



Public Education Support

June 11, 2018

Purpose

- Overview of Colorado's public education system, providers within the city
- Document the city's participation and support of public education to date
- Options for increased support as requested by City Council

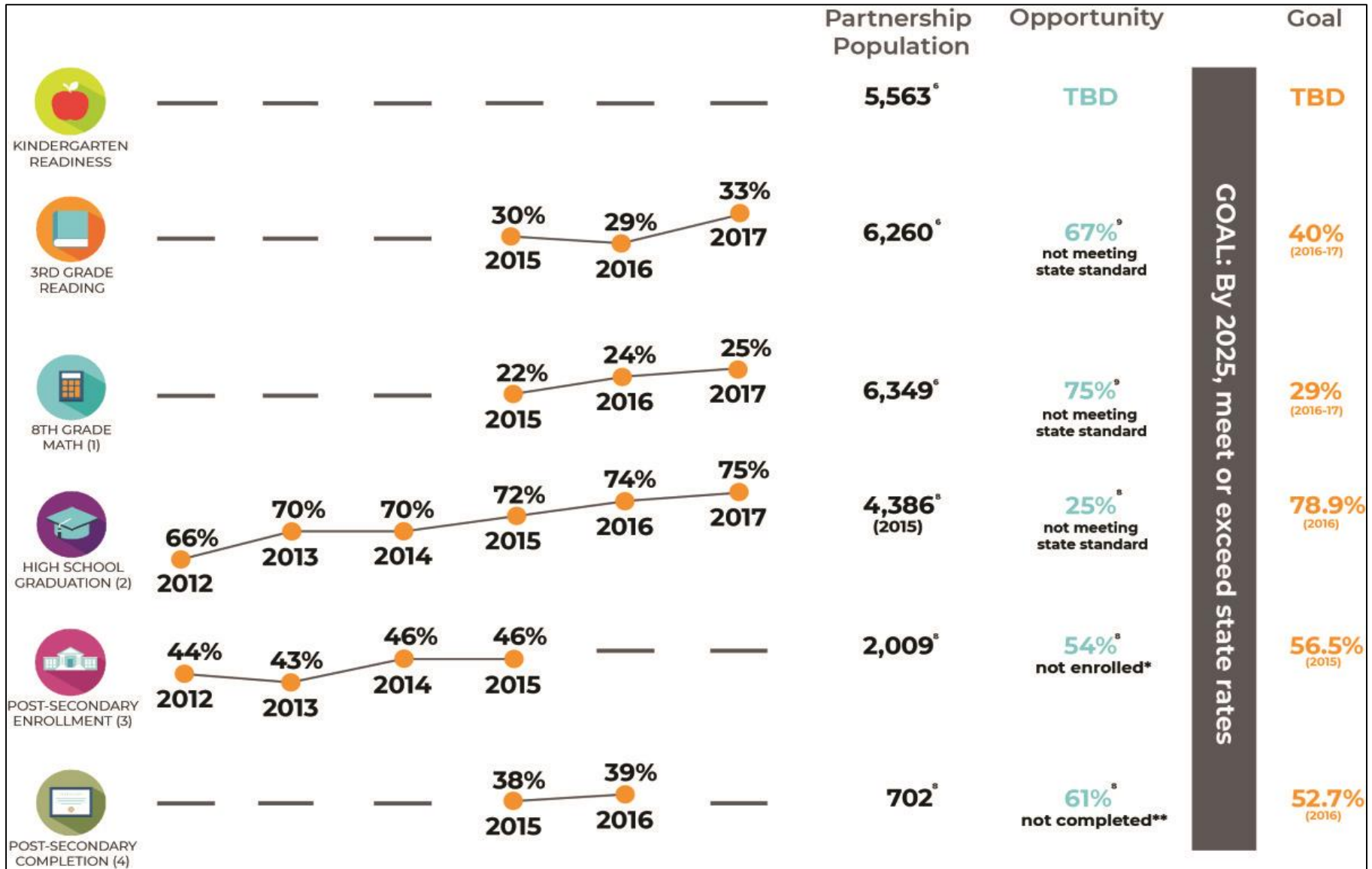


Background

- 178 School Districts in Colorado
 - 1,888 schools
 - Approximately 905,000 students
 - Graduation rate of 79 percent
- Average pupil to teacher ratio is 17.6
- Per pupil funding varies, \$6,984 to \$15,604
- City is served by Adams 14, Community Leadership Academy, and School District 27J



Adams County Metrics



Legal Framework

- U.S. Constitution has no reference to public education
- Title IX of Colorado Constitution establishes framework for public education system in Colorado
 - Section 1 vests State Board of Education with general supervision of public schools
 - Section 15 vests control of public school instruction in locally elected school boards
- Local governments do not have a role in operating Colorado school districts



In 1980, Colorado spent **\$490 more** per student than the national average.



Gallagher Amendment

Locked in ratio of property taxes collected between business and residential property, forcing property collections to fall as home values rose.

1982



1985

RAR (Residential Assessment Rate)
21% assessment rate

1992



TABOR (Taxpayer's Bill of Rights)

Required voter approval for tax increases, preventing mill levies from "floating." Limited revenue government could collect.

1994

School Finance Act

Determined how funding would be allocated across 178 school districts.

2000

Amendment 23

Required per-pupil funding for schools to increase every year by at least the rate of inflation.

Referendum C



Temporarily set aside TABOR revenue limits allowing the state to keep all the revenue it collected for five years. Reset revenue cap so that it no longer fell when revenue fell.

2005

2007

Mill Stabilization Law

Said school districts no longer had to cut property tax rates to avoid exceeding TABOR limits.

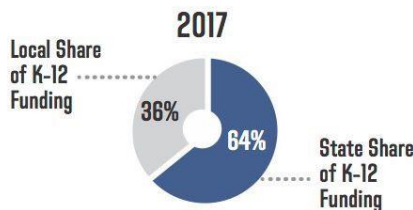
2009

"Negative Factor"

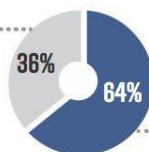
A tool for subtracting funding from the school finance formula, cutting funding for school districts to help balance the state budget.

2017

RAR 7.2%, Average mill levy = 20 mills



2017



State Share of K-12 Funding

School Funding

Total amount of money each school district receives is referred to as "total program" which includes state and local share.

One total program is calculated, the negative factor applied to each district's total program funding.

Adams 14

\$8,713.52 total per pupil funding

\$7,682.72 after applying the negative factor

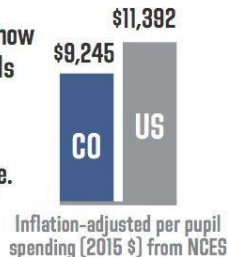
School District 27J

\$7,983.86 total per pupil funding

\$7,039.37 after applying the negative factor

Commerce
CITY

The latest figures show that Colorado spends **\$2,147 less** per student than the national average.



Performance and Accountability

SCHOOL RATINGS

Turnaround

Priority Improvement

Improvement

Performance Distinction

Insufficient State Data:
Small Tested Population

Insufficient State Data:
Low Participation

DISTRICT ACCREDITATION RATINGS

Turnaround

Priority Improvement

Improvement

Accredited

Accredited With Distinction

Insufficient State Data:
Small Tested Population

Insufficient State Data:
Low Participation

Current Support

- Capital investment and maintenance
- Out-of-school programming
- Advocacy
- Communication
- Coordination



Policy Options: Advocacy

- Increase advocacy efforts at state and federal legislative level
- Develop relationship with State Board of Education, CDE Commissioner
- Establish funding targets for Quality Community Foundation grants
- Identify next steps with HB-1355 and potential process for direct city participation in pathway options
- Increase support for annual scholarship golf tournament



Policy Options: Capital Investment & Maintenance

- Financially contribute or provide bonding backstops for needed capital investments
- Increase maintenance contributions (financial or in-kind) to district facilities
- Commit financial and in-kind resources to improved pedestrian connectivity within 1.5-miles of schools, securing grant funds as appropriate



Policy Options: Out-of-School Programming

- Subsidize transportation to out-of-school city programming options
- Target city-provided youth programs and services to specific data outcomes, such as reducing youth drug use, increased reading scores, and increase funding
- Direct programmatic resources to school-based sites (city/third-party led)
- Financially support programs that increase post-secondary enrollment, workforce development, summer employment
- Deepen partnership with Boys & Girls Club, considering need for second facility



Policy Options: In-School Programming

- Increase funding and availability of school resource officers and youth/family community navigators
- Redirect youth programs to in-school options, focused on data driven results (i.e. increased math, reading scores)
- Increase funding for programs that reduce truancy rates
- Increase funding for programs that increase graduation rates
- Fund/subsidize PreK and/or full-day kindergarten programs
- Fund/subsidize site-specific mental health resources



Policy Options: Communication & Coordination

- Invite District participation in quarterly telephone town halls
- Provide avenues for quarterly or monthly updates on District activities within city manager's report or other communication channels
- Identify specific outcomes by district, engaging elected peers to achieve collective actions, incorporating in annual work plans
- Implement Education Commission with support of all districts





Discussion

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