

Funding in DCSD

The Douglas County School District is primarily funded through a formula set by the State of Colorado.

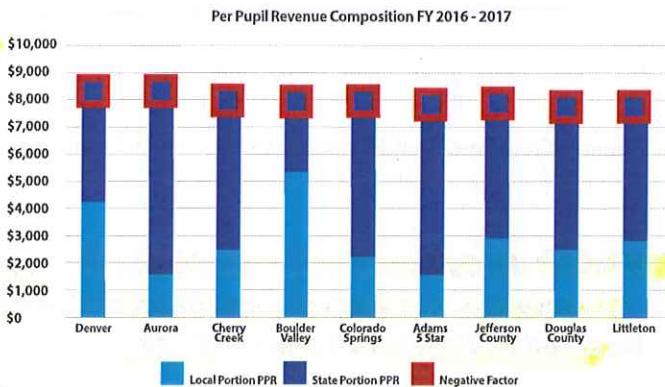
Per Pupil Funding is determined by the state

The state first determines how much money an average Colorado student should receive.

On the whole, Colorado school districts are funded at a similar level. Those with higher at-risk or special education populations receive a bit more per pupil funding.

Negative Factor

Unfortunately, the state is unable to fund schools at the level it has set, so the state has imposed a negative factor against all Colorado school districts, diminishing the amount of money everyone receives.



The October Count determines how much money DCSD receives through the State's School Finance Act

Every October, the Colorado Department of Education asks schools to count their students on a specific day. Funding is then determined utilizing this number.

What about the marijuana money?

The relatively small proceeds from marijuana taxes are being spread across many school districts across the state to build and improve school facilities through a program called BEST. DCSD schools received one BEST grant in 2009-10 and has not been eligible since then.

The School Finance Act is actually paid by both the state general fund and local district residents

The state and the residents of Douglas County share the cost of educating our students.

The resident's portion is paid through property taxes. When assessed values increase, the state simply diminishes its share – keeping the District's funding flat, at the amount set by its formula.



Our schools DO NOT BENEFIT from increased assessed values or growth; if schools get more local tax revenue, we get LESS state revenues.

The majority of the district's costs, including everything from paying teachers to supplies in the classroom to the upkeep of our buildings and even the utility bills are paid through the state's funding formula.

Voters can elect to provide additional funding

Bonds and mill levy overrides provide school districts financial resources over and above those provided by the state's funding formula, helping to address needs not funded through the School Finance Act primarily due to the negative factor. DCSD's portion of the negative factor exceeds \$60 million each year.

Mill Levy Overrides

These funds are generally used for operational needs, such as salaries and programming.

Bonds

By state law, bonds may only be used by a school district to finance the capital needs of the district, like new school buildings, repairs, technology or school busses.

WE ARE FACING A **serious funding challenge**

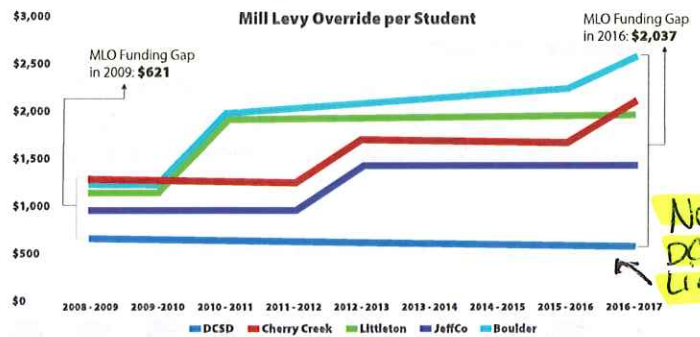
The Douglas County School District has taken measures, including instituting a **zero-based budgeting process**, to ensure that as much money as possible is being sent to our schools to educate students.

DCSD, however, does not have the money it needs to meet three crucial needs.

DCSD must address teacher pay to retain and attract the best teachers for our students

requiring

Colorado and much of the nation is facing a significant shortage in teachers. As a result there is a lot of competition to get the best educators for our students, and the Douglas County School District is currently at a great disadvantage when it comes to recruitment. Over the past few years, voters have approved mill levy overrides for Cherry Creek, Denver, Littleton and Boulder Valley school districts. Douglas County School District has not passed a ballot issue since 2006.



- Cherry Creek and Boulder are at 25%*
- DCSD is at 7%

*Mill Levy Override is capped at 25% of total program



FACT: If DCSD's mill levy override was the same as Cherry Creek on a per student basis, that would be about \$100 MILLION more each year.

Douglas County must maintain excellent programming to prepare students for their futures

Solid career and technical education offerings, as well as concurrent enrollment opportunities, allow our students to explore potential career pathways and prepare them for the college or vocation of their choice.

We also know that students need art, music and physical education -- in addition to the core subjects of writing, reading, science and math to build a strong foundation for learning and success.

Aging buildings & projected growth require additional capital investment.

DCSD has great facilities, but they are aging. Additional investment is needed to ensure our buildings continue to be safe and support daily learning.

Meanwhile, a significant number of developments have been approved in Douglas County, requiring new neighborhood schools. We need to start planning for that now.

FACT: When Douglas County is fully built out, the district is projected to double its number of feeders from nine to 18.