



Great Futures Start with a Great Education

Fall 2011

OUR MISSION:

**→ Improve education in
Colorado through wise and
increased investment in our
public schools, colleges, and
universities.**

At the School District Level

School cuts could double

■ Memo from state warns of deeper budget slashing.

Cortez schools adjust to 4-day week

Parents seem pleased, cautious

Adams 12 Schools To Cut 188 Positions

State's Fifth Largest District Faces \$24 Million In Cuts

More budget cuts looming for local schools District cuts nearly \$9 million from budget

East Grand schools adopt trimmed 2010-11 budget

Tough decisions ahead: Thompson School District budget faces up to 12 percent in cuts

Furloughs, staff cuts, bus fees could help D-11 balance budget

D70 closes in on projected deficit mark

■ The school board has trimmed \$3.5 million so far.

Re-1 school board OKs \$67 million budget

Budget reflects a 6.3 percent drop in state funding from last school year

D51 Board: Cuts are "Heart Wrenching"

Fleming Schools makes cuts to balance budget

A year removed from slashing its budget by nearly \$11 million, School District 51 may have to dig even further, facing a \$12.1 million shortfall for next school year.

School chiefs decry cuts

Superintendents predicting deep funding decreases

For our Students: Is this OK?

"My third-grade son has with dyslexia has no intervention . . . – *Denver*

"My three sons will have no art or music . . ." *Golden*

"My daughter's classroom is bursting at the seams with 28 kids already . . ." – *Boulder*

"We have already gone to a four-day week . . ." – *Briggsdale*

"Half of the class time is wasted reading the book in class because the school can't afford to buy enough books . . ." – *Broomfield*

"I am stuck with mid-20th century technology to teach my 21st century students." – *Canon City*

Is this OK?

“I will have three boys in college this fall, and I have no idea how I’m going to afford it.” – *Centennial*

“38 kids gather around an open flame in Chemistry class with one adult to ensure their safety.” – *Kersey*

“We’ve cut everything we can. No librarians, almost no electives, huge classes.” – *Lamar*

“My son will not get the courses he needs to pursue his life-long goal, just because he lives in a rural area.” – *Limon*

“The school district reduced requirements for graduation because of budget cuts.” – *Parker*

“My child has to go out and sell a ton of products so the school can make money to just get by.” – *Salida*

Is this Colorado’s Future?

“The dismal state of education makes us believe that our family’s future is not in Colorado, despite the fact that it has been our home for 37 years.” – *Colorado Springs*

Education & Economic Development

Denver Metro Economic Development Corp, Toward A More Competitive Colorado Report (2009)

“Much of our regional economic development strategy is based on a set of economic assumptions. [...] The underpinnings of a strong economy are based on the following realities:

1. Educational attainment is the single-most important element in job and income growth ...”

The statistics behind the stories

- 40th in per pupil spending (2008-09)
- \$1,809 below the national average in K-12 per student spending (2008-09)
- 42nd in students enrolled per teacher in K-12
- 40th in technology in our schools
- 50th in 4th grade reading poverty gap
 - Our gap has grown more rapidly than most other states since 2003
- 51st in Special Education funding
- 39th in ratio of school nurses to students (1:1,982)
- 48th in higher education spending per capita

No Coincidence . . .

Colorado is:

- 49th in state taxes
- 45th in combined state and local taxes

Greeley Tribune Editorial Board:

“You get what you pay for. Or maybe more true in Colorado: You get what you won't pay for, which is a steady decrease in the quality of public education. . . .”

Recent History: Education Cuts

K-12

- 2009-10 cuts → \$110 million, \$140 per student
- 2010-11 cuts → \$354 million, \$440 per student
- 2011-12 cuts → \$227 million, \$345 per student

Higher Education

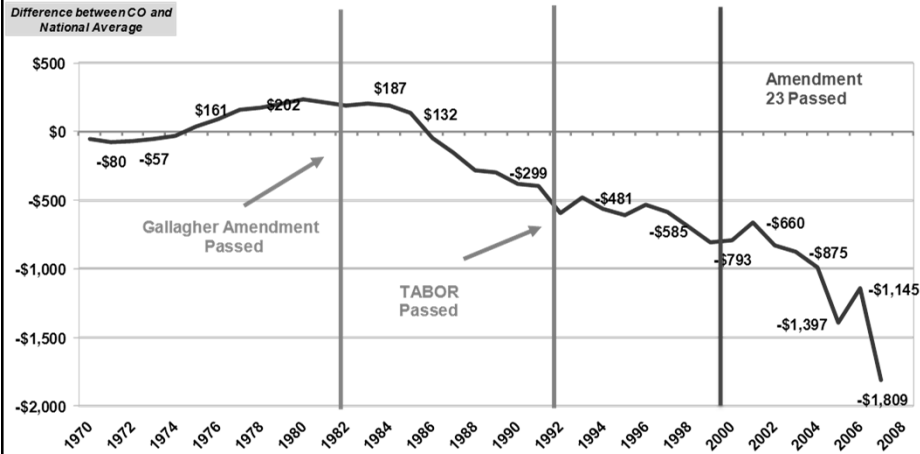
- 2009-11 cuts → \$187 million, \$1553 per student
- Annual tuition increases between 9% and 20%

Not just the Bad Economy. . .

This is a long-term problem that we won't just "grow out" of:

K-12 Per-Pupil Funding: Colorado vs. National Average

Source: National Center for Education Statistics



2012 - 2013

Without any action, next year's cuts to schools could be another \$200-\$300 million.

That's another \$250 - \$350 per pupil.

**Only one thing stands
between Colorado students
and more short-sighted and
irresponsible cuts.**

Proposition 103



- Allows Colorado to start **reinvesting in our schools**, colleges and universities.
- Will provide **\$500 million annually** for preschool, K-12 and higher education.
- Paid for by temporarily returning sales and income tax rates back to 1999 levels.
 - About \$13 per month for a family that earns \$55,000
- **Not “the fix”**. It will stop the cuts, but will not address Colorado’s long-term investment needs. After **five years**, tax rates return to current levels.

Why vote YES on PROP 103?



- Four years of K-12 budget cuts have forced teacher layoffs, larger class sizes, and increased fees
- Four years of cuts to colleges and universities have pushed up tuition making college less accessible for all Colorado families

Why vote YES on PROP 103?



- **Strong schools** are the foundation for a **strong economy.**
- Businesses need **highly skilled workers** and benefit when their come to work with the skills they need.
- **Now is the time** to build the skills and knowledge we need for the jobs of tomorrow.

IT'S UP TO US

What now?

- **Help pass Proposition 103:**
 - Call or write notes to voters
 - Adopt a School or community organization
 - Schedule a presentation
 - Plan a letter-writing party
- **Sign-up** for our newsletters & forward to friends
- Add your community organization to the **Great Futures Coalition**

For More Information:

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