



The Poudre School District's Board of Education supports the following state legislative actions for 2019:

- The Poudre School District Board of Education recognizes that a structural change is needed to the system by which the State of Colorado funds K-12 education, and other critical state and local programs. This structural change includes addressing the negative impacts of constitutional provisions such as TABOR and the Gallagher Amendment, which have significantly strained the state budget. This has caused the Colorado General Assembly to subject K-12 education to significant budget cuts through the mechanism formerly known as the "negative factor." Such budget cuts are contrary to voters' intent in passing Amendment 23, which called for the state to sustain K-12 education funding at a level equal to the growth in inflation plus enrollment. These budget cuts also significantly threaten the ability for K-12 educators to provide every Colorado child with a thorough and uniform education.
- We, therefore, support actively advocating for the adoption of policies and legislation to provide the Colorado General Assembly with greater flexibility in setting the state budget.
- Specifically, we support policies that address the structural imbalance within the state budget created by the current constraints of our state Constitution.

**Rationale:** Despite an improvement in Colorado's economy, the state budget is still facing shortfalls due to the constraints of TABOR and Gallagher. Any policies that ease the strain on the state budget and allow Colorado to invest more money in K-12 education would benefit Poudre School District, as well as school districts across the state.

- We support allowing Boards of Education to meet in executive session with school district staff for the purpose of determining our positions with respect to employee negotiations.

**Rationale:** The intent of Proposition 104 was to require employee negotiations to be held in public. (PSD has conducted negotiations in public for many years.) Not permitting school boards to meet privately to develop their negotiating positions and strategies (as employee groups may do) was not the intent, but merely an unintended consequence of the way the proposition was written. Modifying the law to allow school boards to meet in executive session with school district staff for the purpose of determining bargaining positions brings fairness back into the negotiations equation for school boards and school districts.

- We support repeal of the Claire Davis bill.

**Rationale:** Removing governmental immunity from school districts and holding them responsible for any school shooting or similar disaster not only increases school districts' insurance and other costs, but could

have a devastating financial impact upon a school district and consequently negatively impact all of its students. There are no standards for determining what "reasonably foreseeable harm" might be.

The Poudre School District's Board of Education supports the following Colorado state legislative actions for 2019:

- We support elimination of the state required high school social studies exam

**Rationale:** U.S. Civics and History are already required to be taught in Colorado high schools. Students derive no benefit from taking this exam and are not motivated to take it. The time could be better utilized teaching content in our schools. There is not a good time to offer this exam in high school. Offering the exam too early means students have not yet covered the course material. Waiting until all students have covered the material means the students are older and generally more inclined to opt out.

The Poudre School District Board of Education supports the following federal legislative action for 2019:

- We support full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

**Rationale:** Currently, Poudre School District is reimbursed approximately 17 cents for every dollar the federal government requires the District spend on education under IDEA. It is time to increase the funding to a minimum of the 40 cents of every dollar initially promised by this legislation more than 40 years ago.

*Given the proposals now circulating in Washington, D. C. regarding education policy and associated budgets, the PSD Board of Education will continue to weigh in on other Federal matters as circumstances dictate.*

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About PSD

Home to nearly 30,000 students in Fort Collins, Wellington, Laporte, Timnath, Bellvue, Livermore, Red Feather Lakes and communities north to the Wyoming border.

Mission

Poudre School District exists to support and inspire every child to think, to learn, to care, and to graduate prepared to be successful in a changing world.

Educate...Every Child, Every Day

