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## BB, April 11, 2014

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*BillBoard is a semimonthly newsletter on the latest developments at the state capitol that impact K–12 education. It is distributed during the legislative session to school board members, superintendents, legislators, governor's office, various statewide organizations, BOCES executive directors and the Colorado Council of School Board Attorneys.*

### In this issue ...

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- Thank you legislators!
- Has your board adopted a negative factor resolution?
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### School board voices unite to influence critical vote at capitol

This session we have been urging each of you to build relationships with your legislators in hopes that they would turn to you when called upon to vote on critical issues. Many of you have heeded that call and, as a result, we were able to influence an important change in the Student Success Act (HB 1292) when the House approved it on Wednesday morning. (Read Chalkbeat Colorado article [House gives strong majorities to school funding bills.](#))

As introduced, the Student Success Act earmarked the \$40 million generated for

**Thank you legislators!  
Your support is greatly  
appreciated!**

We want to give a special shout out to the Republican House Caucus for standing up and fighting to

BEST by the excise tax on retail marijuana sales for kindergarten facilities, technology and charter schools. Despite broad-based opposition to this earmarking, which completely eliminated the BEST board's control over those dollars, the House sponsors were content to leave the matter for the Senate without any debate or consideration by the House.

CASB was not willing to allow such an important issue to go unaddressed by the House and we worked closely with **Rep. Dore** and **Rep. Murray**, as well as other House Republicans, to bring an amendment that eliminated the earmarking and restored the BEST board's control over those funds. However, without the support of **Rep. Hamner** and at least six other Democrats, we knew the amendment would fail.

Last Friday, we asked many of you who have built new facilities with BEST funds to reach out to your democratic representatives and urge a 'yes' vote on the amendment. We were thrilled by the immediate action taken by board members and superintendents throughout the state and strongly encouraged by the positive response received from key Democrats who recognized the great value the BEST program provides to our schools and students.

**Join the 41 school boards that have adopted resolutions** calling upon the legislature to eliminate the negative factor and restore education funds! If your board adopts a resolution, please send a copy to your legislators and to [CASB](#)! Download a [sample resolution](#) here.

While just having the debate on the House floor would have been a victory, we are happy to report that the Dore amendment passed, though, due to strong pressure from the charter school lobby, the bill still requires that \$5 million be reserved for charter schools. CASB will explore the Senate's interest in restoring this \$5 million to BEST while, perhaps, drawing charter capital funds from another source.

In light of the progress in the House, CASB (as of press time) is maintaining its "work to amend" position on the Student Success Act, as we still have much work to do to eliminate burdensome transparency provisions, eliminate earmarking and increase current funding levels.

Thank you to all of you who acted on this and other critical issues this session. Your voices are being heard ... let's keep up the fight and bring home more victories (and more money) for our schools!

increase the negative factor buy down – without earmarks: **Rep. Dore, Rep. Holbert and Rep. DeGrosso**. And, we want to acknowledge the hard work of bill sponsors **Rep. Hamner and Rep. Murray**. Finally, we want to thank the Democrats who responded positively to our action alert and our members' phone calls: **Rep. Young, Rep. Moreno, Rep. Vigil, Rep. Mitsch Bush, Rep. McLachlan, Rep. Garcia and Rep. Becker**.

[Read CDE's latest district-by-district run illustrating impacts on funding.](#)

## Bills at a Glance

Track bills and learn about CASB's position on education-related legislation through [Colorado Capitol Watch](#).

### **HB 14-1204 FLEXIBILITY FOR RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**Rep. Wilson (R)**

As amended, the bill allows small rural districts with fewer than 1,000 students that are rated as accredited or accredited with distinction to submit performance plans every two years. The bill also allows such districts to work with BOCES to obtain the services of literacy specialists for implementation of the READ Act.

**CASB position:** Monitor

**Status:** Approved by House on third reading (April 9)

### **HB 14-1298 SCHOOL FINANCE**

**Reps. Hamner (D) and Buckner (D); Sens. Kerr (D) and Steadman (D)**

The bill sets the statewide base per pupil funding amount for the 2014-15 budget year at \$6,121, which is an inflationary increase of 2.8 percent, does not allow the negative factor to increase in 2015-16 from amount established in HB 1298, increases the amount of Colorado preschool slots by 5,000, increases the limit on bonded indebtedness under certain circumstances and increases annual BOCES appropriation to \$2 million.

**CASB position:** Monitor

**Status:** Approved by House on second reading (April 9)

### **SB 14-165 K-12 ACADEMIC GROWTH PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

**Sen. Kerr (D) and Johnston (D); Reps. Peniston (D) and Murray (R)**

This bill would give districts flexibility in how much, if any, to base teacher evaluations on student growth during the 2014-15 school year. Teachers would continue to be evaluated on professional practice and low evaluations would count toward possible loss of nonprobationary status.

**CASB position:** Monitor

**Status:** Approved by House Education Committee (April 9)

### **One last chance to join CASB for a Day at the Capitol!**

If you haven't yet attended a [CASB Day at the Capitol](#), or want to come again, we hope you'll join us next Wednesday, April 16, for our final day. You don't want to miss this great chance to connect with your legislators!

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