

PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS



Supporting Our K-12 Schools

Over the years, Colorado Democrats have driven record-breaking funding to Colorado's K-12 public schools. Since the 2018-2019 school year, total program funding has increased by more than \$3 billion, and the per-pupil funding has increased from \$8,123 to \$11,863 ([HB25-1320](#)). The 2025 School Finance Act sustainably drives \$256 million more to K-12 public schools and boosts per-pupil funding by more than \$400. Importantly, the 2025 School Finance Act implements the new, student-centered funding formula to drive resources to the students who need it the most and creates the Kids Matter Fund to protect per-pupil funding and programs like special education in future years ([HB25-1320](#)).

The legislature is also making sure our students can thrive in public schools by limiting distractions caused by cell phones ([HB25-1135](#)), integrating early identification and support for students with dyslexia ([SB25-200](#)), and establishing Black history education standards ([HB25-1149](#)).

The Freedom to Read Act creates important safeguards against book bans in public school libraries and ensures our students have access to age-appropriate literature ([SB25-063](#)). This year's budget fully funds the voter-approved Healthy School Meals for All program through 2025 ([SB25-206](#)), and we referred two ballot measures asking voters to weigh in on the continuation of this program ([HB25-1274](#)).



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Expanding Access to Higher Education and Building Stronger Workforce Pathways

To make higher education more affordable and accessible, the 2025-2026 budget caps tuition increases for in-state students at 3.5 percent ([SB25-206](#)). To align Colorado with upcoming NCAA rules, colleges must compensate their student athletes for the use of their name, image and likeness ([HB25-1041](#)).

Colorado's teacher shortage is affecting school districts statewide, and a new law expands educator pathways and reduces excessive barriers to becoming a teacher ([SB25-154](#)). Another law breaks down barriers for students wanting to pursue an associate's degree while participating in an apprenticeship program ([HB25-1221](#)). To increase access to veterinary care, a new law would eliminate the cap on student enrollment for CSU's College of Veterinary Medicine ([HB25-1131](#)).

Saving Students' Lives

To combat fatal youth overdoses in our schools and save lives, new laws will standardize drug overdose education and prevention for high schools and improve access to opioid antagonists, such as Naloxone ([HB25-1293](#)) ([SB25-164](#)).

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