



# COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## The Colorado State Board of Education 2009 Legislative Priorities

### I. School Finance—

Support efforts to improve the long-term financial stability of education funding and develop a comprehensive school finance solution.

### II. Information Services, Data Collection and Storage—

Support funding that enhances CDE's data and information systems and personnel in order to streamline district data submission and foster efficient data sharing while providing higher levels of service, support, and usefulness to all users of CDE's information systems.

### III. Aligning Educational Accountability—

Support legislation to streamline educational accountability in Colorado by revising School Accountability Report and Accreditation provisions to harmonize public reporting and actions required by these state accountability provisions and the No Child Left Behind.

### IV. Closing the Achievement Gap—

Continue efforts and funding to implement proven, evidence-based programs and strategies for closing the achievement gap.

### V. Drop-Out Prevention—

Support expansion of effective dropout prevention and recovery strategies.

### VI. Standards and Assessments—

Support the completion of a thorough review of model content standards prior to the adoption of any new statewide assessment tools.

### VII. Online Education/School Choice—

Support continued development and oversight of high-quality online programs, schools of choice, and other educational innovations to ensure strong student results.

### VIII. Early Childhood—

Support efforts to improve access to high-quality voluntary early childhood education and family literacy in ways that enhance the transition from early childhood education and preschool to K-12.

### IX. School Trust Lands—

Support legislation to increase the Permanent Fund, maximize the Trust income, increase awareness of School Trust Lands and exempt school trust lands from TABOR.

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**Chairman**

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**Bob Schaffer**  
**Vice-Chairman**

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**Evie Hudak**  
2nd Congressional District

**Peggy Littleton**  
5th Congressional District

**Jane Goff**  
7th Congressional District

**School Trust Lands (cont'd)—**

Support legislation to remove School Trust Lands from the Department of Natural Resources and place them into an independent agency.

**X. Concurrent Enrollment Programs—**

Support expanded access to post-secondary education options including concurrent enrollment programs.

**XI. Innovation—**

Support increased flexibility and authority that would allow the State Board the ability to approve alternatives to seat-time-based promotion in conjunction with the work currently underway at CDE.

**XII. Categoricals—**

Support improved programming and increased funding for districts with the excess expenditures for special education (including students served out-of-district), gifted and talented, English language learners, transportation, and career and technical (vocational) education.

**XIII. Professional Licensure—**

Continue to support efforts to streamline teacher certification, promote alternative certification and expedite the certification process.

**XIV. Libraries—**

Restore funding for all libraries to enhance access to educational print and electronic materials for all citizens, and support improved school library staffing and resources.

**XV. State Board Authority—**

Support the Colorado State Board of Education's constitutional responsibility for public schools through collaboration opportunities with the legislative and executive branches and with the private sector and through designation of the rulemaking authority rather than prescriptive statute.