



COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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2007 Legislative Priorities of the Colorado State Board of Education

SCHOOL FINANCE

- **Local Share** - Support action to ease the strain on the state budget by reducing the deterioration of the local share of education funding.
- **School Trust Lands** –
 - Support legislation that has potential to increase the Permanent Fund.
 - Exempt school trust lands from TABOR.
 - Recognize a formal spokesperson for the beneficiary.
 - Support policy decisions or legislation that removes trust revenue from the PPOR formula, therefore changing the practice of supplanting the general fund to supplementing the general fund.
 - Support legislation and/or practices that enforce the Federal Government to fulfill the 5% due to the state from sale of federal lands.
 - Support legislation and/or practices that enforce the Federal Government to fulfill its obligation of the original grant of in-lieu lands.
 - Change the property signage of “State Trust Lands” to “School Trust Lands” throughout the state.
- **Comprehensive Funding for Assessments** – Support a uniform approach for full state funding for all state-mandated tests.
- **Contingency Reserve Fund** – Restore the Contingency Reserve Fund.
- **Capital Construction** – Support efforts to fund identified capital construction needs across the state, including the Giardino lawsuit settlement.
- **Exceptional Student Services Funding** -
 - Fund excess costs consistently for special education students served out-of-district either in a charter school or a non-charter school.
 - Support mechanisms for funding special education, with an emphasis on high-need students.
 - Support efforts to increase funding for eligible facilities and “educational orphans” (i.e., students whose parents cannot be

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located or whose parents have had their parental rights legally terminated) in order to lessen the financial impact on districts.

- **Categoricals** - Support funding that would help districts with the excess expenditures they are experiencing for special education, gifted and talented, English language learners, transportation, and career and technical (vocational) education.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Closing the Achievement Gap** – Support funding to implement proven, evidence-based, and effective programs for Closing the Achievement Gap.
- **School Conversion** – Support more flexibility for the State Board and local districts to develop remedies to address underperforming schools.
- **School Accountability Reports** – Support changes in the statute to allow for the added flexibility this Board needs to manage the quality and productivity of the report regarding format, content, and placement.
- **School Advisory Councils** – Provide more flexibility on the makeup and structure of school advisory councils.
- **Truancy Rates** – Support authority for the State Board of Education to set statewide, uniform definition of truancy rates.
- **Model Graduation Guidelines** – Support the State Board of Education’s development of model graduation guidelines for Colorado.

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS/GIFTED & TALENTED

- **Post-Secondary Education Options** –
 - Support the expansion of the Post Secondary Education Options (PSEO) statute so that advanced students can take advantage of college coursework before the 11th grade, as agreed by school and parent.
 - Support legislation to address expanded access to post-secondary education options.

ONLINE EDUCATION/SCHOOL CHOICE

- **Online liaison** - Expand support for online programs across the state by authorizing one or more staff positions as a liaison for online education.
- **Online Education Funding** – Ensure fair access to online programs and schools, with appropriate oversight.

- **Supplementary Online Courses** - Continue funding for coordination of supplemental online courses.

EARLY CHILDHOOD –

- The SBE supports efforts to improve the funding and access to quality early childhood education and family literacy and to improve the transition from early childhood education and preschool to K-12.
 - **Kindergarten** – Create incentives for districts to expand full-day kindergarten opportunities.
 - **Early Childhood and Family Literacy** – Support legislation that would increase access and funding for at-risk children to early childhood education and family literacy programs. Support efforts to improve the quality of early childhood settings.
 - **Colorado Preschool Program** – Support efforts to improve the quality of early childhood settings.
 - SBE supports legislation that focuses on preparing students transitioning from early childhood education to K-12
 - Funding for professional development
 - Level the playing field between public and private providers
 - Support 3-year implementation to full funding
 - Concentrate on serving the most at-risk kids

LIBRARIES

- **Libraries** – Restore funding for libraries.

GENERAL

- **State Board Authority** – Support recognition of the Colorado State Board of Education’s constitutional responsibility for public schools by requiring the Board to implement legislative directives via rules rather than specifying details in state statute.
- **Data** – Seeking support for a feasibility study of current technology infrastructure and expansion for Colorado Educational Data and Reporting (CEDAR).