

Final Resolutions

85th Annual Delegate Assembly

**Adopted on
Saturday, September 6,
2025**



Colorado Association of School Boards

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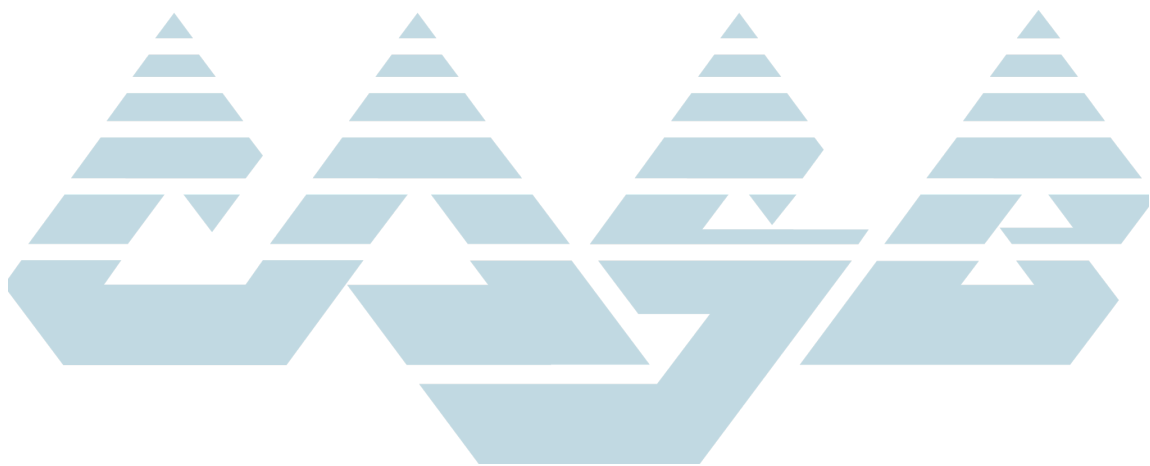
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PASSED LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Priorities/Bill Ideas for 2026

1. Evaluate the content of HB24-1448 for FY 2026-2027 and future FYs - HB25-1320
 - a. Commit to long-term sustainability
 - b. Commit to 4-yr averaging until full implementation
 - c. Ensure Budget Stabilization Factor (BSF), or any other defunding mechanism, is not reinstated, or implemented
 - d. The School Finance Formula is used to determine need and should not be used to create budget cuts
2. Commit to SB23-287 Jan 3 2025 adequacy study recommendations
 - a. Develop blueprint for sustainable full funding and collaborative implementation
3. Ensure the preservation of federal funding essential to meeting Colorado's public education needs

Finance

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 no public monies are used for K-12 private schools, through vouchers or any other method
2. Increase total per pupil spending to get to the national average as a transition to adequacy
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), or any other defunding mechanism, is not reinstated, or implemented
6. Commit to SB23-287 Jan 3 2025 adequacy study recommendations
7. Ensure adequate and sustainable funding for 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 the State Education Fund, and the long term benefits to the Permanent Fund beneficiaries

PASSED LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Student & Staff Safety and Success

CASB believes the state must 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. Special Education seclusion room protection for students

Local Governance

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

Accountability

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, beyond test scores. 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

PASSED 2025 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

Finance

LR1 Colorado school districts are committed to providing a high-quality education to all students, while being fiscally responsible and accountable to local communities. The Colorado General Assembly has repeatedly enacted legislation that imposes new programs, reporting requirements, and compliance mandates on districts without providing adequate funding. Such unfunded mandates place extreme burdens on local schools, staff, and budgets, often diverting resources from core instructional and student services. Local boards of education are best positioned to determine the needs and priorities of their communities. The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) will not support any legislation that imposes additional mandates on school districts unless such legislation includes full and ongoing funding for implementation.

CASB urges the Colorado legislature to engage in meaningful consultation with school districts prior to the passage of any law affecting K-12 education operations, staffing, or programming. Review, simplify and reduce current unfunded mandates.

LR2 Public education is essential to the success of Colorado’s children and communities. The introduction of voucher programs in any form has the potential to divert public funds from public schools to private and non-public education providers. Colorado public schools are already underfunded relative to the national average, with persistent gaps in funding for critical student needs. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure every student in Colorado has access to a high-quality public education regardless of geographic location or socioeconomic status. The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) opposes any legislation that establishes or expands a voucher program. CASB advocates for legislative mechanisms that protect public education funding from reductions or redirections resulting from the implementation of voucher programs.

LR4 Resolution Urging the Colorado General Assembly to Ensure Educational Equity in Rural Districts Under the Implementation of HB25-1320.

House Bill 25-1320, the 2025 School Finance Act, establishes per-pupil funding levels and outlines a phased transition to a new school finance formula intended to promote fairness and adequacy across Colorado’s diverse educational landscape.

The bill includes increased funding allocations for charter schools and a prolonged implementation timeline, creating a shift in funding structures that may unintentionally disadvantage small and rural school districts. Many rural communities host both district-operated and charter schools within a single, low-population district, leading to competition for a limited number of students—resulting in enrollment shifts that destabilize budgets and programming for both schools.

Educational equity must ensure that all students, regardless of school model, geography, or socioeconomic status, receive access to quality instruction, full support services, and safe, sustainable learning environments.

Small rural districts face unique operational challenges—including geographic isolation, transportation burdens, workforce shortages, and limited access to specialized services—that are not accounted for solely by per-pupil funding formulas.

Promoting student-centered collaboration rather than institutional competition is essential to maintaining community trust and long-term sustainability in rural education.

PASSED 2025 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

LR4 The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) urges the Colorado General Assembly and
Cont. Colorado Department of Education to:

- Establish a Rural Equity Review Panel to monitor the impact of HB25-1320 on rural and remote districts, including those with charter schools drawing from the same enrollment base.
- Develop protections or relief measures for districts negatively impacted by student shifts, competition, or financial imbalance caused by charter funding enhancements;
- Create a pilot program or incentive fund to support shared services, collaborative staffing models, and joint student programming between charter and district schools in rural areas.
- Affirm that equity is not achieved through equal division, but through fair distribution based on actual need, community context, and capacity to serve all students.
- Include rural district representation in future school finance reform working groups, especially those shaping charter-district fiscal policies and enrollment-based metrics.

Local Governance

- LR6** CASB urges the General Assembly to modify current law on Mental Health Residential Facilities (C.R.S. 27-71-101, et seq.) When determining appropriate locations for Mental Health Residential Facilities, the department shall comply with local regulations regarding any distance restrictions for temporary or permanent residences of individuals required to register their residence under the Colorado Sex Offender Registration Act, C.R.S. section 16-22-101, et seq.
- LR7** CASB supports limiting the role of the State Board of Education in new charter school appeals to determining whether the chartering authority's decision was arbitrary and capricious.
- LR9** CASB supports legislation that restores local control over the professional practice component of teacher and principal evaluation systems, allowing school districts to design and implement evaluation frameworks that meet the unique needs of their students, educators, and communities. Evaluation frameworks should emphasize multiple measures of effectiveness that provide meaningful coaching and feedback, rather than relying heavily on standardized assessments.

Other

- LR10** CASB supports legislation that establishes nonpartisan elections for members of the Colorado State Board of Education.

Floor Resolutions

- FR1** CASB supports an amendment to the Colorado Constitution, or applicable law, exempting state money appropriated for school finance from local TABOR reserve requirements.

Proposed Resolutions that Failed/Where Pulled from the Floor

- LR3** Withdrawn
- LR5** Failed

POSTPONED 2025 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

- LR8** Proposed legislation allowing one at-large, out-of-district candidate to be appointed or elected to occupy a seat on the district board of education if there are no other in-district candidates available to fill the vacancy, allowing local district policy to prevail and override if desired.
- FR2** CASB urges the General Assembly to fully fund HB21-1006, Fifth-day School Enrichment Programs Funding. Enacted in 2021, this bill created a grant program to support rural school districts operating on a four-day schedule by enabling funding for supplemental enrichment opportunities for students on the fifth day. Grants were intended to be awarded on a three-year cycle, but the program has never been funded by the General Assembly.

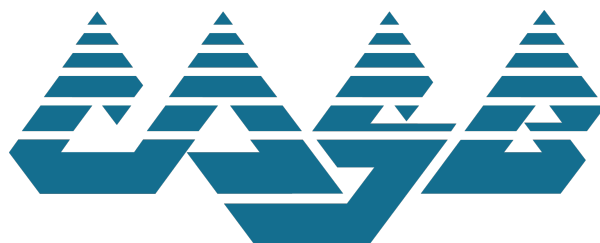
These two resolutions were postponed by the Delegate Assembly and will be brought to the membership at the Annual Business meeting on Thursday, December 11 2025 at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs.

Mission Statement

The Colorado Association of School Boards, through leadership, service, training, and advocacy, engages and supports local boards of education to advance a system of public schools where each and every student is equipped to meet their full potential.

Vision Statement

Excellence in public education through effective leadership and the collective action of locally elected school boards.



Colorado Association of School Boards

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