

## **Education as a Fundamental Right**

The Colorado General Assembly shall provide for the establishment and maintenance of a high-quality system of free public schools throughout the state, wherein all residents of the state, between the ages of six and twenty-one years, may be educated gratuitously. One or more public schools shall be maintained in each school district within the state, at least 160 days in each year; any school district failing to have such school shall not be entitled to receive any portion of the school fund for that year.

Education is a fundamental human right; it is necessary for the fulfillment of freedom, justice, and peace. The Colorado General Assembly shall respect this right. Public schools are sanctuaries, places where the dignity of the human person is inviolate. Students in public schools are entitled to safe and healthy learning environments.

Education must strengthen the individual and the community, it must foster agency rather than servitude. It is the duty of the Colorado General Assembly to ensure that the public schools are havens for learning and growth, crucibles for inquiry and experimentation, and forums for dialogue and dissent. The public schools must enable human flourishing by providing effective teaching, compassionate guidance, and ongoing opportunities for students to meaningfully participate in their education.