

**RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING EQUITABLE AND ADEQUATE FUNDING OF COLORADO PUBLIC
EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, according to the findings of two studies by American Institute for Research (AIR), “Equity and Adequacy of Colorado School Funding – A Cost-Modeling Approach” and by Augenblick, Pailaich and Associates, Inc (APA), “Colorado Input-Based Financial Adequacy Study Report,” which were mandated and funded by Colorado Senate Bill 23-287, Colorado’s teachers’ salaries are too low, and the tax system that supports schools is inequitable and inadequate; and

WHEREAS, according to the AIR study, the discrepancy between teachers and workers with similar education and age is more disparate in Colorado than any other state in the Union; and

WHEREAS, Colorado’s teacher pay is inequitably distributed across the state, and the wide variation in local property tax rates leads to an inequitable funding system; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has a higher number of students per teacher than the median state nationally; and

WHEREAS, school districts with the highest student needs have systematically lower student outcomes compared to schools with lower levels of student needs; and

WHEREAS, according to the study by APA, adequate funding would be \$3.5 billion higher than the current level, and \$3.1 billion higher than the 2024 formulas would be when fully implemented, not including the \$10 billion that has already been siphoned from public education since 2010; and

WHEREAS, funding to account for district size and cost of living should be \$1.1 billion higher; and

WHEREAS, funding for at-risk and disabled students should be higher in all cases by a total of \$2.7 million; and

WHEREAS, funding should be 1/3 higher for at-risk students and should include additional tiered funding for English Language Learners based on their proficiency skills; and

WHEREAS, the AIR study recommends that the Colorado Legislature commit to set funding levels commensurate with Colorado’s education goals, increase funding weights for at-risk students so more resources are based on student need, raise teacher pay and hire more teachers, reduce inequity in local taxes, and adjust salaries to account for regional differences in cost of living’ and

WHEREAS, the APA study recommends that the state provide a funding base of \$12,346 per student, that districts should receive at least a three-year enrollment averaging, and the state should provide funding to equalize mill levy override funding across districts;

WHEREAS, By acting on these study recommendations, Adams 12 Five Star Schools stands to gain between \$210 million and \$272 million in additional funding—boosting resources for all students, including an estimated \$15 million to \$19 million increase for district charter schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District calls on the Colorado State Legislature to fully commit to implementing the recommendations outlined in the two studies mandated by SB23-287, ensuring funding that aligns with these findings and provides adequate, equitable resources to support the state’s commitment to fostering competitive academic growth and achievement for all students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education adopts this Resolution on this 26th day of February, 2025

Adopted by the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education at its meeting on February 26, 2025