



2024 CASB Legislative Wrap Up



Colorado Association
of School Boards

2024 Legislative Wrap-Up | May 22

#CASBEvents

Learning Outcomes

- Overview of the 2024 Colorado General Assembly Legislative Session
- Highlight bills of interest to CASB members
- Additional CASB resources
 - Legislative Summary
 - Special Policy Update (SPU)
 - CASB Legal and Policy Information
- Answer Questions you may have



Norms

- Please rename yourself to include your school district
- In order to make it easier for everyone to hear please mute your microphone
- Please add your questions to the chat
- If you think of a question later please email Matt Cook mcook@casb.org





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Chair of the CASB Legislative Resolutions Committee

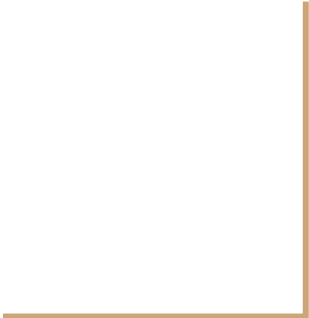
Lisa Webster
CASB Board of Directors
Region 8
**Summit School Board of
Education**





Rethinking LRC

May 22 2024



Purpose

- To provide background on the importance of CASB advocacy work
- To inform the CASB Membership of the "[Rethinking LRC](#)" work to date
- To get feedback via the [google form questionnaire](#) that this "Rethinking LRC" work is on the right track for CASB Membership

- Today is directionally informative – Not intended for a deep dive or troubleshooting – only clarifying questions
- This work will NOT impact Delegate Assembly this year

Background

- CASB's 3-Legged Advocacy Approach – Be at the table and/or playing defense
 - CASB Board of Directors
 - Authority through CASB Bylaws and Policy
 - CASB Legislative Resolutions Committee (LRC)
 - Authority through CASB Policy
 - Develop resolutions, with recommendations or rationales, for membership consideration at the Delegate Assembly
 - Review all member-provided legislative resolutions and, if desired, provide rationales or make recommendations for membership consideration at the Delegate Assembly
 - Advise the CASB staff during the course of the legislative session
 - Coordinate its focus with the CASB Federal Relations Network (FRN) and CASB's own state level legislative network
 - CASB Membership
 - Authority through CASB Bylaws
 - Voice through Delegate Assembly

Background (continued)

- CASB BOD Advocacy Role
 - Historical
 - Engagement has been BOD personality and staff compatibility dependent
 - Now
 - Desires more legislative process/advocacy engagement
- LRC Advocacy Role
 - Historical
 - Slowly moved from quarterly “sit and get” towards more active engagement
 - Now
 - Desires more legislative process/advocacy engagement
- “Rethinking LRC” Subcommittee of the LRC
 - Small group working towards potential options for improved effectiveness/efficiencies in terms of CASB Advocacy

Why Are We Going Through This “Rethinking” Exercise?

- Desired by CASB BOD as expressed at Jan 2024 Retreat

Strengthening LRC & FRN (excerpt from Jan 2024 CASB BOD Retreat Minutes)

“President McCrary led a discussion on improving the strengths of the Legislative Resolutions Committee (LRC) and the Federal Relations Network (FRN). Members discussed various strategies, including message testing and reviewing recurring issues. Concerns were raised about the timing of the delegate assembly and the need for effective communication between the LRC and the Board. The Board also discussed the importance of the Board streamlining the resolution review process.”

- To clarify roles, responsibilities, communication protocol, and timeline touch points
- To develop consistent use and understanding of terminology
- To improve processes and timelines for better efficiencies and effectiveness in order to further elevate advocacy efforts
- To improve CASB member communication, education, confidence, and engagement

Delegate Assembly Timeline

- Start with [Delegate Assembly timeline](#) adjustments to better align CASB advocacy preparations with General Assembly legislative timelines
 - Transition from linear “Fall Delegate Assembly to Wrap Up” mindset to continuous improvement advocacy cycles
- Evaluate communications between CASB BOD, LRC, LRC subcommittee and CASB Membership.
 - Use a periodic, comprehensive review process to inform any necessary adjustments in process, timelines and events.

Next Steps

- Continue to tighten Delegate Assembly timeline
 - Improve “in session” LRC meetings
 - Improve timeline for the resolution development process
 - Develop annual [CASB platform](#)
 - Develop “LRC CORE” concept, guidelines, and policy language
 - Develop more deliberate advocacy activity at CASB events (i.e., education opportunities to legislative/ballot action development/execution)
-
- Bring membership inputs back to CASB BOD and staff for further feedback/direction

CASB LRC Thoughts

- On the right track – Continue with effort
- On the right track with tweaks – Continue with effort
- Off the rails – Need extensive regroup with CASB BOD/Members – WHOA!

- [Feedback Questionnaire](#)





CASB ADVOCACY



Colorado Association
of School Boards

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THE CASB ADVOCACY PROCESS

A THREE LEGGED STOOL



THE LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

- Meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month during the Colorado General Assembly session
 - Any CASB member is welcome to attend the meetings
- Reviews the Member submitted Resolutions for the Delegate Assembly

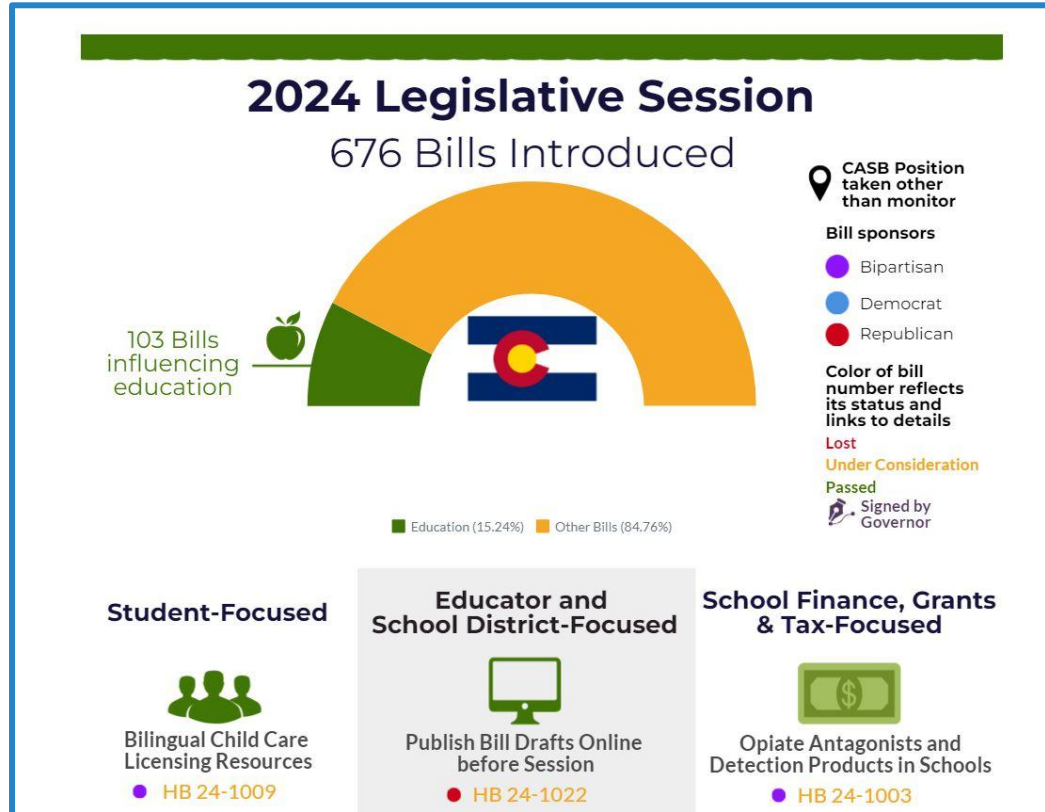


THE FEDERAL RELATIONS NETWORK

- CASB members appointed by Colorado Congressional District
- Advocates on Federal Issues
- School Legislative Tour



CASB ADVOCACY UNDER THE GOLD DOME



Bill tracker

<https://casb.memberclicks.net/legislative-bills>



What is a Lobbyist?

“A Lobbyist is someone you hire to protect you from someone you elected”

Dr. Jane Urschel



The 2024 Colorado General Assembly



The Colorado House of Representatives - 65 Members

Democrats

46

members

Republicans

19

members



The Colorado Senate - 35 Members

Democrats

Republicans

23

12

members

members



The Colorado General Assembly

30% of the General
Assembly has been
appointed and not Elected



THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

Most Powerful
Committee in the
General Assembly
because they control
the Budget

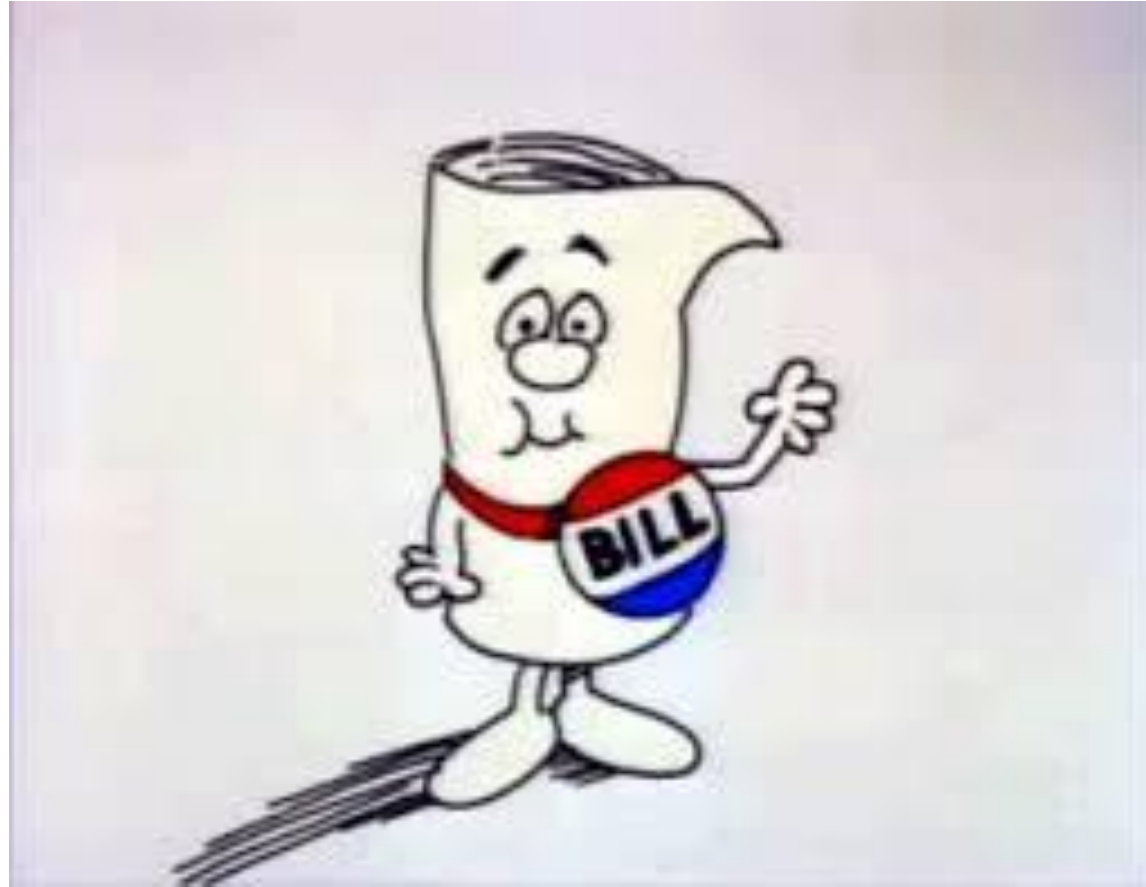


THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

6 members, 3 from each chamber

- 4 of the 6 are in their second year on JBC
- Chair Rep. Shannon Bird (D) – Coming into her own this session
- Vice chair Sen. Rachel Zenzinger (D) – Only veteran, pushes hard for priorities
- Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer (R) – Knowledgeable, aggressive, Polis critic
- Rep. Emily Sirota (D), brand-new Rep. Rick Taggart (R), Sen. Jeff Bridges (D)





BILLS CASB MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW



Delegate Assembly Resolutions

HB24-1087 - Special Education Endorsement

- *Delegate Resolution LR#37*
- requires the department of Education to establish an additional pathway for an educator to obtain an endorsement, in addition to what is currently in place.

HB24-1454 - Grace Period Noncompliance Digital

Accessibility

- *Delegate Resolution LR#19*



Delegate Assembly Resolutions

HB24-1305 - Changes for Concurrent Enrollment Students

- *Delegate Resolution LR#15*
- Expands the types of programs a pathways in technology early college high school (p-tech school) may focus on beyond science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. May cause minor update in policy if any at all.

HB24-1295 - Modifications to CORA

- *Delegate Resolution LR#32*
- Bill was **Postponed Indefinitely**



Delegate Assembly Resolutions

Issues of Local Control - CASB Standing Resolutions

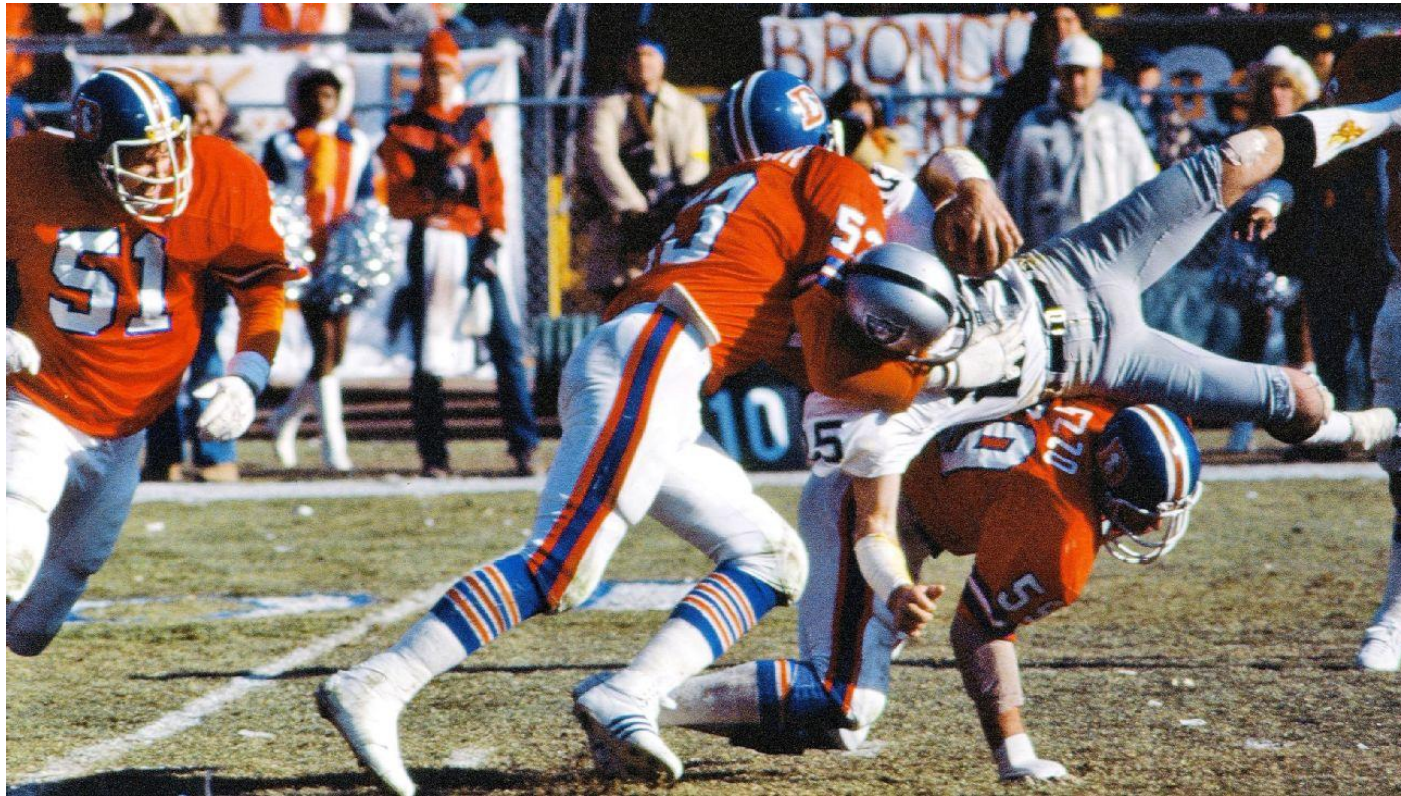
SB24-049 - Content of Library Materials

HB24-1310 - School Safety Measures

HB24-1307 - HVAC Improvements for Public
Schools



The Best Offense is a Good Defense



The Best Offense is a Good Defense

HB24-1167 - Prohibit Student Seclusion

HB24-1310 - School Safety Measures

SB24-049 - Content of Library Materials

SB24-088 - Entity Authorizes Charter School Bills

were **Postponed Indefinitely**



The Best Offense is a Good Defense

HB24-1307 - HVAC Improvements for Schools

HB24-1260 - Prohibition Against Employee
Discipline

Both bills **Vetoed** by Governor Polis



Legal & Policy



Bills to be Aware of ...

HB24-1003 - Opiate Antagonists and Detection Products in Schools

- Expands current law to allow school boards to adopt an optional policy regarding the acquisition and maintenance of opiate antagonists (narcans) and non-laboratory additive detection tests on school buses.
- Also allows students to possess and administer opiate antagonists on school grounds, a school bus, or at a school-sponsored event.



Bills to be Aware of ...

HB24-1017 - Bill of Rights for Foster Youth

- Grants foster youth certain rights - such as right to appropriate placement and care, and educational rights
- Creates mechanism to enforce rights, but does not impose obligations on a school

HB24-1216 - Supports for Youth in Juvenile Justice System

- Essentially, required IEP-type process for children in criminal justice system
- Lots of new requirements for districts surrounding assisting these students and providing them enrollment, credits, and graduation plan but may not require significant board policy change



Bills to be Aware of ...

HB24-1039 - Non Legal Name Changes

- Requires school boards to implement a written policy outlining how the district will honor a student's request to use a chosen name and may include a process for including a student's chosen name on school records.
- “Chosen name” means any name that a student requests to be known as that differs from the student's legal name, to reflect the student's gender identity.



Bills to be Aware of ...

HB24-1070 - Was **Postponed Indefinitely** but brought back as ...

HB24-1323 - School Graduation Attire

- Was approved to require Schools to allow graduates to wear certain items
- Will require update to Student Dress Code policy



Bills to be Aware of ...

HB24-1058 - Protect Privacy of Biological Data

- First in the nation bill
- Vendors/applications must comply

HB24-1164 - Free Menstrual Products for Students

- Phasing in requirement to provide menstrual products in school bathrooms. First deadline is June 30, 2025
- Small Rural Schools are exempt
- No policy changes likely, but will require staff efforts, purchasing menstrual products, and providing information to students



Bills to be Aware of ...

HB24-1147 - Candidate Election Deepfake Disclosures

- Creates new regulations and penalties for using artificial intelligence and deepfake generated content related to communications about candidates for elected office.
- Deepfakes are synthetic media that have been digitally manipulated to replace one's likeness convincingly with that of another.



Bills to be Aware of ...

HB24-1174 - Concealed Carry Permits & Training

- This bill makes changes to the current process for obtaining a concealed handgun permit by specifying requirements for initial and refresher training courses and requirements for county sheriffs.

SB24-131 - Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces

- Currently, firearms are disallowed in certain government buildings, schools, and transportation facilities. This bill adds additional “sensitive spaces” where individuals are prohibited from carrying firearms.



Bills to be Aware of: Personnel

HB24-1260 - Prohibition Against Employee Discipline

- Would have allowed employees to “opt out” of employee-sponsored discussions/meetings regarding “religious or political matters”
- Vetoed by Governor Polis due to its broadness - [Veto Letter](#)

SB24-232 - Public Employees' Workplace Protections

- Clarifies definitions from SB23-111 (Protection for Public Workers Act)



Bills to be Aware of: Harassment/Discrimination

HB24-1285 - Student Weight Based Bullying Prevention

- Adds that bullying is prohibited if it is directed toward a student on the basis of their weight, height, or body size; does NOT add weight, height, or body size as a state protected class

SB24-162 - Best Practices to Prevent Discrimination in Schools

- Updates requirements from SB23-296, which required a new policy protecting students from discrimination and harassment
- Pushes training deadline until the start of the 2025 school year, not this upcoming school year, and requires an outside organization to develop training schools can use for free

HB24-1451 - Include Hair Length in the CROWN Act

- Under Colorado law previously, discrimination on the basis of one's race includes discrimination on the basis of traits commonly or historically associated with race, such as hair texture, hair type, and protective hairstyles.
- The bill adds hair length to that list.



Bills to be Aware of ...

HB24-1136 - Healthier Social Media Use by Youth

- Requires CDE to develop a resource bank for curricula/materials addressing health effects of youth social media usage
- Requires social media platforms to display pop-up notifications for users under 18 after 1 hour of use or use between 10pm and 6am

HB24-1331 - Out-of-School Time Grant Program

- Creates grant program for eligible 501(c)(3)s to offer academic enrichment programming outside of school hours
- Must focus on reading, math, science, and/or language arts



Bills to be Aware of ...

HB24-1454 - Grace Period Noncompliance Digital Accessibility

- House Bill 21-1110 required state agencies to implement accessibility plans for their information technology systems by July 1, 2024, after which they are liable for discrimination claims. This bill extends a one-year grace period from liability if the noncompliant state agency creates a progress report demonstrating a good-faith effort towards meeting accessibility requirements



Bills to be Aware of ...

HB24-1044 - Allows PERA retirees to be hired by schools without impacting their retirement benefits

SB24-099 - Allows Superintendents and Principals to work after taking PERA retirement without impacting their benefits



Bills to be Aware of ...

SB24-132 - Evaluation Protections & Educators

- The bill extends the confidentiality of evaluation reports and related records to all teachers, principals, administrators, special service providers, and education support professionals.
- Current law states that evaluation reports for licensed personnel are confidential - the bill expands it to all educators.



Bills to be Aware of ...

Current law (HB19-1183) allows public schools to refuse to accept a donated Automated External Defibrillator (AED) if the donating party does not agree to take responsibility for training, installation and maintenance of the AED.

SB24-227 - Automated External Defibrillators in Public Schools

- The bill requires schools to accept donated AEDs and clarifies that schools will decide who will be trained and the timing and frequency of AED trainings.
- Will require a slight update to policy.



Bills to be Aware of ...

SB24-233 - Property Tax

- Introduced with only 3 days left in the session
- Attempt to head off ballot initiatives that lawmakers felt would be harmful
- School Districts are to be “held harmless” for any potential lost funding due to property tax reductions



Bills to be Aware of ...

SB24-233 - Property Tax

- School district assessment rate is set a 7.15% starting in 2025
- Residential property assessment rate for all other local government will be set at 6.7% starting in 2025



Bills to be Aware of ...

SB24-233 - Property Tax

- The bill [fiscal note of 5-7-24](#) has some great information and a full summary.



School Finance



School Finance

- **SB24-188 - Public School Finance (2024-25 School Year)**
 - Total Program Funding set at \$9.7 billion
 - Buy down of the Budget Stabilization Factor (BSF)
 - Base up approximately \$420 per student
 - Delay implementation of the new at-risk factor to the 2025-26 school year
 - \$15.7 million for mill levy equalization
 - Study of Facility Schools



School Finance

SB24-188 - Public School Finance - Rural Funding

- Small rural
 - \$470.00 x per pupil count, or at least \$100,000
 - a. Example #1 - 150 students ($150 \times \$470$)= \$70,500 - rounds up to \$100,00
 - Example #2 - 225 students ($250 \times \$470$)= \$105,750
- Large rural
 - \$177.00 x pupil count, or at least \$100,00
 - Example #1 350 students ($350 \times \$177$)=\$61,950- rounds up to \$100,000
 - Example #2 600 students ($600 \times \$177$)=106,200



School Finance

HB24-1448 - New Public School Finance Formula

District Total Program Funding =

Foundation funding base per pupil x funded pupil count
without online and extended high school

+ At-risk funding base per pupil x 0.25 or 0.32 x
at-risk student count

+ English Language Learner (ELL) funding base per pupil x
0.25 x ELL student count



School Finance

HB24-1448 - New Public School Finance Formula

District Total Program Funding =

+ Special education funding base per pupil \times 0.25 \times
special education student count

+ Cost of living funding base per pupil \times cost of living
factor \times funded pupil count without online/extended high
school

+ Size funding base per pupil \times size factor \times funded
pupil count without online and extended high school



School Finance

HB24-1448 - New Public School Finance Formula

District Total Program Funding =

+ Locale funding (base per pupil x locale factor x funded pupil count without online and extended high school)

+ \$100,000 for some districts

+ Online and extended high school funding flat per pupil rate x online and extended high school count



School Finance

HB24-1448 - New Public School Finance Formula

District Total Program Funding =

+ Locale funding (base per pupil x locale factor x funded pupil count without online and extended high school)

+ \$100,000 for some districts

+ Online and extended high school funding flat per pupil rate x online and extended high school count



School Finance

HB24-1448 - New Public School Finance Formula

- There is a six year phase in of the new formula
- Districts receiving the greater of 0.5% increase or what is calculated under the new formula until the phase in period is completed.
- The new formula takes full effect for the 2030-31 school year



School Finance

HB24-1448 - New Public School Finance Formula

- The bill has “circuit breakers” the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) can use to slow down or halt the implementation if certain economic conditions arises
- Boosts to \$150 million the amount of funds available for Certificates of Participation starting in 2024-25



School Finance

HB24-1448 - New Public School Finance Formula

- The bill [fiscal note of 5-4-24](#) has more details



Universal School Meals

HB24-1390 - School Food Programs
will cover a shortfall in the Colorado Healthy School Meals for All program. Not a permanent solution



Immigrant Students

HB24-1389 - School Funding for 2023-24 for New Arrival Students

\$24 million to help with the costs associated with educating these students in the current school year.



What is Next ...



What is Next ...

- Presidential Election
- Colorado Congressional Districts with “open” seats
 - CD#3
 - CD#4
 - CD#5
- The Colorado House seats up for election or re-election
- Approximately one third of the Colorado Senate seats are up



What is Next ...

- Ballot Questions
 - Property Taxes
 - Initiative #50 - Caps property tax growth at 4% per year
 - Already approved for the November ballot



What is Next ...

- Ballot Questions
 - Property Taxes
 - Question #108 - permanently set assessment rates at:
 - 5.7% for residential properties
 - 24% for non-residential properties
 - Approved for signature gathering



CASB Advocacy

- CASB Delegate Assembly
 - Saturday October 19, 2024 in Pueblo
 - Resolution Deadline August 29, 2024
 - Resolution submittal form is open on the [CASB Website](#)
- Legislative Resolutions Committee
- Federal Relations Network



CASB Professional Development

- CASB Staff Board Training and Facilitation
- CASB Boardmanship Academies
- CASB Fall Conference
- CASB 85th Annual Conference



CASB ADVOCACY

- Text the letters CASB to 50457
- You will receive a message back to “opt-in” to receive text messages



CASB RESOURCES

- Legislative Summary - summer of 2024
- Special Policy Updates - scheduled regularly throughout the year
- Serve on the CASB Legislative Resolutions Committee or the Federal Relations Network



QUESTIONS





gratitude

Thank You to our members!

