

Resolution No. 5-2014

URGING THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RESTORE K-12 FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Montezuma County BOCC calls upon the Colorado General Assembly to honor the intent and language of Amendment 23 by making its highest priority to immediately eliminate the negative factor in K-12 public education funding and restore funds lost due to its use to date; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Amendment 23, passed in 2000, was to help Colorado's funding for public schools catch up to the national average; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 23 is a constitutional change requiring state K-12 funding to increase by inflation plus 1% from 2001 through 2011 and thereafter by inflation; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 23 earmarked .33 percent of Colorado's income tax for deposit into the "State Education Fund," but also required the legislature to increase its general fund spending on K-12 by at least five percent each fiscal year before it could dip into the State Education Fund to meet the amendment's inflation requirement; and

WHEREAS despite that protection, the legislature used the State Education Fund to balance the budget when state revenues dropped in the early part of the last decade; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the legislature reinterpreted Amendment 23 to apply only to base per pupil funding, but not to the factors (variables) such as size, cost of living and number of at-risk students in a district through the establishment of a new negative factor deemed "budget stabilization" to make across-the-board cuts to education spending reducing Montezuma County school funding by approximately five million dollars; and

WHEREAS, with the negative factor as a constant, all districts suffer since, to date, the negative factor has reduced school finance spending approximately \$1 billion or 15.49% below Amendment 23's requirements; and

- Even as they continue to reduce funding, the legislature has passed multiple significant reform efforts, including but not limited to the Preschool to Postsecondary Education Alignment Act (CAP4K) (Senate Bill 08-212),
- the Education Accountability Act of 2009 (Senate Bill 09-163),
- the Educator Effectiveness Law (Senate Bill 10-191) and
- the Colorado READ Act (House Bill 12-1238); and

WHEREAS, these laws impose additional obligations on school districts while reduced state funding negatively impacts local school districts' ability to implement existing education reforms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montezuma County Board of County Commissioners officially urges the Colorado General Assembly to restore all funds provided for by Amendment 23 not appropriated since fiscal year 2009-2010 to Colorado's 178 public school districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution may be shared with members of the second regular session of the 69th Colorado General Assembly, Governor John Hickenlooper, the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), our local Newspaper and School Executives and the Joint Budget Committee of the Colorado Legislature.

Adopted this 17th, day of March, 2014.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO

Carol Jullis
County Clerk and Recorder



Keenan Ertel
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