COLORADO BOCES ASSOCIATION

Joining Forces to Enrich Educational Opportunities for Students

1/26/2026

2025-2026 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
COLORADO BOCES ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Continue to provide HB 1345 funds to BOCES to provide instructional support and technical assistance in partnership with school districts to improve student achievement. Increase the allocation to meet annual inflation increases.

- CBA supports legislation and policy modifications to create incentives to enter the teaching and administrative profession and remain in the education field in Colorado.

TEACHERS/SPECIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS/PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

- Expand the funding and number of stipends for Alternative Teacher License candidates.

- Provide stipends to support Special Education Service Providers to become licensed.

- Provide stipends to support the Alternative Licensure Programs for Principals in rural school districts.

FUNDING

- Full funding for pre-school, full-day kindergarten, ELL and special education to ensure that all children have the proper educational foundation for success.

- Provide funding to school districts and BOCES to address the mental (behavioral) issues that prevent students from being successful in school.

- Support the dedication of revenue from marijuana sales to provide mental health support for students, teachers and staff.

- Increase state funding for Special Education to meet the needs of the special education students throughout Colorado.

- Increase state funding for expanded affordable broadband services to rural schools and communities.

- Increase funding for the Colorado Empowered Learning Program to allow expansion of the very successful state-supported Supplemental Online Program through CDLS for students. This program is vital for all districts (especially small and rural districts).

- Continue to fund professional development (I Learn Collaborative).

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- CBA encourages the Colorado General Assembly to continue and expand funding for social emotional health support for P-12 school age youth and staff.

- CBA does not support public tax dollars being used by the new Department of Early Childhood Education to fund private preschools or daycares.

- Increase state funding for gifted and talented education.

- Increase state funding for career and technical education.

- CBA supports full funding of the new School Finance Act for all school districts.

OTHER STATE PRIORITIES

- CBA urges the Colorado Department of Education to provide maximum flexibility for teacher licensure and seek additional flexibility from the State Legislature.

- CBA supports state financial incentives for local school districts to share services with other districts or BOCES to increase effectiveness and efficiency.

- CBA supports revising SB-191 evaluation requirements to allow evaluating non probationary teachers every three years.

- CBA supports the continuation and expansion of the BEST program.

- CBA supports the expansion of Career & Technical education to prepare students for today's & the future workforce.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Support full funding for all federally mandated programs with an emphasis on IDEA, Title I and Title IV.

- CBA urges Congress to utilize the federal budgeting process to fund education rather than passing Continuing Resolutions (CR) that do not meet the increasing costs of educational programs.

- Continue funding school based mental health services along with addressing the critical shortage of school based mental health professionals.

- Monitor the implementation of the Federal Career and Technical Education Act to provide maximum flexibility to school districts (especially rural districts).

- Support the continued expansion of the E-Rate program to benefit all schools/BOCES (especially rural districts and BOCES). Support a permanent exemption of the E-Rate program from the Federal Anti-Deficiency Act.

- Support making the emergency connectivity fund permanent with additional funding to meet current and future needs.

- Support a permanent authorization (multiple year) of the Secure Rural Schools Act.

- Oppose the current administration dismantling of the Federal Department of Education.

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- Urge Congress to fully fund all federal loan and loan forgiveness programs for teachers, administrators, and special service providers to support educators in rural and small rural districts to address the critical teacher, administrator, and special service provider shortages.

- CBA opposes any effort to direct federal public dollars to private education. CBA opposes all vouchers and privatization schemes.

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