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BillBoard is a semimonthly

newsletter on the latest developments at the state capitol that impact K–12 education. It is distributed during the legislative session to school board members, superintendents, legislators, governor's office, various statewide organizations, BOCES executive directors and the Colorado Council of School Board Attorneys.

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Momentum continues to build for CASB Days at the Capitol; Join us this Wednesday for the Student Success and Finance Acts

It's been relatively quiet for funding-related education bills this week while legislators wait for the March 18 budget projection to see what revenues they will have to work with. Both the [Student Success Act \(HB 1292\)](#) and the [2014-15 School Finance Act \(HB 1298\)](#) are scheduled for action only (discuss amendments and vote) this Wednesday, March 19, in the House Education Committee meeting.

CASB has been actively addressing member issues with HB 1292 ([see March 7 Legislative Update](#)) and this week delivered a memo to **Reps. Millie Hamner** and **Carole Murray** highlighting our [concerns regarding Average Daily Membership and financial transparency](#).

"Each Wednesday gets more and more exciting. If you haven't yet attended a [CASB Day at the Capitol](#), or want to come again, next week will be a great opportunity to join us," said **Jane Urschel**. "Bring your [Individualized Learning Plans \(ILPs\)](#) and meet with your legislators. CASB will be your helpful guide and show you where to go."

Jane said she's been quite impressed with the school board members and superintendents who have attended CASB's recent Days at the Capitol.

"They've been well-prepared and eager. Everyone is going to the capitol and looking for their legislators right away. That's exactly what we want to happen," Jane said. "Building relationships. That's what we need to do."

Two weeks in a row, the Elizabeth C-1 trio (board members **Chip Swan, Deb Spenceley** and **Carol Hinds**) branched out on their own at the capitol, lobbying their legislators and making their board's concerns well known. First-timer **Brendan Gale** (West Grand board member and CASB director) first stayed close to Jane, then struck out on his own.

80 school districts answer: How has the Negative Factor impacted us? The Colorado School Finance Project surveyed districts about how they would be affected by a \$200 million buy down of the negative factor, or what they would do if no changes were made.

Read all the responses on the [Colorado School Finance Project website](#).

"What a refreshing experience – to be able to walk around the capitol and visit my legislators," he said. "They were receptive, supportive and willing to give as much time as they had available to meet with me. I had a great dialogue with **Sen. KC Becker** about the negative factor."

Brendan encouraged school board members to take part in future CASB Days at the Capitol, noting, "We can't make progress with silence."

Meanwhile, board member **Phil Virden** wasted no time making the most of his day. He headed straight to the capitol from Hinsdale County early Wednesday morning for back-to-back pre-scheduled visits with his legislators and to introduce himself to the Senate Education Committee.

Jim Engelker (Platte Valley board member and CASB director) strategically placed himself so he could catch **Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg** when he came off the House floor.

"Rep. Sonnenberg was very receptive to talk to me and wanted to know my views," Jim said. "I explained my concerns with HB 1292 and he, too, was very concerned about the negative factor. He also encouraged me to keep him up to date on anything that would help him make future decisions."

Added Jane, "It's been fantastic to watch legislators talk to our members – they really pay attention to what our members have to say."

Executive session bill dies ... thanks to you!

We are happy to report that HB 1110, the bill requiring school boards to record their confidential attorney-client conversations in executive session, died in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday. Thank you to CASB directors **Debbie Lammers** (St. Vrain) and **Jim O'Brien** (Cherry Creek), who offered testimony against the bill, and to everyone who voiced their opposition with their Senators and Representatives. Together, we really did make a difference.

Sample resolution on erasing the negative factor

A [sample resolution for local school boards to call upon the Colorado Legislature to immediately eliminate the negative factor](#) in K-12 education funding and restore within the next 5 years funds lost due to its use to date. If your board adopts a resolution in support of erasing the negative factor, please send a copy to anavratil@casb.org.

To read resolutions adopted by school boards, visit our [Negative Factor Board Resolution webpage](#).

Bills at a Glance

Track bills and learn about CASB's position on education-related legislation through [Colorado Capitol Watch](#).

HB 14-1182 PUBLIC ED ACCOUNTABILITY 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

Rep. Hamner (D)

The proposal would allow school and district performance ratings earned in the 2014-15 school year to be carried over into the following year. The change is intended to bridge a data gap that will be created when the state moves from the current TCAP testing system to the new CMAS system. The change wouldn't affect the five-year accountability clock for low-rated districts and schools.

CASB position: Support

Status: Approved by Senate Education Committee (March 12)

HB 14-1208 AUTHORIZING MULTI-DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

Rep. Wright (R) and Sen. Zenzinger (D)

This technical bill expands the definition of "administrative unit" to include more types of districts that cooperate to offer special education services.

CASB position: Support

Status: Approved by Senate Education Committee (March 6)

HB 14-1288 STUDENT IMMUNIZATIONS PRIOR TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Rep. Pabon (D) and Sen. Aguilar (D)

This bill would require that parents who refuse to have their children immunized before enrolling in school demonstrate that they have received reliable medical information about the benefits and risks of immunizations.

CASB position: Monitor

Status: Approved by House Education Committee (March 13)

Killed Bills

HB 14-1262 HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS & LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS

Rep. Priola (R) and Sen. Newell (D)

The bill would create the Highly Effective Teacher Incentives Program to enable districts, BOCES and charter schools to offer salary bonuses to attract highly effective teachers to teach in schools that are implementing priority improvement or turnaround plans.

CASB Position: Oppose

Status: Postponed indefinitely by House Education Committee (Feb. 24)

UPDATED: Must-have tools and resources for school board members

1. **Download and share** our one-page handout on [School Finance 101: What Every Coloradan Should Know About Education Funding](#).
2. **Educate** yourself about the financial impact the negative factor has had on your district.

For [Three Years of the Negative Factor \(2011-2014\)](#), Colorado School Finance Project chart.

For [2013-2014 information](#), District-by-District comparison, pay attention to column I, 2013-2014 Negative Factor with Supplemental.

For [2012-2013 information](#), District-by-District table, pay attention to column O, Total Negative Factor.

For [2011-2012 information](#), District-by-District table, pay attention to column O, Total Negative Factor.
3. **Prepare** to attend and testify at a committee hearing by reading these [lobbying tips](#).
4. **Read** Chalkbeat Colorado's article on [Battling for Dollars: School finance differences spark historic debate](#).

Save the date!

CASB Fall Conference & Delegate Assembly
September 26-27, 2014
Pueblo Marriott and Convention Center

Address **Colorado Association of School Boards**
2253 S. Oneida St., Ste. 300

Phone
303-832-1000 or 800-530-8430

Denver, CO 80224

Fax
303-832-1086

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