

Legislative-Agenda-At-A-Glance

2026 Session

Priorities/Bill Ideas for 2026

1. Evaluate the content of [HB24-1448](#) for FY 2026-2027 and future FYs - [HB25-1320](#)
 1. Commit to long-term sustainability
 2. Commit to 4-yr averaging until full implementation
 3. Commit to a tracking mechanism like BSF to record compliance with Amendment 23
2. Commit to [SB23-287 Jan 3 2025 adequacy study recommendations](#)
 1. Develop blueprint for sustainable full funding and collaborative implementation
3. Ensure the preservation of federal funding essential to meeting Colorado's public education needs



CDE Snapshot
Updated Jan 2025

2026 Platform

Finance

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The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) believes the state must prioritize and provide Colorado's public schools with adequate, equitable, reliable, and sustainable funding. Colorado must ensure the funding needed to meet today's and future educational needs of each and every Colorado public school student.

CASB members are committed to advocating with legislators to accomplish the following:

1. Ensure that the use of public monies for K-12 education does not include vouchers for K-12 private schools
2. Increase total per pupil spending to get to the [national average](#) as a minimum
3. Modify aspects of TABOR that represent a barrier to full funding of K-12 education
4. Fully fund Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
5. Ensure Budget Stabilization Factor (BSF) is not reinstated
6. Commit to [SB23-287 Jan 3 2025 adequacy study recommendations](#)
7. Ensure adequate and sustainable funding for public education capital improvements, including options like [BEST](#)
8. Ensure adequate and sustainable K-12 funding levels, and equitable distribution via the School Finance Act (SFA) - [HB24-1448](#), [HB25-1320](#)
9. Adopt the School Finance Act (SFA) before long bill adoption
10. Evaluate grant programs and fully fund effective grant programs via SFA
11. Protect [State Education Fund](#) (SEF) and accelerate growth of the multi-generational [Permanent Fund](#) and its distributions

Student & Staff Safety and Success

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CASB believes the state must prioritize and provide Colorado’s public schools with adequate, equitable, and reliable funding not only to educate, but also to provide a safe environment for our students and staff – A safe environment is proven to be essential to successful student learning.

CASB members are committed to advocating with legislators to accomplish the following:

1. Increase mental health support for students and staff
2. Collaborate with other entities that support public education to fund and improve student success as well as student and staff safety
3. Increase systematic and systemic support of educator recruitment/retainment to ensure equitable, high quality instruction for all students
4. Ensure special education seclusion room protection for students

Local Governance

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CASB recognizes the authority granted under Article IX section 15 of the Colorado Constitution giving locally elected Boards of Education the right to adopt curriculum, implement instruction, and authorize employment to ensure student access to diverse learning opportunities.

CASB members are committed to advocating with legislators to accomplish the following:

1. Acknowledge potential changes in the US Department of Education while ensuring minimal impact on Colorado's Department of Education processes and local school district control
2. Eliminate unfunded mandates placed on locally elected Boards of Education (BOEs)
3. Honor Constitutionally-mandated local control of BOEs
4. Prevent legislation which attempts to override or circumvent Board of Education local control and/or erodes resources for K12 schools
5. Restrict the grounds on which the State Board of Education (SBE) can overturn a local school district's decision to deny a new charter school application (Exception: Limit appeals to SBE to instances where the local decision was "arbitrary and capricious")
6. Align CORA request criteria and timeline to prevent unnecessary strain on school districts
7. Explore implementing required training for all board members to foster stronger governance and enhance support for positive student outcomes

Accountability

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CASB supports a system of accountability that emphasizes local measures that inform instruction as well as acknowledging a need for a statewide system that allows measurement of school and district effectiveness.

CASB members are committed to advocating with legislators to accomplish the following:

1. Shape future legislation and monitor implementation of [HB23-1241 Accountability Task Force Nov 7 2024 recommendations](#) as reflected in [HB25-1278](#)
2. Ensure consistent accountability and transparency processes are in place for all publicly funded school options (traditional, non-traditional, charter, single/multi-district online, etc) to guarantee a learning environment which results in positive student outcomes/success
3. Ensure that all publicly funded school options equitably serve all students