

# CASB 2008–2009 Annual Report



This year, CASB provided state-level leadership and partnered with all 178 member school districts to ensure public schools continue offering dynamic, relevant education to Colorado’s children. While many advocate for public education, CASB is the *only* statewide organization that represents local school boards and their districts.

The front page of this annual report highlights our state (and federal) level work on behalf of school boards. On the back of this page, you’ll find specific services CASB provided your school board and district staff.

*CASB Mission: Advancing Excellence in Public Education Through Effective Leadership by Locally Elected School Boards*

## We advocated for tax reform and adequate school funding.

- This year CASB educated members on and supported Amendment 59 and Referendum O, which would have created a savings account for public schools and made it more difficult to place constitutional amendments on the ballot.
- Through Believe in a Better Colorado (BBC), we provided tools to help boards host local conversations about tax reform as well as strategies and talking points for communicating about Amendment 59 and Ref. O.
- We lobbied for SB 228, which eliminates the state’s six percent spending limitation.
- We assisted and supported the work of the Colorado School Finance Project in advocating improved public education funding.
- We worked with the Governor’s Office, CDE and the legislature to maximize the amount and flexibility of stimulus funds dispersed to school districts. We provided early information on stimulus funding at the Winter Legislative Conference, created a stimulus area on the CASB Web site and hosted a Webinar on stimulus funding requirements.

## We helped shape legislation and state-level education policy.

- Guided by CASB’s member-driven resolutions, we worked to preserve PK–12 programs during this recessionary budget cycle, including lobbying on school finance and the Long bill, as well as a bevy of other budget-balancing bills.
- We worked to ensure proposed bills did not infringe upon local control or result in unfunded mandates, including SB 176 (Charter Inclusion in School District Bonds), SB 57 (Public School Financial Transparency) and SB 29 (Safety Belts on School Buses).
- Our Federal Relations Network lobbied Colorado congressional representatives at home and in Washington on education funding issues as well as NCLB.
- CASB’s Board of Directors and staff leadership were “at the table” with a wide variety of groups including the P–20 Council, State Board of Education, the Advisory Committee for the Adequacy Lawsuit, Colorado High School Activities Association, Colorado School Finance Project, the Charter School Institute, the State Land Board and School Lands Trust Coalition, Colorado Rural Schools Caucus, CASB Early Childhood Advisory Committee and the Colorado Coalition for Hispanic Education.
- We continued our ongoing relationship with Colorado Counties, Inc., the Colorado Municipal League and the Special Districts’ Association to tackle local governance issues.

## We influenced court decisions and provided invaluable legal and policy assistance.

- CASB filed *amicus curiae* (“friend of the court”) briefs on the school finance adequacy lawsuit, the mill levy stabilization case and a case related to school district liability.

- CASB attorneys frequently appeared before state agencies and boards to represent school board interests and to provide expertise on major issues such as school trust lands, school health, restraint and seclusion rules, financial policies and procedures, and proposed State Board rules.
- Our advocacy, legal and policy teams spent hundreds of hours updating school board policy to reflect new laws and published updates and analysis in our *Policy Parameters* newsletter.
- CASB’s legal team has expanded its capacity and expertise to ensure we continue to meet all the legal needs of member districts.

## We helped you take on and talk about education issues.

- CASB kept you up-to-date on major education issues and opportunities through our frequently visited Web site, CASB’s journal *Prism*, and specialized newsletters including *Insights on Issues*, *BillBoard*, *Legal Updates* and *Policy Parameters*.
- Talking points on legislative and ballot issues helped members communicate with their legislators, staff and community.
- CASB’s conferences and convention helped build your understanding of standards, Colorado’s Growth Model, Hispanic/Latino education issues and the future of public education.

## Financial Information

Income 2007–2008		Total 2,228,867
MEMBERSHIP DUES	1,206,902	
COMMERCIAL AFFILIATES/BOCES DUES	31,537	
CONVENTION/CONFERENCES	608,142	
MEMBER PROJECTS	247,342	
POLICY SERVICES	70,389	
OTHER INCOME (Interest/Grants)	64,555	

Expenditures 2007–2008		Total 2,229,616
OPERATING/GENERAL EXPENDITURES	696,295	
CONVENTION/CONFERENCES	515,442	
MEMBER PROJECTS	152,402	
COMMUNICATION SERVICES	242,483	
POLICY SERVICES	168,337	
LEGAL SERVICES	132,074	
MEMBER SERVICES	114,846	
ADVOCACY/PUBLIC AFFAIRS	207,737	

## 2007–2008 AUDITED FUND BALANCE

JULY 1, 2007 BALANCE	REVENUES	EXPENDITURES	JUNE 30, 2008 BALANCE
\$77,869	\$2,228,876	\$2,229,616	\$77,129

