

Note: Prop 119 is a measure on the 2021 election ballot that creates the Learning Enrichment and Academic Progress (LEAP) program to provide financial aid and support to eligible Colorado children to access out-of-school learning and enrichment opportunities, such as tutoring, CTE training, English and foreign language instruction, mental health services, special education support, etc. The measure would increase the marijuana retail sales tax to partially fund the program; other program funding would derive from funds shifted away from existing state funds, including the State Land Trust and General Fund.

Prop 119 would also create a new state agency, the Colorado Learning Authority, to oversee the LEAP program and administer funds without any oversight from the State Board of Education or the Colorado Department of Education, and with no stated accountability measures. Prop 119 would divert public money to private out-of-school service providers instead of directing funds to public schools. By increasing the sales tax on marijuana to fund out-of-school learning and enrichment opportunities, it helps to perpetuate the myth that marijuana sales taxes have “solved” Colorado schools’ funding problems.

Given the \$9.8 billion in the Budget Stabilization Factor that is already owed to public schools and the choices public schools have had to make in light of this debt, full funding of current public education should come before the creation of new programs that would divert public funding from public schools.

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION 119:
LEARNING ENRICHMENT AND ACADEMIC PROGRESS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Proposition 119 is a citizen-referred measure on Colorado’s 2021 election ballot that seeks to create a new program that would provide out-of-school educational services; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 119 would create a new state agency, the Colorado Learning Authority, with no oversight from the State Board of Education and the Colorado Department of Education, to administer program funds sourced from new taxes on the sale of retail marijuana and appropriations from the State Land Trust and the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, the Colorado General Assembly has tracked the debt owed to Colorado students resulting from the non-payment of funds approved by Colorado voters under Amendment 23 to the Colorado Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the resulting Budget Stabilization Factor (BSF) now stands at a cumulative \$9.8 billion and, for the 2021-22 school year alone, Colorado students will not benefit from more than \$572 million for their education that voters intended them to have; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that public money should be invested directly in public schools, to keep the funds under local control and allow school districts to provide additional learning and enrichment opportunities for students, instead of directed to private out-of-school service providers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the
_____ Board of Education officially declares its
opposition to Proposition 119 for the above-stated reasons.

The Board authorizes the expenditure of District funds to distribute a factual summary regarding Proposition 119, in accordance with the Fair Campaign Practices Act, C.R.S. 1-45-117.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2021.