

School Finance

House and Senate Education Committees
1/23/2019

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Colorado School Finance Project

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Colorado School Finance Project (CSFP)

*Who are we?
What do we do?*

- Non-profit, non-partisan
- Supported by school district contributions
- School finance analysis for local and state policy makers since 1995.

Mission: *To compile, collect and distribute research-based, non-partisan information and data on topics related to school finance for state and local policymakers.*

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Today's Goals

Principles and School Finance

Approaches for consideration in designing a new formula

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1994 School Finance:
40 mills,
50/50 split,
state and local
funding

- In 1994 we had 200,000 fewer students than today.
- Prior to school choice
- Prior to technology
- Prior to state assessments
- Prior to universal proficiency, accountability and standards.
- Our student population was not as diverse

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A closer look at our students in 2019

- Who are our students?
- Where do our students live?
- What are the trends?
- What has impacted students and school districts?

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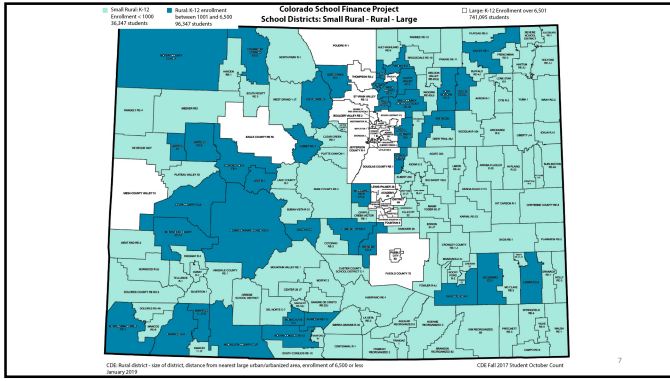
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Colorado's PK-12 students

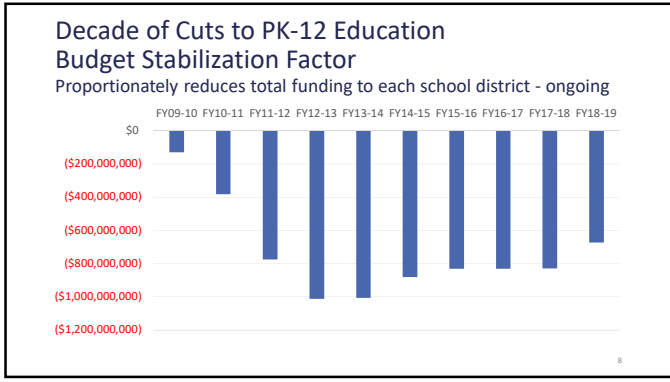
- 2017-18: Over 910,000 students
 - 1997 – 2015: average yearly increase about 10,000 students
 - 2016 – 2017: average increase about 5,000 students annually
 - Demographers predict recent trend to continue
- What are students' characteristics?
- What services might they need?
- Where do they live?

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Special Education Students Receiving Services

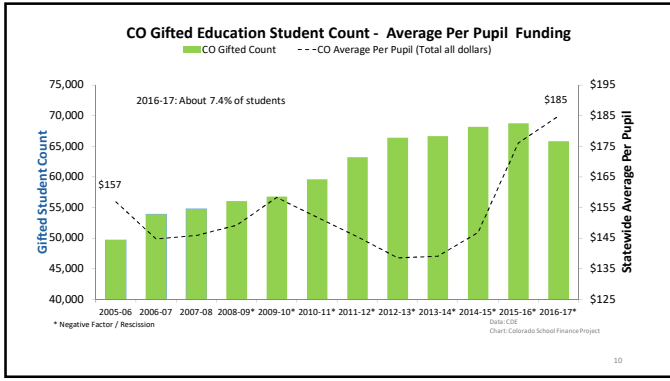
Colorado (CDE)

- 2017-18: About 99,000 students
- Historically: About 11% of Colorado's students receive special education services

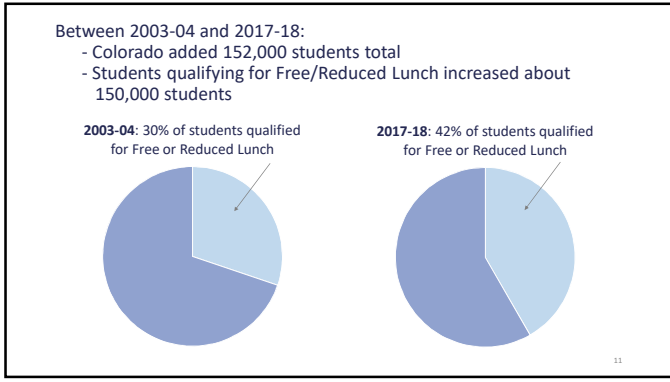
National (National Center of Education Statistics)

- About 13% of public-school students receive Special Education services

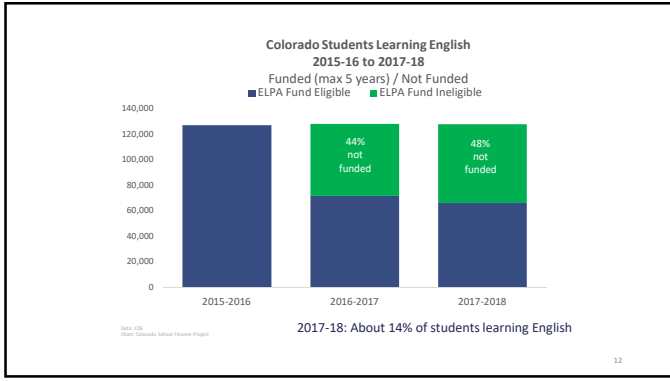
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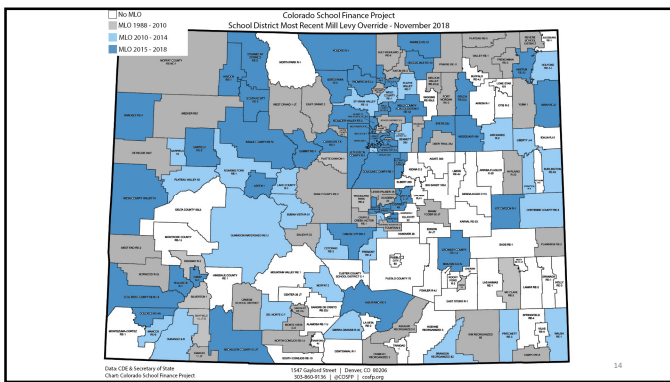
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Impact of Local Elections

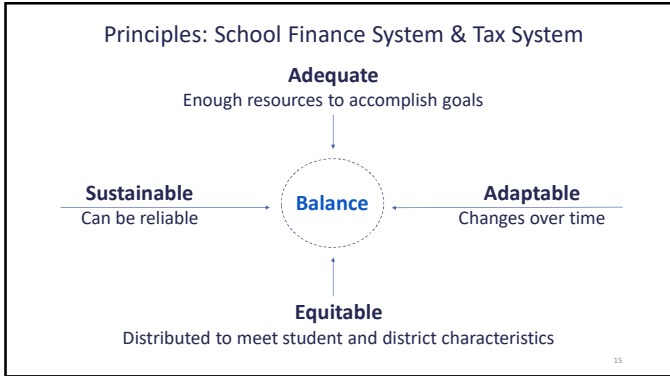
- School districts pursuing overrides – increasing local dollars
- School districts pursuing dollars to build or update facilities
- Some school districts have pursued the “BEST” program for facility projects
- Sales tax increases for some school districts

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Samples for Evaluation School Finance

- Establishing criteria for The Principles of School Finance
- Evaluating the impact of change
- Evaluating how future years will be calculated
- What are the revenue streams that need to adjust with changes?

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Elements for consideration and how is it defined?

- The principles of Adequacy, Equity and Sustainability
- How is this defined?
- Equity – where some students benefit from additional dollars
- Adequacy – where all students benefit from additional dollars

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What are the Elements in School Finance?

				
Base Funding: what does the base represent?	What are adjustments or weights for students?	What are adjustments or weights for school districts?	What isn't included in the formula currently?	What might be included in a formula? Full-day Kindergarten? Preschool? Students with special need characteristics?

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Questions:
Now & Later

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