



DCTA Slate

Colorado State of Education Report



Last week, the Colorado Education Association released their annual State of Education Report. This report centers the sentiments and experiences of our 39,000 member educators across Colorado (including DCTA members) and illustrates the ways in which Colorado's systemic disinvestment affects every part of our educators' and students' lives. It finds that Colorado's education system is in a state of crisis due to lack of funding, respect and school safety.

[Read the full report here >](#)

Lobby Days for Public Education Funding on 2/9/23 and 3/9/23

We are partnering with fellow Colorado Education Association members at the legislature to fight for a fully funded public education system by buying down the budget stabilization factor to zero and fully funding education through Colorado's revenue increases. **Buying down the budget stabilization factor at the state level would mean a full cost of living increase for Denver educators.**

This fight is not possible without the voices of educators across the state, which is why we are hosting lobby days with legislatures on Thursday, February 9th and Thursday, March 9th. Members who participate in lobby days will receive a DCTA leave day. Please fill out the form below if you are interested in participating.

[Sign up here >](#)

Sign the Petition and tell Legislators to Fully Fund Public Education

While Colorado is rated as having one of the top economies in this nation for several years running, our state ranks as one of the lowest when it comes to K-12 education funding. Our per pupil funding is \$3,087 below the national average. The National

Education Association found that Colorado ranked 48th for starting pay in 2021, making it difficult to attract and retain educators. Sign the petition and ask legislatures to:

1. Completely buy down the BS Factor to \$0, fully funding our schools to the amount required by the constitution, and;
2. Identify and implement long-term systemic solutions to sustainably and adequately fund our public schools.

[Sign the petition >](#)

Innovation Voting Process

This year, the DCTA bargaining team added [Article 30 - Innovation](#) to our collective bargaining agreement to ensure that educators have more voice when within the innovation plan development process. This article allows for the DCTA Association Representative (or a liaison elected by their peers) to sit on the innovation plan development committee. This process has allowed educators to have more voice throughout the process, whether schools decided to continue as an innovation school or revert to the traditional school model.

Planning on Retiring this Year?

If you are retiring from DPS this spring, we invite you to continue your public education advocacy as a member of DCTA Retired! As a DCTA Retired member, your membership connects you to other committed peers, provides statewide and national opportunities to engage, and adds your voice to the collective voice in support of Colorado public schools and its children. Join your colleagues in advocating for the retirement security you deserve. Your eligibility for NEA Member Benefits programs will continue, and you can continue to support your colleagues, students, and public education.

[Join DCTA Retired Here >](#)

Did you know that DCTA members are eligible for a \$1,200 early retirement stipend if you notify the district before February 1st and still complete the school year? To get your stipend, please [fill out this form](#).

New Budget Guidance Manual and CSC Meetings

The collaborative school committee (CSC) is a school based group that allows educators, school leaders, families and communities to provide feedback on important school decisions including how schools utilize their budgets for staffing. Many schools are experiencing substantial budget cuts for the 23-24 school year and the CSC will need to make decisions about staffing for the future.

Below is the link to the new budget guidance document. It includes the timeline for CSCs to set priorities, deadlines for reductions in buildings, as well as in-building bidding for positions at traditional schools. Please familiarize yourself with the considerations principals use when determining budgetary decisions for the upcoming school year (such as allocations for GT, MLE, Nurses, Specials, ECE, etc.).

Helpful Resources:

- [DPS Budget Guidance Manual](#)
- [DPS Budget Guidance Webpage](#)
- [Spring Staffing Handbook](#)

Solidarity with Striking Educators in the UK

Over 100,000 educators in England and Wales are striking for pay raises to keep up with inflation. Show solidarity with these educators by signing their fair pay petition below!

[Sign the petition >](#)



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1500 Grant St # 200, Denver, CO 80203