

Support \$30 Million For Rural Schools!

Colorado's 147 Rural school districts are a cornerstone of our state's K-12 system. Each Rural school is unique with regard to specific strengths and challenges but virtually all Rural schools are facing critical workforce shortages and challenging student demographics while working hard to increase behavioral health supports, offer additional concurrent enrollment courses and improve work-based learning and other advanced and alternative opportunities for students.

State Budget Cuts Create a Disproportionate Funding Gap for Rural Schools

The Budget Stabilization Factor negatively impacts rural and small rural districts more on a per student basis than it impacts large, metro districts. This difference can be almost double for some districts or more than \$500 per pupil – that adds up! Because Rural districts do not benefit from economies of scale and operate with small staffs and budgets, they have less capacity to absorb these cuts.

Per Pupil Funding (PPR) Across Colorado¹

	Sample Large Metro District	Sample Median CO District	Sample Small Rural District	Sample CO's Smallest Districts
	<i>24,000-79,000 students</i>	<i>About 575 Students</i>	<i>About 350 Students</i>	<i>About 100-200 Students</i>
PPR	\$8,600	\$9,600	\$10,800	\$15,000
PPR with cuts	\$7,851	\$8,764	\$ 9,860	\$13,695
PPR lost	\$ 749	\$ 836	\$ 940	\$ 1,305

Additional Funding Closes the Gap, But the Need is Still Great

Rural schools are grateful to the General Assembly for recognizing the unique challenges they face by allocating \$30 million during the last two legislative sessions. The additional money has had an immense impact on the existing funding gap and has helped Rural schools in a variety of ways including:

- Teacher recruitment and retention stipends
- Aging bus fleets
- Expensive HVAC systems
- Safety and security
- Teacher training
- Deferred maintenance
- Behavioral health trainings and supports
- Special needs equipment
- Technology upgrades

Even with the State's wise investment in Rural schools, there remains an endless list of one-time costs that are critical to the success of students in rural Colorado. The Rural funds allow districts to close existing opportunity gaps by addressing these one-time costs and freeing up important General Fund dollars to be used for teacher salary increases and student programming. The existing gap will continue to grow if the Rural funding is not allocated this session.²

In Colorado, the quality of a student's education should not depend on their zip code.

PLEASE SUPPORT RURAL FUNDING!

¹ Based on 2018-19 Funding Calculation Worksheet found on CDE website: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/publicschoolfinanceactof1994-fy2018-19>

² Under the current K-12 budget package, Rural districts will receive, on average, a **2.35% increase** over last year's budget while non-rural districts will receive, on average, a **5.82% increase**. Calculations based on 2018-19 Total Program and Rural Funding allocations found on CDE website: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/publicschoolfinanceactof1994-fy2018-19>. 2019-20 numbers taken from Fiscal Note for HB 19-1242 : https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019A/bills/fn/2019a_hb1262_00.pdf