

Dear Legislators:

As former Littleton Public Schools Board of Education directors, we encourage you to pass **HB18-1232. It is just good policy.**

Many things have changed in education in Colorado, and the nation, since the passage of Colorado's 1994 School Finance Act. The 1994 funding formula served us well for many years, but it is now nearly 25 years old. Considering the numerous unfunded mandates passed since that time and the tremendous growth in our state, we believe the 1994 law does not address the demographic shifts or the needs of Colorado's students in 2018 and beyond.

- The 1994 formula does not address the significant expansion of programmatic issues that schools are expected to provide
- The 1994 formula does little to account for students who are identified as gifted and talented and as English language learners
- Currently, Special Education students are funded far below the amount established through the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- The current formula does not account for the unprecedented needs of students in the area of mental health.

The 1994 formula is neither adequate nor equitable.

The proposed formula in **HB18-1232** addresses all of the issues listed above without impacting the General Fund. With the expertise of Colorado's very capable school superintendents, this bill provides a roadmap for distributing funds once those adequate funds become available. Superintendents are the experts. They are closest to the schools who are on the front lines. They are responsible for grappling with how funds are best applied to meet the needs of their respective school districts and communities.

We realize the Interim Committee on School Finance is only mid-way through its significant work. We value and appreciate that the committee has set high goals. To that end, we believe the superintendents' work will help the Interim Committee achieve its lofty goals by helping with one piece of the school finance puzzle.

This is about putting good policy into place—policy that supports high quality public education for Colorado's 900,000 students. Thank you for your support of **HB18-1232**.

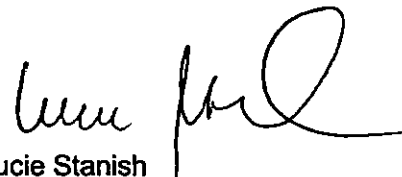
Sincerely,




Bob Colwell  
Past President, 2005-2013



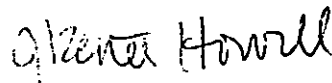
Mary McGlone  
Past President, 1995-2005



Lucie Stanish  
Past President, 2007-2015



Mary Nichols  
Secretary, 2007-2015



Renee Howell  
Vice President, 2005-2013



Sue Chandler  
Secretary, 2005-2013

On Behalf of  
Tracie Rainey  
Vice-President, 1997-2005