



CASE School Finance Principles - Final Version 2.5

Educators charged with providing a quality public education must have adequate resources to produce desired results for all students. Numerous unfunded mandates continue to drain resources from Colorado classrooms. Any spending requirements for districts and schools must be funded at the outset. A study of existing demands and student needs—including but not limited to Special Education, English Language Learners and At-Risk students—should inform current funding levels.

- We believe the negative factor must be eliminated, starting immediately.
- We believe significant progress must be made in paying down the negative factor before funding any special programs or initiatives.
- We believe that changes must occur in Colorado's competing constitutional mandates. Until such changes occur, Colorado must provide floor funding under Amendment 23 by applying both the base and factors to the inflation and growth calculation.
- As funding is restored through the formula and constitutional requirements, spending decisions are best made by individual school districts that best understand community priorities and needs.
- State categorical funding should be increased to cover district expenses.

Addressing K-12 funding in Colorado is an urgent priority for CASE and it will take all of us continuing to work together to help bring about a much-needed funding fix.