

**PLEASE SUPPORT HB 1139**  
**Concerning Funding Public Schools Based On The Calculation of Average**  
**Daily Membership**  
**SPONSOR: Rep. Priola**

**What Does the Bill Do?**

Under the current law, funding for school districts is based on the number of pupils enrolled on a single date (October 1). Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, this bill will require the Colorado Department of Education to calculate funding for school districts based on average daily membership. This is done by implementing four separate count dates throughout the year.

**Why Is This Necessary?**

It is simply a more accurate way of measuring the number of students in a given school district. In most cases, district enrollment rises or falls throughout the school year.<sup>1</sup> This bill will create a more reliable count system, which in turn creates a more effective system of distributing funding to school districts.

**Modern Methodology In Favor of Outdated Practice**

The number of states using a single count method for the purpose of administering school funding is on the decline with Colorado being one of last states to make this needed shift. An ADM counting accomplishes the following:

1. Helps money follow the students. Because school districts in states with a single count date receive all of their funds based the single county date, they lack a financial incentive to retain all students after that date. This method would help correct that issue.<sup>2</sup>
2. Assists schools with rapidly expanding enrollment. This will allow increasing enrollment districts to receive fairer funding. They will receive increased funds in the current year instead of having to wait one full calendar year.
3. Allows schools to receive funding for students who enroll after October 1<sup>st</sup> if district enrollment increase more than statewide enrollment growth.

**Common Misconception: Effects On Five Year Averaging for Rural Districts**

1. One common misconception is that this legislation will affect the ability of declining enrollment districts to maintain five year averaging in relation to student counts. This legislation maintains this current practice.

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<sup>1</sup> Colorado Children's Campaign, "Student Enrollment Count Mechanisms for School Funding: A Survey of State Policies," Colorado Children's Campaign, August, 2010, <http://bit.ly/1eW5KoV>.

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