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## School Board Advocate: September 13, 2016

Volume 27, Number 10



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**Mission:**  
**POSSIBLE**

**Mission: Possible ...  
to make Colorado a national leader**

The Colorado Association of School Boards and Great Education Colorado have developed **Mission: Possible**, an interactive online budget tool that allows Coloradans to make spending and revenue choices for the state budget.

You'll find it at [www.MissionPossibleCO.com](http://www.MissionPossibleCO.com)

The two education organizations teamed up on this project because they believe all state residents must understand Colorado's fiscal challenges and all possible solutions. Because of amendments to the state constitution, it is voters, not legislators, who make the most important decisions about Colorado's finances.

We named the budget simulation **Mission: Possible** because we believe Coloradans will want to design budgets that will allow our state to fully fund our schools and invest in other essential public services. Once they have completed a balanced budget, they can share it with friends and family, neighbors, co-workers and elected leaders – even the governor.

We'll be sending more information about **Mission: Possible** soon, but please get started and create the kind of state budget you'd like to see.



## Finally, a seat at the table

If you come from a large family, you are familiar with sitting at the “kids table” for holiday dinners. You know, that rickety old card table that gets hauled out a couple of times a year, when there are no more seats at the dinner table? That's how it used to be for Colorado school districts on important decisions concerning urban renewal. Now, thanks to House Bill 15-1348, districts have a seat at the big table when it comes to making important decisions.

**Gov. John Hickenlooper** signed the bill in to law in May 2015, but it didn't kick in until January. CASB worked for many years with legislators and community groups to pass the bill.

The law states that a municipal urban renewal authority must include one elected member of the local school district, along with special-district and county representatives. In the event an urban renewal authority encompasses more than one school district, those school boards must work together to identify their representative.

Urban renewal projects rely on the growth of school, county, special district and municipal property taxes over a 25-year period to alleviate blight and fund urban-level development. Under HB15-1348, school district representatives on an urban renewal board can now flag how these projects will impact the number of students they serve, traffic patterns around schools and concerns that otherwise might be missed by the municipality. The bill further stipulates that the urban renewal authority must negotiate with impacted school districts on how best to share revenues and address costs associated with development. If agreement cannot be reached, a mediation process begins.

The nuances of the bill can be tricky, so CASB advises you to consult your district legal team if there are urban renewal authorities in your community. Read the [full text of the bill](#) and a [sample revenue sharing agreement](#).

In the meantime, make room at the big table and pass the mashed potatoes, please.



## Colorado, corner to corner

The CASB team is on the road engaging members and recognizing outstanding school board members as part of our annual Regional Meetings. The CASB caravan will log more than 2,600 miles traveling across our great state to hear from you, our valued members.

The [2016 Regional Meetings](#) will play a huge role in helping to set the course for CASB's advocacy efforts. The CASB advocacy team wants to hear from you about the issues most important to your local community. The meetings are also

a great way to catch up with fellow school board members in your region. Plus, you won't want to miss honoring the winners of the McGuffey Awards, given to exceptional board members. [Registration information](#)

To cap off the Fall, you won't want to miss the [CASB Fall Conference and Delegate Assembly](#) on **Friday and Saturday, Oct. 14-15 in Fort Collins**.

Lt. Gov. Donna Lynne will be the keynote speaker, sharing her views on leadership and effective governing. The CASB delegates take center stage on Saturday morning as they will vote to approve resolutions that are the “planks” of the CASB advocacy platform at the state and federal level. It is crucial that every district sends a delegate to represent the views of their board. Don't delay – [register your district's voting delegate today](#).

**EQUITY** IN **EDUCATION**  
**Oct. 13-14** Fort Collins  
 Marriott **CONFERENCE**

## CASB Equity in Education Conference



Equity is a concept that all educators care about, but its meaning can be theoretical or academic. Where it really counts and makes a difference is in the classroom, for each and every student.

CASB, in collaboration with CASE and CEA, is presenting [Equity in Education](#), a conference Thursday and Friday, Oct. 13-14 in Fort Collins, right before the Delegate Assembly. The conference will focus on identifying ideas and solutions that can be applied where it matters most – with students.

Don't miss this opportunity to interact with colleagues from the boardroom to the classroom. Bring your whole team – board members, superintendents, administrators and teachers — all are welcome.



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