

### Eagle County RE 50 School District School Finance Fact Sheet

This fact sheet is meant to explain several potential and/or proposed changes to school finance that are currently being debated by state legislators, such as:

#### **New School Finance Formula**

In 2024, Colorado enacted House Bill 24-1448 (HB24-1448), introducing a new Public School Finance Act in an attempt to update funding and make it more equitable. This reform, the first significant update in over 30 years, aims to better address the diverse needs of students across the state. The new formula will be phased in over six years, starting in the 2025-26 fiscal year. Additionally, mechanisms are in place to pause the implementation if certain economic conditions arise, ensuring fiscal responsibility and sustainability.

#### **Governor Polis' Proposed Elimination of Multi-year Averaging**

Governor Jared Polis has proposed a significant change to Colorado's school funding mechanism by eliminating the current multi-year averaging method used to calculate student enrollment for funding purposes. Presently, Colorado determines school funding based on a four-year average of student enrollment, a practice designed to provide financial stability for districts experiencing declining student numbers. Governor Polis advocates for shifting to a single-year enrollment count. Eliminating the averaging method could lead to abrupt funding decreases, making it challenging to manage budgets and maintain educational services. The current averaging system provides a buffer against sudden enrollment drops, allowing districts time to adjust their budgets and operations accordingly.

#### **Recently Released Studies on School Funding Adequacy**

In response to growing concerns about the inadequacy and inequity of Colorado's school funding system, two independent adequacy studies were commissioned by the state. These studies, conducted by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and Augenblick, Palaich and Associates (APA), provide a comprehensive analysis of Colorado's funding system. While each study employed different methodologies, both reached similar conclusions, identifying significant gaps in funding, equity, and resource distribution. Their findings emphasize the urgent need to align funding with the state's educational goals and provide a roadmap for improving the state's funding formula to better serve all students, particularly those with the greatest needs. Key recommendations can be found on the CSFP website and included:

1. **Increase funding to meet adequacy standards to address the \$3.5+ Billion funding gap**
2. **Strengthen equity-based funding adjustments**
3. **Support and invest in teachers**
4. **Address geographic and tax inequities**
5. **Improve predictability in school funding**

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## Eagle County RE 50 (2024-25) Student and District Membership Data

Students: 6,312

District Size: Rural

Special Education: 936 (15%)

Gifted and Talented: 582 (9%)

English Language Learner: 1,883 (30%)

Free and Reduced Lunch: 2,699 (43%)

Based on [CDE instructional program membership](#) and [FRL eligibility](#) data

## Eagle County RE 50 Current Funding Stats

2024-2025 Total Program Funding: \$78,695,009

Percentage of Per Pupil Funding from Local Share: 75%

Percentage of Per Pupil Funding from State Share: 25%

Percentage of Expenditures on Administration (School and District): 6%

## Various Scenarios for Comparison

New School Finance Formula (HB24-1448) Based on Current Statute

|                    | Current Total Program (2024-25) | Funding under HB24-1448 (2025-26) | Governor's Proposed Elimination of Averaging (2025-26) |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Eagle County RE 50 | \$78,695,009                    | \$80,656,973                      | \$78,967,410   |
| Statewide Impact   | \$ 9,773,152,749                | \$ 10,051,876,838                 | \$9,884,372,050  |

All scenarios are based on [Legislative Council](#) enrollment and demographic numbers as of January 30, 2025.

Impact based on Removal of Multi-year Averaging

|                    | Impact on Funding based on HB24-1448 (2025-26) | Impact Equivalent in Teachers (#) |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Eagle County RE 50 | -\$1,689,563                                   | -15                               |
| Statewide Impact   | - \$ 167,504,788                               | -2,346                            |

Teacher number calculations use [2023-24 CDE Average Teacher Salary](#) (Non-Charter) for Eagle County RE 50.

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## Funding with Full Implementation of Recommendations from the Adequacy Studies (Fall 2024 data)

| AIR Recommendation<br>(% Increase) | APA Recommendation<br>(% Increase) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 61%                                | 19%                                |

AIR and APA recommendations exclude transportation costs and were calculated using the final adequacy reports ([AIR](#) and [APA](#)).