

BOOSTING



STUDENT SUCCESS



Increasing Funding for K-12 Schools by Eliminating the Budget Stabilization Factor

The 2024 state budget ([HB24-1430](#)) and School Finance Act ([SB24-188](#)) provide historic funding for K-12 public schools by eliminating the Budget Stabilization Factor, which will increase total funding for schools by over \$560 million and average per pupil funding by \$780 next year. These new funds can be used by districts to reduce class sizes, increase teacher pay and help ensure students have the resources they need to thrive.

Fully Funding Special Education

For the first time, Colorado will fully fund special education to better support students with disabilities, increasing this funding by over 10 percent, or \$34.7 million, and bringing the state's current investment in special education funding to \$375.5 million ([HB24-1430](#)). Starting in 2025, a modernized, student-centered school funding formula ([HB24-1448](#)) will further increase funding for special education by an additional \$375 million and will drive those new dollars to the districts that serve more special education students.

Additional Support for At-Risk Students and English Language Learners

The 2024 state budget includes \$1.6 million for at-risk students to encourage high school completion and increases funding for English Language Learners (ELL). The new school finance formula for the 2025 school year increases funding for at-risk students by \$852 million and boosts funding for English Language learners by \$142.7 million by increasing funding for districts that serve more at-risk and ELL students.

Increasing Funding for Rural Schools

The 2024 School Finance Act creates an ongoing funding stream for rural schools for the first time through a new funding factor, the "Rural Factor." This increases funding for rural schools by nearly \$36 million to better support students in rural areas to achieve academic success. Starting in 2025, the new school finance formula will increase rural school funding by \$225 million to better support students in rural and remote areas where schools have had to make do with inadequate resources.

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Boosting Support for Child Care, Universal Preschool & Early Learners

Lawmakers increased funding for Universal Preschool by over \$65 million to better prepare Colorado's youngest learners for success. The legislature also increased funding for child care assistance by over \$20 million, passed legislation to support the development of child care facilities ([HB24-1237](#) and [SB24-002](#)), made it easier to license bilingual child care centers ([HB24-1009](#)), and allowed the licensing of outdoor preschools ([SB24-078](#)). Lawmakers also expanded the Child Care Expenses tax credit, saving Coloradans millions each year on child care ([HB24-1134](#)).

Increasing Access to Mental Health Care In Schools

New legislation will support Colorado kids' well-being by expanding access to behavioral health services, including: extending the first-of-its-kind I Matter youth mental health program ([SB24-001](#)). The legislature also created the School-Based Mental Health Support Program ([HB24-1406](#)) with \$2.5 million to help students enhance their social, emotional and behavioral well-being and support students going through adjustment periods. Other laws increased access to opioid antagonists in schools to prevent overdose deaths ([HB24-1003](#)) and made it easier for school psychologists to practice in Colorado ([HB24-1096](#)). Lawmakers also created the Behavioral Health First Aid Training program to promote adult, teen, and youth behavioral and mental health ([SB24-007](#)); and expanded school-based health care to include telehealth and mobile health units ([SB24-034](#)).