

Madam Chair, members of the Education Committee my name is Christopher Wright, Vice President of Falcon School District 49 Board of Education.

Adaptability to meet children's needs is essential. We all have a moral obligation to use tax funds efficiently and Falcon is leading the way. Here are some examples.

We restructured the district, dividing the Superintendent's role into a Chief Education Officer who focuses on education and a Chief Operations Officer who focuses on Operations. Each role uses their specialized skills to magnify Educational & Operational Innovations.

With restructuring Falcon has;

- Saved 11 million dollars (15% of our budget), and brought our central administration costs to 5% of the overall district budget. It has saved us 1.4 million dollars in annual transportation expenses, simultaneously increasing our services from 15 buildings to 23.
- Created a state of the Art blended education platform called "The Falcon Virtual Academy." This model is the foundation for a hybrid and blended Educational Programs leading educational delivery models for grades K-12.
- Incorporated a collaborative communication educational process that includes parents, teachers, and administrators. This has produced 10 state BOE approved innovation plans.
- Through decentralization of administrative powers, principals now operate their own budgets and have decision-making authority to hire identified teaching skills.
- Created a certification process for charter schools that is now a model for the state by building a collaboration of efforts from business, parents and educational societies
- Spent 2 Million dollars on building an Information Technology infrastructure to support our state of the art online program and extend our technology into every classroom in our public schools. This IT infrastructure is positioning the district to softcopy all curriculum, thus saving the purchasing of textbooks and allowing curriculum upgrades to occur instantaneously and paving the way for one-to-one and bring your own device programs.

At this time Falcon is working on the implementation of;

- An enhanced vocational program, which interconnects students,

teachers, administrators, industry specialists and businesses. This program will extend the number of offerings with no additional costs and will continue our successful collaborative efforts with our community.

- Reorganizing Special Education to streamline inclusion (a research proven process) to extend the educational opportunities for all students.
- A teacher career model that allows our best teachers to be promoted into expanded teaching/mentoring roles for career advancement as an alternative to moving into administration. We are putting our money & promotions into our educators.

These initiatives are funded through efficient use of money, but they are also funded through the resources we currently have.

Senate Bill 13-213 will stifle these initiatives – and potentially de-fund them out of existence. Economies of scale create and increase the effective use of resources. Our largest districts are best positioned to use resources more effectively.

Through Falcon's initiatives we have shown larger districts how they can use less funding per student. It certainly will inhibit Falcon – which can be described as the most innovative district in the Colorado – from continuing its march toward a 21st century educational model.

Thank you,
Christ Wright
Vice President, School Board of Education
Falcon School District 49