

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I hope this email finds you well. I am contacting you to share my view of the current fiscal issues we are facing. For the last five years, our district has had to cut the following amounts from our budget each year:

- 2009/2010- \$101,569
- 2010/2011- \$532,562.75
- 2011/2012- \$682,900
- 2012/2013- \$887,466
- 2013/2014- \$961,344
- 2014/2015- \$912,207(projected)

That is a cumulative loss of \$3,165,841.75 over the first five years due to the "Negative Factor". If nothing changes, our schools along with all other schools in Colorado will be financially choked out of existence!

To address this crisis, during each of the past five years we have cut staff, programs, purchases, and taken other "realignment measures" as we attempt to keep the people closest to the student in place. If this Negative Factor continues, we will have to cut deep into the classrooms directly affecting the students' educational future and the economic future of Colorado.

Colorado's economy has recovered, and last year, the state had over a billion-dollar surplus. This year the state is expected to have 16.2% or \$1.3 Billion more in General Fund revenues to spend over what it had last year. In addition to general fund revenues, there is a record fund balance, approximately \$1.6 Billion, in the State Education Fund. In fact, the economic outlook is so good the Governor has proposed a 5.6% increase for every state program (to restore cuts that were made during the recession), with the exception of K-12, which is only getting a 2.3% increase.

Why is this the case?

We understand that K12 had to share the pain during the recession, but we did our part! The cuts imposed on K12 over the past four years combined with the costs of implementing five years of unfunded reforms have created a state of anorexia in education. This cannot go on. Our children deserve better.

The state has the ability to restore some if not all K12 funding this year, and I urge you to do so, not only on behalf of the Dolores School District, but on behalf of all the students in the wonderful state we live in.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

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Scott Cooper, Superintendent

Dolores School District RE-4A

Dolores, CO