



Senate  
State of Colorado  
Denver

**BOB BACON****State Senator**

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**COMMITTEES**

Chair of:  
Capitol Development  
Chair of:  
Education  
Vice Chair of:  
State Affairs  
Member of:  
Appropriations

January 31, 2012

Representative Cheri Gerou  
Chair, Joint Budget Committee  
200 East 14th Avenue, Third Floor  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Representative Gerou:

The SMART Act allows a committee of reference to make formal recommendations to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) regarding state departments' budgets, based on the committee's hearings with their assigned departments. The Senate Education Committee met on January 25 and January 26, 2012, to discuss recommendations to the JBC per the SMART Act. At its meetings, the committee made one recommendation regarding the Department of Education and one recommendation regarding History Colorado.

With regard to the Department of Education, the Senate Education Committee recommends that the \$25.9 million requested for funding for new state assessments in the State Board of Education's budget request instead be allocated as follows:

- up to \$1 million to fund optional administration of ACCUPLACER assessments for high school students;
- the necessary amount to fund development of an assessment for financial literacy;
- up to \$2 million to investigate whether multi-state consortia are developing science and social studies assessments, and if it is found that multi-state consortia are not developing those assessments, to fund their development; and
- the remainder of the \$25.9 million to the School Finance Act.

With regard to History Colorado, the Senate Education Committee recommends that the request for cash funds spending authority and 3.5 FTE be approved as requested.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Bacon". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Senator Bob Bacon, Chair  
Senate Education Committee

- c: Joint Budget Committee Members
- Senate Education Committee Members
- Robert Hammond, Commissioner of Education
- Anne Barkis, Legislative Liaison, Department of Education
- Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia, Executive Director, Department of Higher Education
- Chad Marturano, Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Higher Education
- Ed Nichols, President and CEO, History Colorado
- John Ziegler, Staff Director, Joint Budget Committee
- Jennifer Thomsen, Legislative Council Staff