

2017 Legislative Platform

Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education



Adams 12 Five Star Schools will actively seek to influence legislation to preserve local governance, to create more flexibility from state mandates, to promote policies that adequately fund schools, to support accountability for student success and to support parental involvement.



Legislative Principles

Local Control

Preserve the responsibility, fiduciary role and authority of locally-elected school boards for the operations and decisions of their local schools and districts. The state's role should be to encourage and recommend but not to mandate changes within local schools. Decisions are best made by locally-elected school board members whose sole responsibility is the education of the community's children.

Fewer Regulations and Streamlined Reporting

Due to the cuts in funding for education and to allow maximum effectiveness with the funds available, the removal and/or flexibility of regulations on funding and program mandates would allow local school boards to better act in the best interest of their students, parents and community. Streamlined and cost-effective monitoring and reporting for accountability of regulations must be a primary consideration in legislation.

Increase Funding

As local school boards work to improve and transform the educational systems in schools, it is vital to increase funding for operations, capital construction, infrastructure and maintenance so students can benefit from quality environments, tools and highly-effective personnel needed to facilitate learning.

Accountability for Student Success

Adams 12 Five Star Schools affirms the need for every district and school to demonstrate continuous improvement and be accountable in meaningful and useful ways to its students, their parents and the broader community.

Parental Responsibility and Involvement

Parents are vital to the successful education of children. Their responsibility and involvement for their child's education must be encouraged and supported at all levels of the educational system. Among these are decisions regarding: curriculum, sexual health, character development, budget priorities, sports, extracurricular activities, and school safety and security.

Legislative Positions

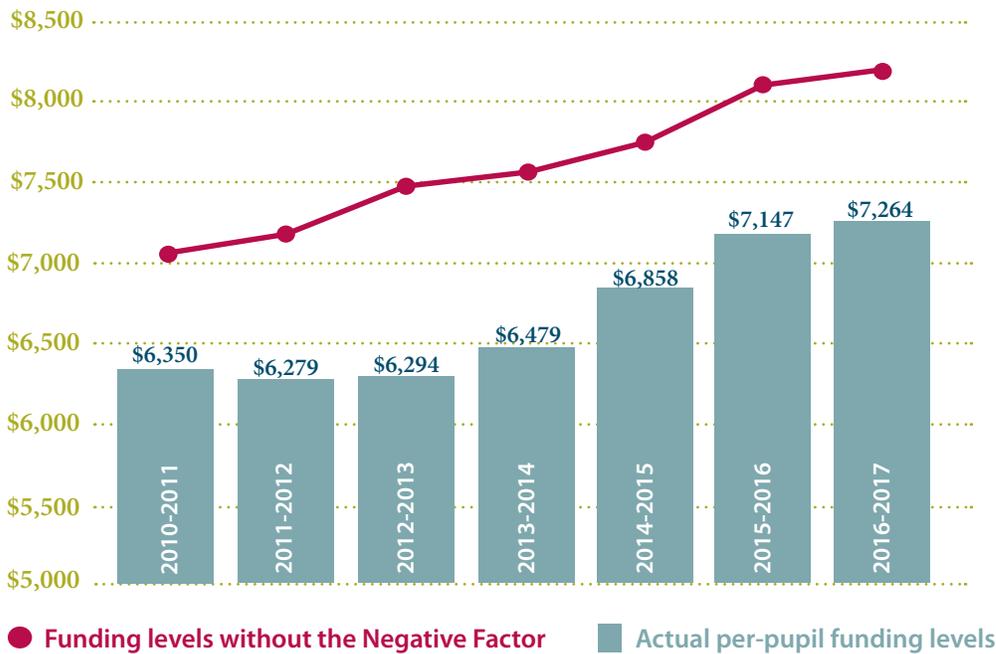
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that restores ongoing K-12 funding that was lost during years with state budget shortfalls. Adams 12 Five Star Schools advocates for allocating K-12 funding such that the negative factor does not grow.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools opposes any state or federal legislation that imposes unfunded mandates.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that reduces the amount of time dedicated to state testing while maintaining reliable, high-quality data that measures the academic growth of students over time. Testing must provide valuable and timely feedback for use in student instructional planning.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that addresses the local funding inequities that exist between districts with a higher property tax base (high assessed valuation) and those with a lower property tax base.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools opposes any state or federal mandate for preschool and full-day kindergarten education without funds to cover costs associated with such programs. Costs include capital construction, transportation and others. However, it is a priority of the Five Star District to offer preschool and full-day kindergarten education as local communities and the school boards deem financially responsible. The Five Star District fully supports the state making funds available for voluntary participation.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that improves the relationship, in academic accountability and fiscal responsibility, between charter schools and their authorizing public school districts. Adams 12 Five Star Schools does not support the sharing of its bond and mill levy overrides with charter schools not authorized by the Five Star District.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools requests that any legislation contemplating changes to tax increment financing (TIF) law consider the impact on school bond and mill levy override rates.



Negative Factor Impact

The impact of the Negative Factor on the Five Star District has been substantial and has resulted in more than \$256 million in decreased funding from 2010-2011 through 2015-2016. The School Finance Act for the 2016-2017 school year has the Negative Factor at 11.5 percent. This amounts to \$945 less per student.

Total Program Funding Per-Pupil Comparison



Our Students*

39,287
Total students enrolled

35,870 District **3,417** Charter

15,006 (39.3%)
Students on free or reduced price lunch

7,465
Students with limited English proficiency

3,993
Students served through special education

3,363
Students participating in Gifted & Talented Program

8,000
Students traveling to school by bus

50.87%
White

38.68%
Hispanic

5.16%
Asian

2.02%
African-American

0.66%
Native American

0.12%
Native Hawaiian/
Pacific Islander

2.48%
Two or more ethnicities

* Source: Colorado Department of Education (CDE) 2015 Pupil Membership Data. Does not include Charter School Institute students.

Five Star Proud

Academic Growth

Strong student achievement in the 2015-2016 school year led to the Five Star District being accredited as a Performance District for the first time since the state began giving school and district accountability ratings in 2010.

Innovation

The Five Star District is the first in the metro Denver area to offer Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) at Northglenn High School with the 2016-2017 inaugural class.

Graduation

Adams 12 Five Star Schools outpaced the state's graduation rate and narrowed the minority gaps in 2016. The Class of 2016's graduation rate was 81.9 percent for the district's non-charter high schools, increasing the district's four-year, on-time graduation rate by more than nine percent since 2010. Hispanic graduation rates also jumped to 75.6 percent in 2016 from 61.5 percent in 2010.

Reading Intervention

Through the READ Act, the Five Star District funded reading interventionists at 11 schools, providing support to 172 kindergarten students during the 2015-2016 school year. Of these students, 77 percent of them met the PALS Spring Benchmark indicating they no longer had a significant reading deficiency or needed a READ plan. Those gains were sustained as those kindergartners returned this fall as first-graders. Six of the 11 schools which had an interventionist saw the lowest percentage of first-grade students identified with a significant reading deficiency in four years since the READ Act was implemented.

Counselor Corps

For the 2015-2016 school year, Colorado's School Counselor Corps Grant Program (SCCGP) funded five school counselors and a quarter school counselor liaison support at five middle schools across the Five Star District. Four out of the five grant-funded middle schools took eighth-grade students to visit a college campus and all students attended the Adams County Career Expo. Continuing the district's implementation of the grades 6-12 Counseling Curriculum, counselors obtained a 97.11 percent Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) completion rate in the grant-funded middle schools.



Adams 12 Five Star Schools Guide to Student Achievement



POLARIS

Our Vision

Adams 12 Five Star Schools is a caring, inclusive and engaging district which exists so the students it serves can attain the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue the future of their choosing and are equipped to navigate and thrive in our rapidly changing world.

Our Mission

To engage and inspire all students to innovate, achieve and succeed in a safe environment by ensuring high-quality instruction in every classroom, every day.

Our Core Strategies

- Creating multiple pathways for student learning.
- Striking the 'just right' balance between empowerment and accountability.
- Building strong community relationships.



Adams 12 Five Star Schools

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Proudly serving Broomfield, Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton and Westminster.