

# Funding Mythbusters

Throughout Adams 12 Five Star Schools, we strive to engage and inspire students at every level. From teachers to nurses and accountants to bus drivers, we work together to prepare students to thrive in our rapidly changing world. But limited funding challenges our potential and hinders our mission. It doesn't have to be this way. With your support, we can make K-12 education — and our children — a priority in Colorado and continue to provide high-quality instruction in every classroom, every day.



## MYTH: State economic growth means increased state funding for schools.

**TRUTH:** Based on state budget formulas, just because the economy grows does not mean the percentage of state funding to districts grows. But we're not alone. Despite growth, the state is making cuts to transportation and higher education as well, all while potentially sending small rebates to tax payers due to provisions in the Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR).



## MYTH: The real estate market is booming so districts must be rich!

**TRUTH:** Higher taxes collected from increased property values will be absorbed into the general fund under current budget proposals. Districts will not receive additional dollars from the state. The state will lower the percentage it contributes and raise the percentage local funds need to contribute.



## MYTH: Districts can get the city or home developers to build schools.

**TRUTH:** While developers may provide land or cash-in-lieu of land for a school building, developers do not pay for the actual building costs. Cities may partner with the district to develop an area with a school, but also do not pay for construction. School districts must pay for new buildings out of voter approved taxes called bonds.



## MYTH: Education has plenty of money because of the marijuana tax.

**TRUTH:** The revenues the state receives from marijuana taxes do not contribute to district operational costs. Of the tax revenue collected, \$40 million is set aside into a statewide grant fund, the BEST program, to be used only for building construction. All 178 school districts in Colorado must apply for funding, with awards typically going to lower funded or rural districts.

### School funding is a challenge. We need your help.



Changing the way public education is funded in Colorado will take all of us. Here's a few things you can do:

- Talk with your neighbors at soccer games, BBQs or community events.
- Confirm your voter registration.
- Talk with your principal about having a community or PTO/A conversation on funding concerns with your school.
- Write the Adams 12 Five Star Board of Education or your state senator or representative.