



COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**State Board of Education Legislative Priorities
House and Senate Education Committees Oversight Hearing
January 22, 2009
1:30 p.m. Hearing Committee Room 0112**

The State Board's mission is to provide all of Colorado's children equal access to quality, thorough, uniform, well-rounded educational opportunities in a safe and civil learning environment.

Accountability and Alignment

A. Standards and Assessments— Support the completion of a thorough review of model content standards prior to the adoption of any new statewide assessment tools.

B. Aligning Educational Accountability— Support legislation to streamline educational accountability in Colorado by revising School Accountability Report and Accreditation provisions to harmonize public reporting and actions required by these state accountability provisions and the No Child Left Behind.

Resources and Funding

A. School Finance— Support efforts to improve the long-term financial stability of education funding and develop a comprehensive school finance solution.

B. Categoricals— Support improved programming and increased funding for districts with excess expenditures for special education (including students served out-of-district), gifted and talented, English language learners, transportation, and career and technical (vocational) education.

C. School Trust Lands— Support legislation to increase the Permanent Fund, maximize the Trust income, increase awareness of School Trust Lands and exempt from school trust lands from TABOR. Support legislation to remove School Trust Lands from the Department of Natural Resources and place them into an independent agency.

Student Performance

A. Closing the Achievement Gap— Continue efforts and funding to implement proven, evidence-based programs and strategies for closing the achievement gap.

Bob Schaffer
Chairman
4th Congressional District

Randy DeHoff
Vice-Chairman
6th Congressional District

Elaine Gantz Berman
1st Congressional District

Jane Goff
7th Congressional District

Peggy Littleton
5th Congressional District

Marcia Neal
3rd Congressional District

Angelika Schroeder
2nd Congressional District

B. Drop-Out Prevention— Support expansion of effective dropout prevention and recovery strategies.

Access and Opportunity

A. Early Childhood— Support efforts to improve access to high-quality voluntary early childhood education and family literacy in ways that enhance the transition from early childhood education and preschool to K-12.

B. Concurrent Enrollment Programs— Support expanded access to post-secondary education options including concurrent enrollment programs.

C. Libraries— Restore funding for all libraries to enhance access to educational print and electronic materials for all citizens, and support improved school library staffing and resources.

Teacher Quality

Professional Licensure— Continue to support efforts to streamline teacher certification, promote alternative certification and expedite the certification process.

Innovation and Choice

A. Online Education/School Choice— Support continued development and oversight of high-quality online programs, schools of choice, and other educational innovations to ensure strong student results.

B. Innovation— Support increased flexibility and authority that would allow the State Board the ability to approve alternatives to seat-time-based promotion in conjunction with the work currently underway at CDE.

Data and Information Systems

Information Services, Data Collection and Storage— Support funding that enhances CDE's data and information systems and personnel in order to streamline district data submission and foster efficient data sharing while providing higher levels of service, support, and usefulness to all users of CDE's information systems.