



Governing Schools



Facilities Issues

Adams 12 Five Star Schools believes a district's curriculum should be determined by the local board of education, not by state statute, as long as the district meets state accreditation requirements. Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports providing locally elected school boards with authority to take action in the best interest of the district, unless such action is prohibited by law. We believe the local school board is accountable to district patrons through the electoral process and must be the final authority for local management decisions regarding student achievement, educational programs, accountability, expenditures and personnel. We further believe that local boards of education must retain sufficient flexibility to approve, continue or discontinue charter schools and local choice options.

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that reinforces the responsibility and accountability of the locally elected school board. We believe local boards of education are responsible for the organization of the learning environment, the implementation of curriculum, the configuration of school facilities, staffing and necessary programs which create a safe, secure and academically rich opportunity for all of its students.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools believes school board representatives should be included in any state-initiated planning, advisory or decision-making process that affects public education.

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports additional appropriations to address the disparity among school districts in the ability to pay for capital facilities as it relates to health, safety and growth issues so all Colorado children have access to adequate facilities.

2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR	
Student Demographics	Student Numbers
White 62.68%	Student enrollment 42,062
Hispanic 32.48%	Students with Limited English proficiency 6,306
Asian 2.31%	Languages spoken in the Five Star District 74
African-American 1.18%	Students traveling to school by bus 8,000
Native American 0.47%	Students served through special education 3,767
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander 0.10%	Students on free or reduced priced lunch 14,037
Two or More Ethnicities 0.80%	
Enrollment Growth 2004-2005 to 2010-2011 Enrollment Growth: 5,664	

*Strong Schools,
Strong Communities*

The Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education will actively seek to influence legislation to promote policies that adequately fund schools, to promote school improvement and to preserve local governance.



Strong Schools, Strong Communities

Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education

FUNDING SCHOOLS IMPROVING SCHOOLS GOVERNING SCHOOLS FACILITY ISSUES



Funding Schools for Student Achievement

The higher education level a student attains improves virtually every indicator of social and economic well-being, and is especially critical in response to growing international competition. Adams 12 Five Star Schools believes educational opportunity should be a function of the taxable wealth of the state, not the taxing ability of a local district. Differences in educational expenditures should be based on the educational needs of each district's students. The state's funding formula should be adequate to provide a suitable level of funding for all students and districts to achieve expected outcomes, and adjusted annually to reflect the voters' intent of Amendment 23 which is to increase public education funding at a rate of inflation plus 1 percent annually.

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports the state using its major revenue sources including sales, income and property taxes, to achieve a balanced and equitable mix of revenues that are suitable to support public services, including funding for quality education. Taxes should be broadly based to ensure all Coloradans share fairly in the cost of public services.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools opposes legislation that would modify "total program" funding of K-12 public education through the Colorado School Finance Act by adjusting the factors which would reduce funding for school districts.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports increased reimbursement levels for categorical programs including, but not limited to, special education, transportation and vocational education. The Five Star District supports beginning the funding of a technology categorical program to support districts' technology needs resulting from increased data requirements by the State and increased instructional technology needs for academic achievement.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools opposes any state or federal legislation that diverts public funds for nonpublic schools through a tax credit, voucher system or any other such plan that is not within the control and discretion of local boards of education.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools opposes any state or federal mandate that does not include adequate funding for local school districts to effectively implement new requirements. The Five Star District supports deregulation or relaxing non-essential state reporting and other administrative requirements that would free-up more time and resources at the school and local district level.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that would financially assist districts when students are placed in group homes, foster homes or detention facilities within their boundaries.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that increases the pool of funds available for reimbursement to districts with students with severe special needs or other high levels of excess costs.
- Based on the extensive research indicating the importance of early childhood programs, Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports additional funds for the Colorado Preschool Project and full-day kindergarten programs.



Improving Schools

Adams 12 Five Star Schools affirms the need for every school to demonstrate continuous improvement and be accountable in meaningful and useful ways to its owners.

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that improves the equity in how student assessments are used as required by Colorado Accountability Measures and the No Child Left Behind law.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that ensures all educational organizations receiving public funds to educate students, whether public, private or parochial, meet the requirements of state accountability, accreditation and assessment standards.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that provides state funding for increased teacher quality and staff development.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports efforts to increase the appropriate use and availability of educational technology in public schools including funding for equipment, software, hardware, technical support and telecommunications.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools opposes the establishment or funding of schools and programs that are not required to serve all students or meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. All publicly supported schools must be accountable to local communities through their locally elected school boards.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools believes fundamental changes must be made in the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act and its implementation in Colorado. We believe school districts should be allowed sufficient time for state-mandated improvement plans to take hold before applying sanctions. Sanctions should not be applied if they undermine existing effective reform efforts. Sanctions that do not have a consistent record of success should be replaced with interventions that enable schools to make changes that result in improved student achievement.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools opposes legislation to establish mandatory statewide uniform high school graduation requirements. However, we do support legislation that sets statewide high school graduation standards clearly articulating what students will know, understand and be able to do as long as local school districts determine how such standards are achieved and reported.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation and/or executive orders that encourage effective family—school partnerships and foster parent involvement to increase student achievement.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools believes that public schools choice programs can offer enhanced opportunities for students to excel. However, such programs must be subject to local control and must demonstrate success if they are to be continued.