May 13, 2026

Dear Superintendents and BOCES directors,

Today, I am sharing the following updates:

- Update on School Finance Act
- Update on school finance runs and process improvements
- Slides from May 12 Monthly Superintendent Call

Update on School Finance Act

Today, the Colorado Legislature passed the School Finance Act. Attached to this email, you will find a memo and the current CDE and Legislative Council staff draft runs based on all of the updated amendments as of May 13, 2026. The bill is now headed to the Governor for his signature.

Update on school finance runs and process improvements

I want to apologize for the frustration that last week's emails about school finance runs created for you and your teams. It is already difficult to plan for the coming school year with the state budget in flux until the spring, and our failure to provide you with timely and accurate information is unacceptable.

We have been staying in touch with CASE and the Colorado Rural Schools Alliance and working urgently within our team to identify meaningful process improvements for our School Finance work. These include:

- Establishing a routine school finance run schedule that includes scheduled briefings for superintendents, chief finance officers, and/or designees;
- Documenting and communicating our processes, procedures, and annual timelines;
- Standardizing the process for modeling legislative proposals (such as proposed legislation or amendments);
- Developing a standardized draft cover memo for school finance runs that is jointly reviewed with Legislative Council Staff that documents major assumptions and/or updates;
- Clarifying and strengthening communications around data collections and submissions - particular those with high-impact such as the October Count;
- Continuing to explore the viability of a Statewide Student Information Solution that could improve data quality, reduce manual reconciliation, and streamline student-level reporting and validation processes statewide; and

- Leveraging the new State Data Equals System to improve accuracy and efficiency. We anticipate that this will be in operation for the 2027-2028 school year.

We will continue to seek your feedback on how we can improve going forward.

Slides from May 12 Monthly Superintendents Call

Thank you to the folks who joined us yesterday morning for our monthly superintendent call. You can click here to access the meeting slides.