

Resolution: Uniform Statewide School Mill Levy

It is a state obligation to create and fund a system of school finance which adequately and equitably funds all public schools in Colorado, and which includes both state and local tax revenues. CASB supports legislation to create a uniform, statewide school mill levy to fund the local share of the Colorado School Finance Act to the maximum extent such uniform school mill levy is permitted by the Colorado Constitution and provided the legislation addresses the following requirements:

1. All new funding from local property tax revenue will be stable and sustainable in future years;
2. All state General Fund revenues which fund the Colorado School Finance Act and which are replaced by local property tax revenue as a result of this legislation will be reinvested in our public schools by providing additional state funding to significantly reduce the Budget Stabilization Factor;
3. The options made available to school districts which must increase their local school mill levies to the uniform school mill levy, and the length of time available to make such an increase, will be fair and reasonable to school districts and local taxpayers;
4. School districts which have characteristics or circumstances that make it difficult or impossible to raise their local school mill levies to the uniform school mill levy will not lose funding as a result of this legislation; and
5. If as a result of this legislation, the Colorado Constitution requires any school district to lower its mill levy to the uniform school mill levy, any such decrease in the local school mill levy shall be temporary, to the extent legally permissible, and local school boards shall have the ability to restore the local school mill levy to the same level the school mill levy was set prior to the temporary decrease without voter approval.

Rationale Statement: Formulas in Colorado's Constitution and uneven economic growth across the state have together destroyed the equity, sustainability and sufficiency of the local property tax funding base for public education. Legislation to require a uniform school mill levy, even if an imperfect fix to these problems, will restore significant equity to local property tax rates across the state for both taxpayers and school districts, and will increase the funding and stability of the Colorado School Finance Act.