

Draft Resolution in Support of State Funding for School Capital

Whereas, school capital funding in Colorado has historically been considered a local district issue that is funded through bond measures paid for from local property taxes;

Whereas, many school districts in Colorado do not have the capacity to fund their school capital needs since over 40% of districts do not have the total bonding capacity to build one new school;

Whereas, according to the Colorado Department of Education, the number of students in public schools throughout the state has grown by nearly 19% during the last decade;

Whereas, according to a survey of all Colorado school districts by the Donnell-Kay Foundation, the average school building in Colorado is 39 years old;

Whereas, the bond and property tax system, which is based on local district property wealth, cannot keep pace with the escalating school capital needs throughout the state;

Whereas, the under-funding of school capital has produced a staggering backlog of needs that a May 2003 report by the state auditor estimates at four billion seven hundred million dollars;

Whereas, the Colorado Constitution states that the General Assembly shall, "provide for the establishment and maintenance of a thorough and uniform system of free public schools throughout the state....;"

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Education for the _____ School District urges the state to provide additional funding, in accordance with its constitutional mandate, in order to allow local districts to adequately meet their school capital needs so that they may provide a safe and effective school environment for all children in the state.

Draft Resolution in Support of a Statewide School Capital Needs Assessment

Whereas, school building maintenance, repair, renovation and construction has historically been considered a local district issue;

Whereas, the Colorado Constitution states that the General Assembly shall, “provide for the establishment and maintenance of a thorough and uniform system of free public schools throughout the state...;”

Whereas, the 75% of Colorado’s school districts that have fewer than 2000 students likely do not have the staff expertise to adequately assess the capital needs of their school facilities themselves or the financial means to contract for such an assessment;

Whereas, the state of Colorado and its voters are not able to adequately evaluate the school capital needs of the state as they relate to state funding without consistent, comparable statewide information about those needs;

Whereas, the Report of the State Auditor from May 2003 has recommended that the Colorado Department of Education perform a statewide needs assessment for public school construction, renovation and maintenance;

Whereas, 22-54-117 (c), Colorado Revised Statutes, requires the State Board of Education to, “provide technical consultation and administrative services to districts to evaluate the need for capital construction expenditures...;”

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Education for the _____ School District urges the state to conduct an assessment of all the school capital needs throughout the state.