



Dolores School District RE-4A

Scott Cooper, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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“We are connecting rigorous academic standards, meaningful assessments, engaging learning opportunities, excellent educators, for the success of our students.”

February 9th, 2015

Dear Students, Parents, Staff, and Community,

During February and March of each winter, our state legislators discuss and debate school funding. This is the best time to inform them of how much you value education. Here is some recent information on school finance and what you can do to help improve school funding for our students.

LEGISLATIVE CALL TO ACTION: SCHOOL FUNDING

1. In November, Colorado K-12 superintendents joined together once again to urge lawmakers to make funding K-12 public education a top priority in our state.
2. 174 of the 178 Colorado Superintendents have endorsed a position statement that calls on legislators to honor Governor Hickenlooper’s 2015 budget proposal to allocate \$200 million to public schools beyond what is required by the Colorado Constitution.
3. Superintendents are also asking for an additional \$70 million. \$50 million would be distributed to districts for children living in poverty, and \$20 million would go to small rural school districts (Ex: Dolores RE4A School District) to help them with challenges unique to their size and location.
4. Superintendents also strongly contend that locally elected school boards should be charged with deciding how best to use all new dollars allocated to K-12 schools and that legislators should avoid earmarking funds for specific purposes.
5. All of the components outlined in the superintendents’ position statement are temporary solutions to the ongoing problem of how public education is funded in Colorado. As such, the superintendents further asserted that they are ready to assist Colorado's policymakers in the work of identifying solutions to the chronic funding dilemmas imposed by the myriad statutory and constitutional conflicts that currently exist in our state.
 - ➤ During last year’s legislative session, parents’ voices were critical in convincing lawmakers to begin restoring a small portion of the funding that has been cut from our schools.
 - ➤ Once again, parents and other community stakeholders can help move the superintendents’ position forward by taking an active role with their legislators. Things you can do include:

• **SENDING an EMAIL** to your representatives:

The Honorable Senator Ellen Roberts: ellen.roberts.senate@state.co.us

The Honorable Representative Don Coram: don.coram.house@state.co.us

• **MAILING a LETTER** to your elected representative(s) at: The Honorable _____
200 East Colfax Ave. Denver, CO 80203

• **CALLING** your legislator:

The Honorable Senator Ellen Roberts: [303-866-4884](tel:303-866-4884)

The Honorable Representative Don Coram: [303-866-2955](tel:303-866-2955)

- **TELL** them you expect K-12 education to receive its fair share of Colorado's recovering budget...this means much more than just keeping up with inflation.
- **EXPLAIN** how years of budget cuts to school districts have impacted your kids and/or your school.
- **ASK** if there's anything you can do to help.
- **ALWAYS BE CIVIL** and thank them for serving the students of Colorado and for representing your interests.

Respectfully,



Scott Cooper, Ed.D.

Dolores School District Superintendent