



SB 256 School Finance

Senators Romer and Bacon/ Representatives Pommer and Scanlan

Final Version—5/1/09

Note: Any provisions not appearing in this summary that were previously part of summaries are intentionally missing and not part of the final Act.

Topic	Summary
Statewide Base	\$5,507.68
Determination of Funded Pupil Count	Declining enrollment averaging taken back to current law of 5 yrs
Fiscal Emergency Restricted Reserve	CDE shall calculate a total amount of \$110 million to be set aside by school district or institute. The amount budgeted by each district and the institute may be released to the district or institute for distribution and use by the district or institute schools if the district or institute has not taken action to rescind the money by Jan. 6, 2010. The department shall be budgeted to the fiscal emergency restricted reserve for the 09-10 budget year. The amount to be budgeted for the 09-10 year by the sum of the total program of all districts. The amount share will be calculated as an amount equal to the total restricted reserve multiplied by the district's share of the total program.
Centers of Excellence	Creates \$250K in award for schools with 75% or more free/reduced lunch students and the highest rates of student academic growth based on the state model. For 09-10 unexpended funds in Read-to-Achieve monies.
Closing the Achievement Gap	<p>Adds approximately \$1.8m to the Closing the Achievement Gap Program under which CDE provides school support teams and financial support for low-performing schools.</p> <p>CDE as needing support.</p> <p>Creates a feasibility study concerning the creation of any statewide school, including charter schools designed to serve a special population. CDE is required to report back on the study's implementation and support, etc. by Feb. 2010. If the Commissioner creates a statewide residential school, a student shall be funded based on PPOR from the district of residence.</p> <p>Creates an appropriation of \$3m from the State Education Fund for the Commission. If a statewide residential school is not created, the funds can be authorized to be used by school districts and public schools to improve the availability and quality of science and mathematics curricula.</p>
Full-day Kindergarten	Maintains current funding levels of an additional 0.08 for FDK
School District Instructional Supplies and Capital Reserve Set Asides	<p>Eliminates the required minimum set asides of \$134 for instructional supplies and an insurance reserve starting in 09-10. Any money remaining in accounts dedicated to instructional supplies not expended prior to 09-10 budget year will be required to be budgeted for the subsequent budget years.</p> <p>Eliminates the restrictions on the expenditures of capital reserve funds including expenditures exceeding \$2500, installation of equipment installation exceeding \$1000, software exceeding \$1000, and acquisition of computer equipment in excess of \$500.</p>

Increases override cap to 25%	Allows districts to seek additional local property tax revenues from 20-25%. Re plan to CDE for override elections above 20% that may also include capital cons Ownership Tax from the calculation of amount under cap.
Minimum State Share Funding for Districts	If the state share of an accounting district of an institute charter school is less than fully fund the institute charter school, CDE shall require a supplemental appropriation from the State Assembly. If the supplemental is not funded, CDE shall forward the total amount to the district.
Charter School Capital Construction Factor	<i>Current \$5m appropriation remains. Governor encouraged to use stimulus mon</i>
Definition of Per Pupil Capital Construction Funding	Divides the dollar amount for charter school capital construction that is appropriate for qualified charter school students in districts and institute charter schools.
Charter School Contract Contents--Purchased Services	Nothing in a charter contract can be construed to prohibit any charter school from chartering local board of education for the purchase of services, including but not limited to services.
Charter School Contract Contents--Overhead and At-risk	Repeals the ability of school districts to retain up to 5% for central overhead costs. Repeals the provision establishing district levels of at-risk to be placed in charter school contracts during the duration of the contract.
Charter Institute College in CO Enrollment	Changed to require every district, pursuant to rules established by the State Board of Education, to develop a career and academic plan for every student in grades 9-12. Any software or online tool used for this purpose must be further amended to require registration with College in Colorado with every student.
Institute Charter School Contract Contents--Purchased Services	Nothing in a charter contract can be construed to prohibit any institute school from chartering local board of education for the purchase of services, including but not limited to educational services.
Institute Instructional Supplies and Capital Reserve Set Asides	Eliminates the required minimum set asides of \$134 for instructional supplies and an insurance reserve starting in 09-10. Any money remaining in accounts dedicated to these purposes not expended prior to 09-10 budget year will be required to be budgeted for the subsequent budget years. Eliminates the restrictions on the expenditures of capital for labor and materials exceeding \$2500, installation of equipment installation exceeding \$1000, and acquisition of computer equipment in excess of \$1000.
State Board of Education Duties	Requires every district, pursuant to rules established by the State Board, to develop a career and academic plan for every student in grades 9-12. Any software or online tool used for this purpose must be further amended to require registration with College in Colorado with every student beginning in 09-10.
District Emergency Reserve/TABOR Reserve	If a district provides for an emergency reserve within their general fund budget, the district may hold their TABOR reserve in whole or in part in property owned by the district. If credit is provided to the State Treasurer and CDE in the event an emergency occurs, the district must payback the funds. The first time a district utilizes money from the district emergency reserve to payback the funds. The 2 nd time the district taps the reserve, it must payback the following fiscal year.
TABOR Reserve Conforming Amendment	Allows for a district to hold their required 3% TABOR reserve all or in part using property owned by the district.
Full-day Kindergarten reserve	Requires any district to return any expended, unencumbered FDK funds received from the State. Districts may keep and hold in reserve FDK \$ received in 09-10.
Services for Expelled and At-risk Students	Requires funding provided to be used for programs that provide supports and services to reduce the number of truancy cases requiring court involvement, including alternatives to court representation in truancy proceedings. (JBC has built the funding into the budget bill needed to allocate the funding.)
Employment Contracts	Requires a newly hired teacher to accept and sign an employment contract within 30 days if all arrangements have been made.
Transportation Override Elections	Allows the purchase of school buses or other capital outlay purchases to be included in override elections.
Vilas Repayment of Audit Funds	Allows Vilas to use online licenses in lieu of cash to pay for money owed to CDE.
Safety Clause	