



**UNIVERSITY
PARK**

Quality education for all is the foundation of individual opportunity, community vitality, and a prospering economy. We all know that education funding is of vital importance to providing a quality education for all children. Unfortunately, Colorado is lagging behind much of the country in education funding.

Did you know:

Colorado ranks 40th in the nation in per pupil funding for K-12 education?

Colorado ranks last in paying teachers a competitive wage?

Colorado ranks 41st in the nation for our pupil to teacher ratio?

Please join the UPark PTA for a presentation by Great Education Colorado to find out how our state got here and how we can work together to make a difference in making education a priority for our state leaders.

When: Tuesday, April 11th at 6pm

Where: University Park Elementary School, 2300 S. Saint Paul St. Denver, CO 80210

Great Education Colorado is a nonprofit advocacy organization whose vision is that all students, no matter where they live or how they learn, graduate prepared to live their best lives. We hope you will join us to learn more about education funding, something that influences the lives of our children every day.

COLORADO PTA's TOP-PRIORITY BILLS - 2017
(S=Support O=Oppose)

***** EDU. QUALITY & EQUITY – SCHOOL FINANCE *****

O SB 39 (Lundberg) – Education Income Tax Crédits for Nonpublic Schools

The bill establishes an income tax credit when taxpayers enroll a child in a private school or provide a scholarship for a child to enroll in a private school and the private school issues a credit certificate for either enrolling a child or providing a scholarship to a child for enrollment. The credit may be carried forward for 3 years but may not be refunded. In addition, the credit may be transferred, subject to certain limitations. The bill also establishes an income tax credit of \$1,000 for taxpayers who use home-based education for a child who was enrolled on a full-time basis in a public school in the state prior to being taught at home and \$500 for a child who was enrolled on a half-time basis in a public school prior to being taught at home.

O SB 61 (Hill & A. Williams/Sias) – Add'l Funding Charter Schools Operating Costs

The bill requires school districts to distribute revenue they receive from ongoing local property tax mill levies equally, on a per-student basis, to their charter schools. The bill does not require districts to redistribute to charter schools any amount of the mill levy revenue that was distributed before the 2017-18 budget year. The bill directs CDE to calculate a mill levy equalization payment for institute charter schools in the amount of the per pupil share of the mill levy overrides of the institute charter school's accounting district.

***S HB 1187 (Thurlow/Crowder) – Change Excess State Revenues Cap Growth Factor**

The bill modifies the excess state revenues cap authorized in Referendum C by allowing an annual adjustment for an increase based on the average annual change of Colorado personal income over the last 5 years, rather than adjusting for inflation and population.

***** EDU. QUALITY & EQUITY – PARENT ENGAGEMENT *****

S HB 1001 (Buckner/Kerr) – Employee Leave Attend Child's Activities

The bill recreates and reenacts the Parental Involvement in K-12 Education Act, which allowed an employee who is subject to the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to take leave from work for the purpose of attending academic activities for or with the employee's child. Academic activities include parent-teacher conferences or meetings related to special education services, interventions, dropout prevention, attendance, truancy, or discipline issues. Leave is limited to 6 hours per month and 18 hours in any academic year. The new law has no repeal date.

***** EDU. QUALITY AND EQUITY – EARLY CHILDHOOD *****

S SB 110 (Kefalas & Crowder) – Accessibility of Exempt Family Child Care

The bill increases the accessibility of legal child care by expanding the circumstances under which an individual can care for children from multiple families without obtaining a child care license, to include all children from the same family, as long as it does not exceed 4 children, with no more than 2 under age 2.

S HB 1106 (Wilson & Pettersen) – Extend Early Childhood Leadership Commission
The bill changes the repeal date for the Early Childhood Leadership Commission to 2023.

*****EDU. QUALITY AND EQUITY – OTHER*****

S SB 114 (Moreno) – Accountability for School Districts and Schools
The bill creates a new performance indicator that measures improvement achieved over the preceding 4 school years by schools, districts, and the state as a whole in student scores on state assessments and in closing the achievement and growth gaps. The bill directs the State Board of Education and the Department of Education to place the greatest emphasis on the academic growth performance indicator when determining the appropriate accreditation category for districts. The bill reduces the state's authority to remove a district's accreditation based on performance under a Priority Improvement or Turnaround plan and requires the state review panel to critically evaluate the district's performance and recommend one or more corrective actions. It requires rules to be promulgated specifying the procedures for districts to appeal to the State Board of Education before losing accreditation.

****HEALTH & SAFETY – MENTAL HEALTH/SUICIDE PREV.****

S SB 68 (Todd/Singer) – School Counselors Early Support for Students
Under current law, a public school that includes any of grades 7 through 12 is eligible to receive a grant through the Behavioral Health Care Professional Matching Grant Program. The bill adds elementary schools to the list of public schools eligible to receive a grant. Under current law, a public middle, junior, or high school is eligible to receive a grant through the Counselor Corps Grant Program. The bill adds elementary schools to the list of schools eligible to receive a grant.

S HB 1038 (Lontine/Zenzinger) – Prohibit Corporal Punishment of Children
The bill prohibits a person employed by or volunteering in a public school, a state-licensed child care center, a family child care home, or a specialized group facility from imposing corporal punishment on a child. "Corporal punishment" means the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a child.

****HEALTH & SAFETY – OTHER****

O SB 5 (Holbert/P.Neville) – Handgun Safety Training for School Employees
The bill allows a county sheriff to provide a handgun safety training course to any employee of any public elementary, middle, junior high, or high school who also possesses a permit to carry a concealed handgun, after consulting with the school board to establish the curriculum for the course. Employees of a school district or charter school who possess a valid permit to carry a concealed handgun may carry a concealed handgun onto the grounds of a school if they have completed a handgun safety course provided by a county sheriff and approved by the district and have received permission from the local board or charter school to carry a concealed handgun onto school grounds.

Colorado General Assembly

leg.colorado.gov



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SESSION OR INTERIM SCHEDULE—

During session find the daily House and Senate Calendars. During the interim there will be a listing of interim and other committee meetings, as they are scheduled.



BILLS—Search for a bill, look at bills by subject area, and link to bill information from prior sessions.

Prior Sessions Bills

LAWS—Links to the Colorado Constitution, Colorado Revised Statutes, Session Laws, and Executive Agency Rules & Regulations.

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Presidents & Speakers

COMMITTEES—House & Senate Committees of Reference, Year-Round Committees, and links to current & past Interim Committees.

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History of Election Results For Ballot Issues

BUDGET—Budget overview, documents, long bill & department supplemental bills, economic forecasts, and links to related materials.



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