



OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING

A Fact Sheet

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The Department of Education is the administrative arm of the Colorado State Board of Education. The Department provides the State funding, leadership, consultation, and administrative services to the State's pre-kindergarten through 12th grade public schools, the State's library system, the State's family/adult literacy programs, and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind.

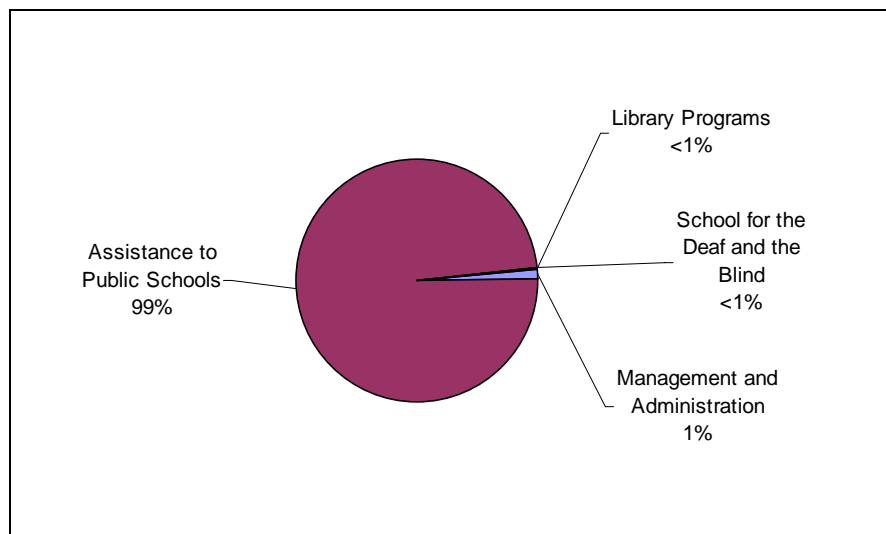
FY 2007-08 Appropriation

Total Appropriation:	\$4,068,616,142
Percent of Statewide Total Appropriation:	23.8%
General Fund Appropriation:	\$3,064,213,254
Percent of Statewide General Fund Appropriation:	42.3%
Total Full Time Equivalent Employees (FTE):	477.4

FY 2008-09 Budget Request

Total Request:	\$4,258,418,724
Percent of Statewide Total:	23.6%
General Fund Request:	\$3,218,524,359
Percent of Statewide General Fund:	42.0%
Total Full Time Equivalent Employees (FTE):	500.2

FY 2008-09 Request by Program Area



Department in Summary FY 2008-09:

- The Department is responsible for administering Total Program Funding for Pre-Kindergarten through 12th Grade education, the State's largest single program at \$5.4 billion. The state share of funding is projected to be \$3.4 billion, with just under \$3 billion in General Fund spending. These figures are subject to change as additional enrollment, inflation, and revenue data become available. Increases to total program spending are governed by Amendment 23 passed by voters in 2000, which states that per pupil funding must increase by at least inflation plus one percent through FY 2011-12 and then by at least inflation every fiscal year thereafter.
 - a. Public school funding is comprised of a combination of local property taxes and state funding. The State's portion is made up primarily of General Fund and State Education Fund dollars. During the latest recession, a greater dependence on the State Education Fund caused the fund to be on a path toward insolvency. SB 07-199, the latest school finance legislation, rectified that problem by ensuring the state share of school funding increases at a sustainable pace from year to year. This has not been the case previously.
- Other funding related to K-12 includes the funding of Categorical programs. These are programs supporting certain student populations (e.g., special education and English proficiency) or certain student needs (e.g., transportation). Funding for these programs in FY 2008-09 will total \$383 million, with \$183 million coming from the General Fund, \$36 million from the State Education Fund, and \$164 million from federal funds.
- Supporting the Department's mission of maintaining educational quality and opportunity, the Department administers a variety of grant programs that allow school districts to apply for everything from after school programs to specialized reading programs.
- The Department also provides support for various state library programs that promote inter-library loan operations and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind.

Leading Budget Change Requests for FY 2008-09:

- 1) *Total Program Annual Funding Adjustments* – This is the annual funding request for the “Total Program” appropriation which funds Colorado's distributions of per pupil funding to school districts. The Department's request is for \$175,518,845 of new funding for Fiscal Year 2008-09.
- 2) *Closing the Achievement Gap Initiative* – Provides \$1.8 million for a pilot program that will allow six school districts the opportunity to get specialized training in educating diverse populations and improving student achievement. Districts with the largest achievement gaps will be invited to apply for these grants and will be required to meet certain program objectives in order to continue to receive funding.

- 3) *Content Specialists* – The Department seeks five additional content specialists – at a cost of \$450,000 – to serve as consultants for the school districts in five subject areas: math, science, social studies, the arts, and achievement gaps. The goal of these specialists is to identify areas in which districts may improve in a given subject area and provide guidance so that the district may improve in achievement in the subject area.
- 4) *Increase Travel for School Audit Unit* – An additional \$13,700 would be spent to support travel for the states school finance audit staff. This staff audits school districts to ensure uniformity in reporting and funding. In FY 2006-07, the unit recovered nearly \$6 million from school districts.

Key Issues and Legislation:

- 1) *Senate Bill 07-199 (2007 School Finance Act)* – The act instituted several provisions into law that impact school funding:
 - a. Increases the statewide base per pupil funding from \$4,864 to \$5,088 (4.6 percent). This is only the base amount, not accounting for additional per pupil funding based on district and student characteristics. After adjusting for things like the number of at-risk students and district-specific cost-of-living, the average per pupil funding for FY 2007-08 is \$6,658, a 4.7 percent increase over FY 2006-07. After factoring in enrollment increases, total program spending will increase an estimated \$326 million in FY 2007-08.
 - b. Changed the calculation of local school district mill levies to reflect prior voter approval, while lowering the mill levies of the highest districts in order to alleviate some inequities in the amount of property taxes paid by local taxpayers. The result allows for the long-term solvency of the State Education Fund.
 - c. Funded the education of an additional 2,000 preschool students in FY 2007-08 and 3,500 in FY 2008-09.
 - d. Increased funding by \$12 million over two years for 11 school districts that received the minimum per pupil funding in FY 2006-07 in order to provide greater equity in funding across school districts.
- 2) *Senate Bill 07-148 (Fast College Fast Jobs Pilot Program)* – This program will create a variation in the pupil count allowing for students to be counted at 0.85 FTE (previously students were counted only at 0.5 or 1 FTE). This Program enables students enrolled in “Target High Schools” to receive a high school diploma and an associate’s degree or a career and technical education certificate within five years.
- 3) *House Bill 07-1232 (Military Dependant Supplemental Pupil Enrollment Aid)* – For FY 2007-08 through 2010-11 allows districts with eligible students to submit an alternate pupil count in February for those students not included in the October 1 student count. The Department will submit a request to the General Assembly for a supplemental appropriation in an amount that will fully fund the military dependent supplemental pupil enrollment.

- 4) *Senate Bill 07-215 (On-Line Education Programs)* – This bill changed the oversight, structure, and funding of public school on-line education. On-line programs will be categorized as either single-district programs or multi-district programs. Beginning in FY 2008-09, single-district programs will receive the full per pupil funding amount for on-line students and multi-district programs will receive the on-line per pupil funding amount indicated in Section 22-54-104 (4.5), C.R.S.

Department Wide Performance Measures:

- 1) *Closing the Achievement Gap (Income Based)* – Measures student proficiency on Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) tests in both reading and math, comparing those students at different income levels based on the percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch.
- 2) *Closing the Achievement Gap (Race Based)* – Measures student proficiency on CSAP tests in both reading and math, comparing students of different races.
- 3) *Graduation Rate Increase* – Measures the percentage of each graduating class for all high schools, and includes all students that entered ninth grade four years earlier and have remained in the district.
- 4) *Dropout Rate Reduction* – Measures the number of students that drop out in a given year and do not enroll in an accredited alternative program.

Links to Additional Fact Sheets

- [Senate Bill 07-199 \(2007 School Finance Act\) Fact Sheet](#)

Links to Additional Websites

- [Colorado Department of Education \(www.cde.state.co.us\)](http://www.cde.state.co.us)
- [School Finance in Colorado \(http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/schfin/2006/06SFBooklet.PDF\)](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/schfin/2006/06SFBooklet.PDF)
- [State Education Fund Report \(http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2007/FinalReports/07SEFFinalReport.pdf\)](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2007/FinalReports/07SEFFinalReport.pdf)
- [United States Department of Education \(www.ed.gov\)](http://www.ed.gov)
- [National Center for Education Statistics \(nces.ed.gov/\)](http://nces.ed.gov/)

For more information about this Department and its programs, please call 303-866-4997 or 2986.