

RESOLUTION 2017-37

Restoring the Negative Factor before Providing TABOR Refunds as a Statewide Priority

Whereas, since 1994 Colorado's school finance formula has included both a base amount of per pupil funding and an additional amount based on "factors" to account for unique local conditions and to equalize total per pupil funding across school districts;

Whereas, in November 2000 Colorado's voters approved Amendment 23 which requires funding the base and factors at growth plus inflation on a yearly basis;

Whereas, starting in fiscal year 2010-11, the legislature added a new "negative factor" to the public school finance formula to make across-the-board cuts to education spending which have reduced funding to school districts by approximately \$1 billion annually;

Whereas, the "negative factor" clearly violates the voter intent of Amendment 23;

Whereas, the "negative factor" denies Colorado students the constitutional right to a thorough and uniform free public education, as previously determined by the Colorado Supreme Court, by reducing per-pupil funding towards the uniform statewide base per-pupil funding;

Whereas, Colorado's economy is one the top five vibrant recovering economies in the country with one of the lowest cumulative tax collections;

Whereas, the improved economic condition of the state is now leading to increased tax revenues causing the state to exceed the TABOR Amendment revenue cap and will, thereby, be required to refund tax payments to taxpayers;

Whereas, the state budget situation clearly indicates that the Colorado legislature will have no choice but to increase the negative factor in order to balance the state budget;

Whereas, each year the school finance formula base must increase by the inflationary rate, which may cause the state to increase the negative factor in order to balance the state budget;

Whereas, as the negative factor grows, school districts will have their funding reduced until school districts have "hit the base," which will have the effect of eliminating all school finance factors that differentiate districts from each other; and

Whereas, Amendment 23 was passed by voters in Colorado as a constitutional amendment just as the TABOR and Gallagher amendments were, and so must be complied with. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education hereby urges the state legislature, governor, and treasurer to honor the intent and language of Amendment 23 making its highest priority to restore funds by the reduction of the negative factor ahead of any TABOR refunds and to leave decisions regarding how those funds returned to school districts are spent to locally elected school boards; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education urges Colorado legislators to refer measures and/or support initiatives to all the State to retain revenues collected at its current low rates in order to eliminate the negative factor and fully fund students in accordance with the Colorado School Finance Act prior to the implementation of the negative factor.


Adopted this 12th day of April 2017.



Dr. Nicholas M. Gledich
Superintendent of Schools

SEAL






Doris Hensley, Secretary to the
Board of Education



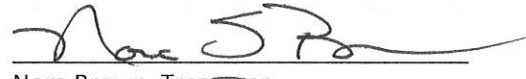
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