

## RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION #116

**WHEREAS**, the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education believes that every student should have the opportunity to reach their full potential and to participate meaningfully in the civic and economic life of the community, regardless of their zip code or learning needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes that quality public education develops a competitive workforce that will drive a vibrant Colorado economy for decades to come; and

**WHEREAS**, education funding in this state has not recovered from the Great Recession and in the 2020-21 school year alone, Colorado public schools were underfunded by \$1.2 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of funding to Colorado public schools has been over \$9.3 billion since 2009, which could have been used toward preventing teacher salaries from becoming the least competitive in the nation; addressing the growing mental health needs of students, inequities, and barriers, which prevent students educational opportunities; and being better equipped to react to the largest disruption of the education system in history due to the current global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of state funding to Adams 12 Five Star Schools is \$54.1 million in the current school year and has been over \$453.6 million since 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado is currently experiencing and will be recovering from the economic toll and human impacts from the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, education funding is projected to diminish even further due to the current economic crisis, further exacerbating the current inequities with access to technology and educational opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, reduced funding is directly impacting the District's ability to provide equitable and meaningful educational opportunities for all students; and

**WHEREAS**, reduced funding also limits the Board's ability to respond to parent and community input on the District's programs and services; and

**WHEREAS**, the return on investment has been well documented when it comes to investing in public schools. Studies demonstrate that well-targeted dollars have a direct, positive effect on student outcomes and that improving education in Colorado would generate billions for the economy. A 2018 study found that if Colorado schools produced graduates with sufficient post-secondary education to meet workforce demands, after 10 years of improvement Colorado would see 57,600 more high school graduates earning some form of post-secondary education. The exponential impacts of a decade of improvement would mean:

- \$8.6 billion in additional earnings over those 10 years;
- 14,600 new jobs created each year by the tenth year, with that number continuing to increase annually;

- An increase in spending on housing by \$1.4 billion over the decade;
- An increase in spending on automobiles and parts by \$472 million over the decade;
- Almost a \$1 billion in new revenue and savings from lower rates of incarceration and fewer people relying on public assistance; and
- An additional \$12 billion added to GDP over the decade; and

**WHEREAS**, Proposition #116 would decrease the state income tax rate for individuals, estates, and trusts from 4.63% of federal taxable income to 4.55% for tax years commencing on and after January 1, 2020, and would also reduce the tax rate for domestic and foreign C corporations operating in Colorado from 4.63% of Colorado net income to 4.55%; and

**WHEREAS**, Adams 12 Five Star Schools currently receives 72 percent of its Total Program Funding from the state share; and

**WHEREAS**, state share of funding to Colorado school districts is \$1.2 billion below its commitment to provide state aid to fund Colorado schools and 14 percent below its commitment to provide state aid to Adams 12 Five Star Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Proposition #116 will further exacerbate the state's ability to fulfill its commitment to providing state aid to Colorado public schools, which is meant to provide desperately needed funding to support schools as they weather the economic toll of the global pandemic by assisting schools in providing students educational opportunities to prepare them for success in college, career, and life; preparing a qualified workforce for decades to come; and ensuring that Colorado's economic prosperity is shared with every community in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board declares that Proposition #116 is a matter of official concern.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education officially declares its opposition for Proposition #116 as it would be detrimental to public education in the State of Colorado.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education authorizes the expenditure of District funds to distribute a factual summary regarding Proposition #116, in accordance with the Fair Campaign Practices Act, C.R.S. 1-45-117.

**Adopted and approved by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of September 2, 2020.**