

A Message from the Executive Director

Winter 2018



Welcome 2018!

I cannot believe how fast 2017 went by! I think I say, and feel this way every year! I hope that you, your families, and friends have a wonderful 2018. The staff and providers at the UnBOCES have continued their efforts to support our five member-districts (Norwood, Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride, and West End) in all areas of special education, gifted education, professional development, and alternative licensure. As always, if the employees of UnBOCES can assist you please do not hesitate to contact us.

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School Finance News

Colorado Superintendents have been discussing for years the out of date funding formula for schools in our state. Their work has come to action! They have authored a bill that would address the outdated formula. Below is a brief overview of this bill.

HB18-1232

New School Funding Distribution Formula

Concerning the creation of a new public school funding distribution formula for the preschool through secondary public education system.

SESSION:

2018 Regular Session

SUBJECT:

Education & School Finance (Pre & K-12)

The bill creates a new public school funding distribution formula to replace the existing formula (1994 formula). The new distribution formula is effective for the second budget year following

voter approval of a ballot measure that increases state revenue for funding preschool through high school public education, which is not included in the bill.

The new public school funding distribution formula:

- Calculates a school district's total program funding by starting with statewide base per pupil funding and adding additional funding for student and district characteristics in the form of district factor funding as follows:
- Size factor funding;
- Poverty factor funding for students eligible for free or reduced-price meals;
- English language learner factor funding, adjusted for district size;
- Gifted child factor funding, adjusted for district size;
- Special education factor funding, adjusted for disability and district size; and
- Cost of living factor funding, limited to a percentage of statewide cost of living factor funding.

In calculating district total program funding, the new formula:

- Counts kindergarten students as half-day or full-day pupils depending on the length of the kindergarten program;
- Counts preschool students as half-day pupils, anticipating conforming changes to the Colorado preschool program, following enactment of the bill, to remove limits on the number of 4- and 5-year-old pupils attending state-funded preschool and the pupil eligibility criteria for 4- and 5-year-old pupils;
- Differentiates between pupils with specified disabilities for purposes of determining the new special education factor funding, anticipating conforming changes to categorical funding programs, following enactment of the bill, to use special education categorical funding only for high-cost disability reimbursement grants; and
- Applies English language learner factor funding for up to 7 years to all English language learners, except for those students with no English proficiency, anticipating conforming changes to categorical funding programs, following enactment of the bill, to use categorical funding only for students with no English proficiency.

The bill creates a hold-harmless provision if a district's total program funding under the new public school funding distribution formula is less than it was under the 1994 formula without the budget stabilization reduction in funding.

The bill takes effect only if voters approve a ballot measure no later than the 2022 statewide general election that increases funding for preschool through high school public education.

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced. Also note, this bill has no fiscal note tied to it)

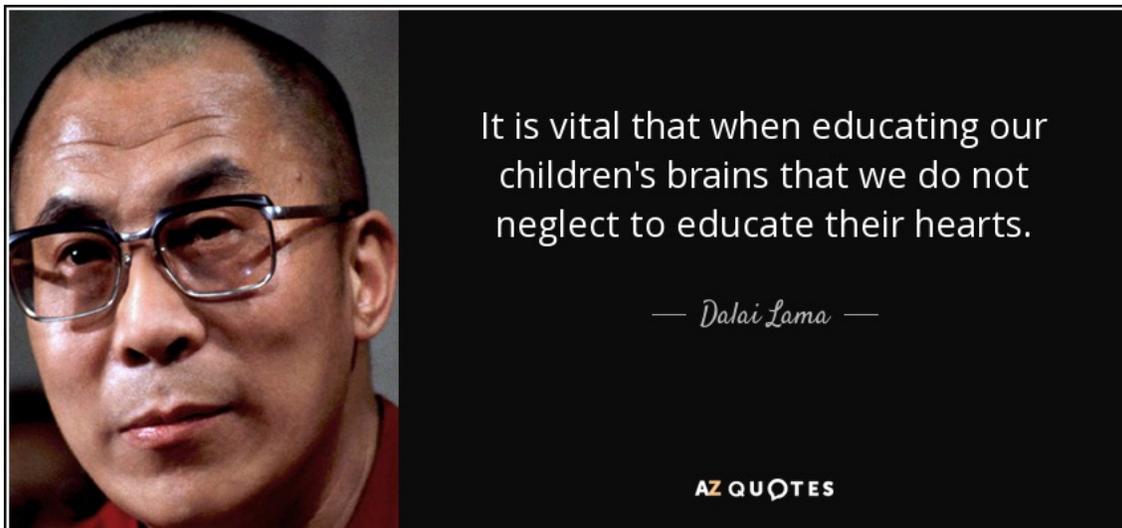
Hopefully you will be able to learn more about this bill during this spring and summer.

New Position at UnBOCES!

UnBOCES has been approved as the fiscal agent, and given the supervision duties for the Interagency Oversight Group (IOG) and Individual Services and Support Team (ISST). The Collaborative Management Program (CMP) Coordinator provides data and program management and Interagency Oversight Group (IOG) support for the Ouray, San Miguel, and West End of Montrose Counties CMP. Tri-County's CMP promotes a collaborative system of interagency oversight and individualized service and support teams (ISST) to coordinate and manage the provision of services to children and families who would benefit from integrated multi-agency services. In a nutshell, students have a lot of diverse needs, and this interagency group meets together to refer families/students who have needs, and devise a plan of wrap-around services to support these students. Our budget has been approved, our job has been posted, and we plan to have interviews by the first week of March 2018.

This position is 20 hours a week and the coordinator will oversee all aspects of the ISST and IOG process. We are excited to have this opportunity to support our students and families. Stay tuned for more information! Your building principals will be able to help you refer a student, so contact them if you have a student with needs that the ISST might be able to address.

I hope your semester goes well! Don't hesitate to reach out to us if you need assistance.



Until the Spring!

~Tammy 