



# 2024 Legislative Platform

*Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education*



Adams 12 Five Star Schools will actively seek to influence legislation to preserve local governance, to create more flexibility from state mandates, to promote policies that adequately fund schools, to support accountability for student success and to support parental involvement.

**[adams12.org](https://adams12.org)**



*Free Universal Preschool began in August 2023 and offered at 18 locations districtwide for the 2023-24 school year.*

## Legislative Principles

### Local Control

Preserve the responsibility, fiduciary role and authority of locally elected school boards for the operations and decisions of their local schools and districts. The state legislature's role is to provide for a thorough and uniform system of public education with the state board of education providing general supervision as prescribed by law. Maximum flexibility in decision-making and accountability should be given to locally-elected school board members whose sole responsibility is the education of the community's children.

### Fewer Regulations and Streamlined Reporting

In order to allow the maximum effectiveness of funds allocated to public education, the removal and/or flexibility of regulations on funding and program mandates would allow local school boards to better act in the best interest of their students, parents and community. Streamlined and cost effective monitoring and reporting for accountability of regulations must be a primary consideration in legislation.

### Increase Funding

As local school boards work to improve and transform the educational systems in schools, it is vital to increase funding for operations, capital construction, infrastructure and maintenance so students can benefit from quality environments, tools and highly effective personnel needed to facilitate learning.

### Accountability for Student Success

Adams 12 Five Star Schools affirms the need for every district and school to demonstrate continuous improvement and be accountable in meaningful and useful ways to its students, their parents, and the broader community.

### Parental Responsibility and Involvement

Parents are vital to the successful education of children. Their responsibility and involvement for their child's education must be encouraged and supported at all levels of the educational system.

## Legislative Positions

### Adequacy and Equity of School Funding

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that restores ongoing K-12 funding lost during budget shortfalls through a full buydown of the Budget Stabilization Factor, in addition to policies and funding that support the needs, expectations, and current realities of staff, students, families, and community members today.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools opposes any state or federal legislation that imposes unfunded mandates or mandates that require districts to incur compliance costs that negatively impact district operations.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools requests that any legislation contemplating changes to tax increment financing (TIF) law consider the impact on school bond and mill levy override rates.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools urges the adoption of a new school finance act with additional funding that addresses the lack of adequacy and equity in our current system.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that would help districts address long term impacts from the COVID pandemic including student learning loss, increased student mental health and behavioral issues, increases in student and family basic needs, continued staffing shortages, and further growth of deferred maintenance.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislative efforts to adjust the definition of at-risk and the associated funding formula that makes it easier to include the appropriate students in the count and is fully funded.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports any state or federal legislation that increases special education funding.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that increases the State's contribution to the pension system for lost fiscal gains in order to keep PERA on-track to achieve its funding goal.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation to modify the PERA automatic adjustment provision which is negatively impacting employees.



*Equity and inclusion continues to be an important effort districtwide, and schools like McElwain have found ways to involve their school in community outreach events.*





*Students continue to expand their experiences in Career and Technical Education (CTE) through the district's FutureForward programs.*

## Student Academic Success

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that reduces the amount of time dedicated to state testing while maintaining reliable, high quality data that measures the academic growth of students over time. Testing must provide valuable and timely feedback for use in student instructional planning.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools believes it is imperative for the Legislature to increase funding to support early literacy outcomes for all students including:
  - Increased funding for early literacy program per-pupil intervention to address the increase in the number of students needing intervention due to interrupted learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Funding to purchase and provide training for CDE-approved core and supplemental reading programs and assessments.
  - Ongoing funding for teacher training in evidence-based reading instruction.

## Charter School Related Equity Priorities

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that improves the relationship, in academic accountability and fiscal responsibility, between charter schools and their authorizing public school districts. Adams 12 Five Star Schools does not support the State providing supplemental revenue to charter schools that are authorized through the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) because the CSI Board of Directors is not elected and accountable to local taxpayers and funds allocated from the state for this purpose result in funding cuts for all other schools and districts.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports a standard of review for new charter school application appeals to the State Board of Education that is the same for the Charter School Institute and local district boards of education. The standard of review for appeals for both chartering authorities should be whether the chartering authority's decision was arbitrary and capricious, which is the common standard of review for nearly all administrative reviews.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that gives the local school board sufficient authority to set appropriate policies and direct charter schools to take corrective or remedial action when the school district may have legal liability for actions of the charter school.

## Local Control

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools opposes granting BOCES the ability to operate schools within the boundaries of a school district without the agreement of the elected board of education.

## Our Students

**34,952\***

Total students enrolled

**31,182\***

District

**3,770\***

Charter

**16,170\*\***

Students on free or reduced priced lunch

**5,491**

Students with limited English proficiency

**4,588**

Students served through special education

**4,359**

Students participating in Gifted & Talented Program

**7,000**

Students traveling to school by bus

## Demographics

**44.68%**

Hispanic

**41.62%**

White

**6.64%**

Asian

**4.93%**

Two or more ethnicities

**1.54%**

African-American

**0.46%**

Native American

**0.14%**

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

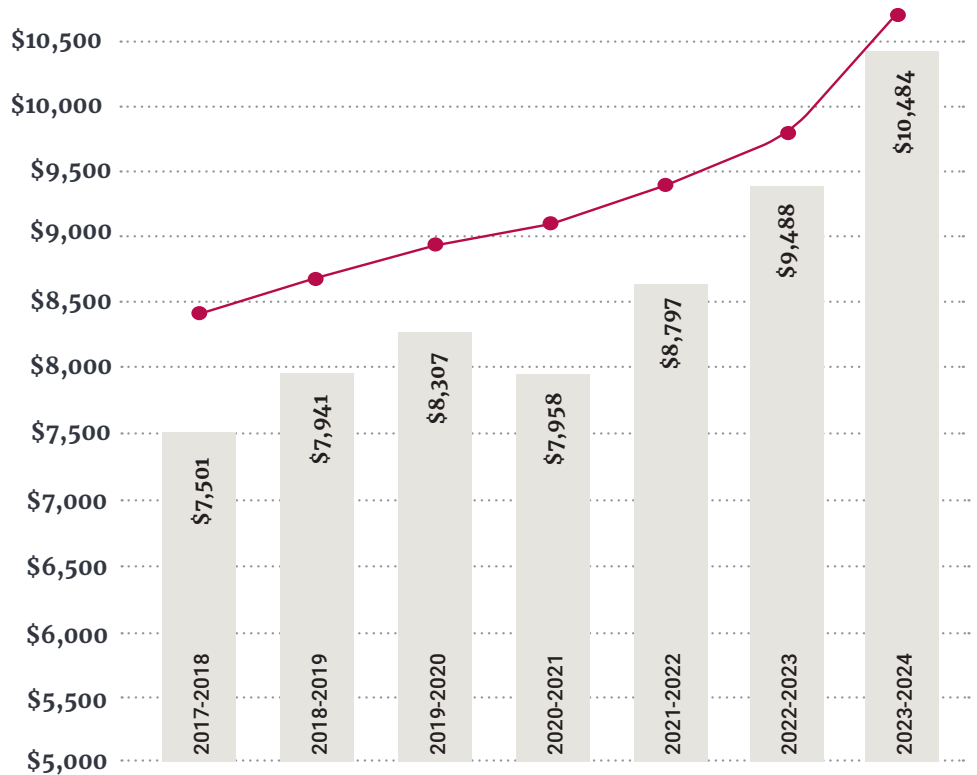
\*The district's projected enrollment is determined by the planning department and may differ slightly from the CDE Pupil Membership worksheet. The number does not include Charter School Institute students.

\*\* Source: Colorado Department of Education (CDE) 2022-2023 P-12 Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility by District.

# Budget Stabilization Impact

The impact of the Budget Stabilization Factor on the Five Star District has been substantial and has resulted in more than \$493.2 million in decreased funding from 2010-2011 through 2023-2024. The School Finance Act for the 2023-2024 school year has the Budget Stabilization Factor at 1.56 percent. This amounts to \$6.7 million less in funding for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Per-pupil funding levels if Amendment 23 provisions had been fully funded
- Per-pupil funding levels



## Investing in Student Success



Adams 12 Five Star Schools exists so that our students are equipped to navigate and thrive in our rapidly changing world. Planning beyond the current school year, the district is creating Blueprint, a community-driven plan to define the district's future and transform the student experience.

Input from the Five Star community is a key element in developing Blueprint. There are multiple engagement opportunities for parents, students, staff and community members to help inform the development of Blueprint.

### FACILITY RENEWAL, REBUILD, REIMAGINE

Prioritizes facility investments that support the district's academic vision and that provide desirable and outstanding learning environments in every classroom, every day.

### RELEVANT & RESPONSIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

Prioritizes and designs academic and applied learning opportunities so all students are prepared to successfully pursue and thrive in a future of their choosing.



**BLUEPRINT**  
adams12.org/blueprint

### Adams 12 Five Star Schools

1500 E. 128th Avenue | Thornton, Colorado 80241 | (720) 972-4000  
adams12.org



*High performing schools in Broomfield, Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton and Westminster.*