

## **Colorado K-12 Education: An overview** (Data from 2006-07)

### **Increase in Colorado students identified with “special needs.”**

At-risk: 29% of students are eligible for free lunch (218,571).  
A 52% increase since 2001-02 (143,498).

Special Ed: 11% of students have disabilities requiring special services (83,121).  
A 6% increase since 2001-02 (78,334).

ELPA: 9.5% of students are learning English as a second language (71,582).  
A 95% increase since 2001-02 (36,756).

### **Total student enrollment continues to increase in Colorado.**

- Colorado’s 178 district enrollment from 2005-06 to 2006-07 increased 11,700 students which is equivalent in size to the 17<sup>th</sup> largest district in the state.

### **Colorado per pupil spending falls \$1,036 short of the national average.**

- Colorado’s per pupil spending is \$8,521.
- The national average for per pupil spending is \$9,557.

### **Colorado invests less income in education than the national average.**

- Revenue directed to Colorado K-12 education is equal to 3.12% of personal income.
- Revenue directed to K-12 education nationally is equal to 4.15% of personal income.

### **Colorado teachers’ earnings are \$4,985 less than the national average.**

- The average Colorado teacher salary is \$45,831.
- The average national teacher salary is \$50,816.  
(Note: This is the average salary, not a base salary.)

### **Colorado teachers’ years of experience continues to decrease.**

- In 1993, Colorado teachers averaged 13 years of experience.
- Colorado teachers average years of experience:  
2002 – 10.96 yrs      2006 – 9.10 yrs      2007 – 8.97 yrs