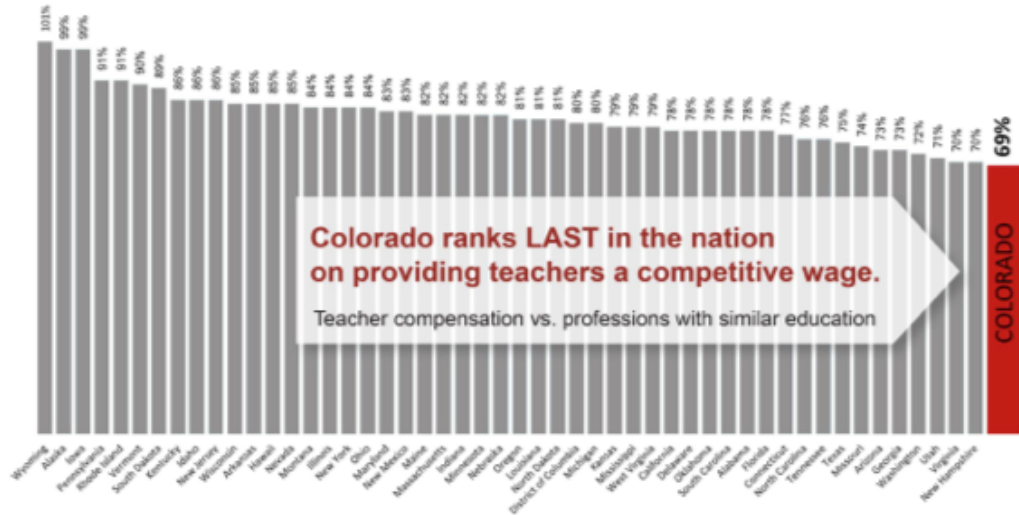
K-12 Per Pupil Funding: **Colorado** versus **National Average**



Source: National Center for Education Statistics
Based on most current information available. Data are lagging indicators due to auditing.

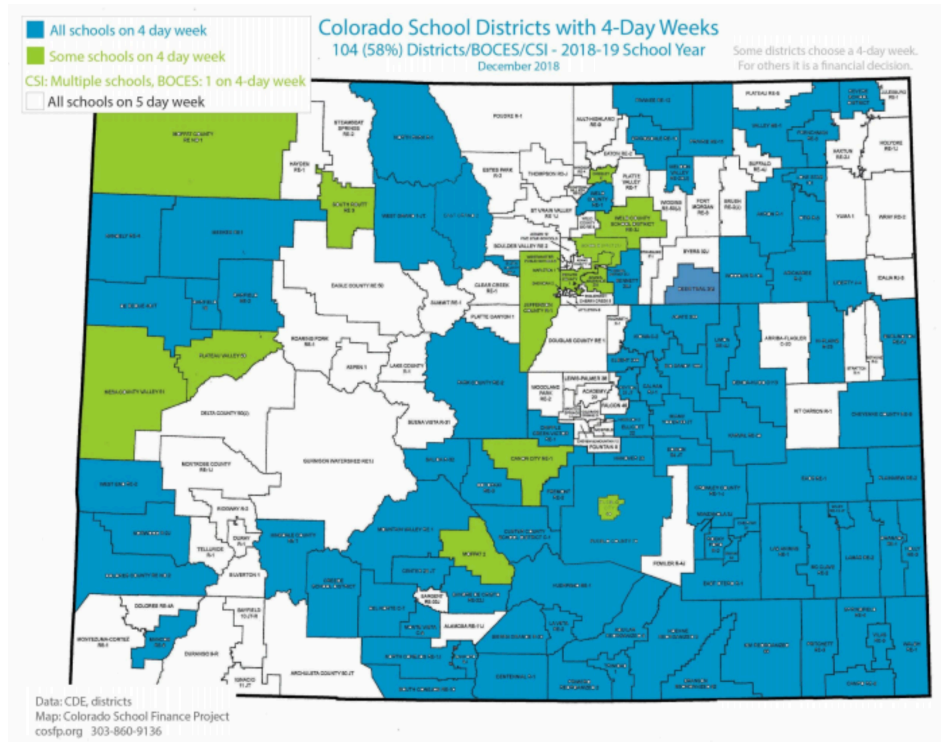
Why did we go to the ballot?

- Effects of inadequate and inequitable funding
 - Teacher shortages/Least competitive salaries
- The salaries of 95% of rural teachers don't meet the cost of living.
- An estimated 3,000 teaching slots are not filled in the current school year.
- Retirement and attrition are accelerating, completions in schools of education are declining.



Why did we go to the ballot?

- Effects of inadequate and inequitable funding
 - 104 Districts on four-day weeks



Amendment 73 Accomplishments

- First constitutional amendment to qualify for the ballot after Amendment 71 -- Raise the Bar
 - 1,400 volunteer petitioners
 - Total cost \$350,000 to get on the ballot
- Most votes ever for non-sin tax: 1.13 Million, 46.5%
- Most locally driven statewide measure ever
 - Over 120 districts passed resolutions supporting and outlining the use of dollars



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What Would Amendment 73 Have Done?

- **Increased base funding** for all students
- Eliminated the **Budget Stabilization Factor**
- **Full-day kindergarten** and increased funding for early childhood education funding
- Expand the definition of “at-risk” students to **count free and reduced lunch kids**
- Significant increases in funds for: **Special Education, English Language Learners, and Gifted & Talented students**



What Would Amendment 73 Have Done?

Poudre School District

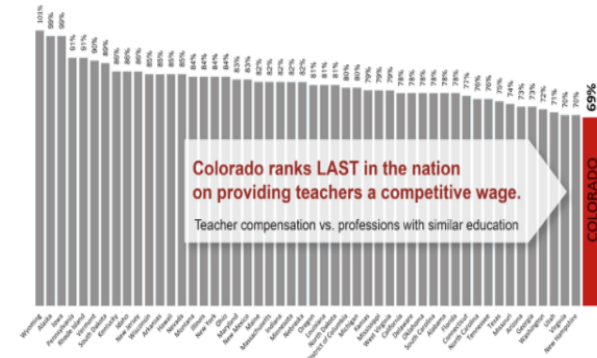
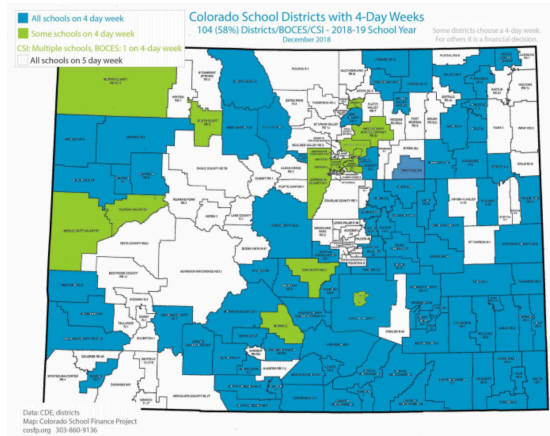
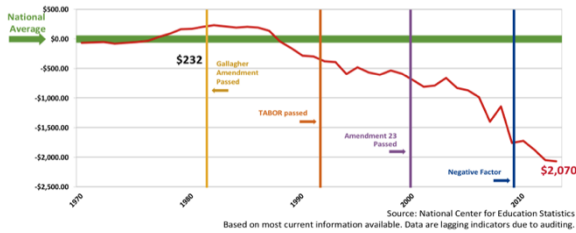
- Erased the **\$749 per pupil** B.S. Factor
- **\$1454 per pupil** increase
- Use of dollars: PSD board “will consider values and priorities of the community, including: smaller class sizes, more mental health professionals and counselors, more activities and real-world experiences for students, more early childhood access across the District, more supplies and materials, more course offerings, more specialists to work with students in high needs areas, greater measures to ensure the safety and security of students, and ensuring competitive salaries.”



Now what?

Amendment 73 didn't pass, but the urgent needs for our students are only growing.

K-12 Per Pupil Funding: Colorado versus National Average



Now what?

The focus moves to the legislature:



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CHILDREN'S
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Every Chance for Every Child



Join the coalition & support Colorado public schools: bit.ly/JoinGSTC

Education Funding Questions to Consider

- Is it equitable?
- Is it adequate?
- Will the funds for this initiative take away from an existing program serving other students?
- Is it an unfunded mandate?



GSTC Will Say YES to:

- **Increasing base funding** for all students
- Cutting the **B.S. Factor** significantly
- **Full-day kindergarten** and increased funding for early childhood education funding
- Expanding the definition of “at-risk” students to **count free and reduced lunch kids**
- Significant increases in funds for: **Special Education, English Language Learners, and Gifted & Talented students**
- Increased funding without additional mandates

$$= a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right)$$
$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$



Time to Solve the Problem . . .

Get Involved



Legislative Action

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March 14 Lobby Day

Meet with your legislator

Attend trainings



Advocacy

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