



What is the YOS Project?

The *Year of the Student* Project is a coalition of organizations and individuals calling on the legislature to use *this* session to create a long-term plan to fund our schools, colleges and universities in a manner that supports the success of every student no matter how they learn or where they live.

Who is in the coalition?

Over 150 diverse organizations (so far) representing parents, students, seniors, and educators; advocates for special ed, gifted and talented, English Language Learner and at-risk students; early childhood, K-12 and higher ed; rural, urban and suburban students and communities; the faith community; and the business community. In addition, 9,000 individuals from over 230 communities across the state have endorsed.

What brings these disparate groups together?

Coalition members agree:

- Colorado's education funding system is broken and students are paying the price.
- Well-targeted resources make a difference for student success.
- The need for legislative action is urgent.
- Colorado has enacted far-reaching reforms but we have not matched them with the resources necessary to ensure their success and sustainability.
- We seek a long-term plan for improved investment, not just an increase from last year.

Why 2013?

- Students don't get do-overs.
- The improving economy gives the legislature the ability to work toward a new vision.
- The voters support better funding, as demonstrated by TBD and statewide mill and bond elections.
- It is the legislature's constitutional duty.

What is the coalition seeking?

- *Don't adjourn without a long-term plan to support student success.*
 - Explore *all* options for revenues within legislative power.
 - Do whatever is necessary to ensure that the voters have an opportunity at the state level in 2013 to support better education investment.

How can a legislator engage/show support?

- Answer the *Year of the Student* questions included in your signature packet (see reverse).
- Meet with constituents for a briefing on the issues and conversations about local concerns.
- Ask legislative staff to explore all revenue options.
- Engage in the school finance reform/ballot initiative conversation, and stay engaged until you get to "yes."
- Tell us how we can help support your efforts.

The Year of the Student Questions for Legislators

1. **Do you agree** that Colorado does not now fund our schools, colleges and universities at a level that enables every student in Colorado to graduate with the skills and choices necessary to be competitive in a 21st century global workforce? (Do you agree? YES or NO)
2. **Are you willing to explore** (and/or support your colleagues who are willing to explore) all options that are available to the legislature to create a long-term plan to fund our P-20 education system for student success? (Are you willing? YES or NO)
3. **What will you do** to ensure that the legislature does not adjourn in May without addressing the urgent need to invest in our students now and for the long-term?
4. **How can we support you** in your efforts to make systemic and long-term progress on how public education (preschool through higher ed) is funded in Colorado?

How to Respond: Please respond via email to info@2013forstudents.org or by using the enclosed envelope by **Wednesday, February 13**, to ensure that your responses are posted on our website (www.2013forstudents.org/responses) before we publicize to those who signed the Call to Action and to our organizational members and supporters. If you have questions, contact us at 303-722-5901.

Send hard copy responses to: Great Education Colorado, Attention: Year of the Student Project, 1000 E. 16th Ave. #018, Denver, CO 80218



You're Invited ...

2013: Year of the Student Project Legislator-Constituent Conversation



Friday, February 15
Noon-1:00 PM

Colorado State Capitol
Senate Committee Room 356
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Please RSVP to info@2013forstudents.org.
Light Lunch will be provided. Space is limited.

Join us for this engaging conversation between legislators and constituents. Legislators will have the opportunity to talk with constituents about the local realities of state education cuts - preschool through higher education - and the urgency to create a long-term plan this session for student success and education funding.