



2018-2019

# Annual Report

&

REFLECTION





This year has been one for the history books when we consider how far we have come in changing the narrative about the importance and value of public education in Colorado.

This shift in acknowledging the significance of adequately, equitably and sustainably funding our schools can be attributed, in large part, to the hard work of our members and many in the education community who dedicated countless hours to engaging the public as Amendment 73 made its way to the ballot. While the ballot measure did not pass, our work was not in vain.

The 2019 Legislative Session invested in public education at an unprecedented level. More than \$325 million in new revenue came into the system to fund full-day Kindergarten, special needs, a buydown of the Budget Stabilization Factor of \$100 million and an additional \$20 million for rural schools. This legislative session provided much-needed investment for our public schools. While we still have work to do on this front, we will continue to make progress, thanks to our members.

It has been an honor to serve CASB as the executive director over the past 20 years. I know the future is bright and that Colorado will advance excellence in public education through harnessing the power of our membership.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken DeJoy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



## Year at a Glance

2018 - 2019

# Colorado school boards are the caretakers of public education

911,536

students served  
in public schools

1,900

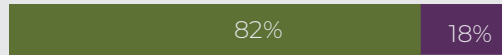
public schools  
in Colorado's **178 districts**

974

school board members  
elected by local voters

## District Characteristics

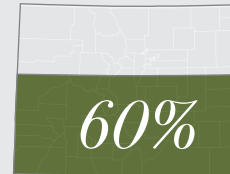
### Districts



### Students



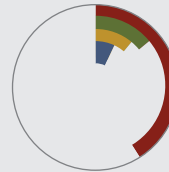
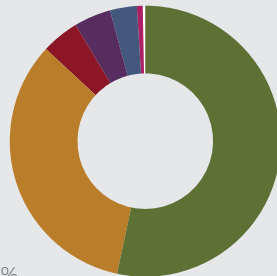
■ Rural (fewer than 6,500 students) ■ Suburban/Urban



60%  
of Colorado school districts  
are small rural with fewer  
than 1,000 students

## Student Characteristics

- White 53.4%
- Hispanic 33.6%
- Black 4.5%
- Two or more races 4.4%
- Asian 3.2%
- American Indian 0.7%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0.3%



- Free & Reduced Lunch 41%
- Learning English 14%
- Special Education 11%
- Gifted & Talented 7%



81%  
High School  
Graduation Rate

# YOUR CASB MEMBERSHIP ADVANCES EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

## *Leadership*

Strong, effective schools are the result of strong, effective and well-informed local school boards. CASB strengthened leadership effectiveness by building CASB leadership development and board development programs that align with the life cycle of board service.

**CASB Connections podcasts** enabled learning opportunities on the go for board members.

**Fall Regionals and Conference, Delegate Assembly, Annual Convention and Legislative Wrap-Up** meetings held across Colorado provided hundreds of CASB members opportunities to connect, learn and develop leadership skills.

**Workshops and other conversations** held regionally provided members with opportunities to focus on habits of excellence for school board members.

**Policy support** provided on 2018 legislation such as parent notification, staff administration of medical marijuana and consumer data privacy, as well as other pertinent board policy issues.

**Legal support** on issues such as board conflicts of interest, board vacancies and appointments, and boards conducting their work in the digital age.

The CASB Board annually adopts goals and a strategic plan to help guide the organization in its work and priorities. The current goals set forth fall into 4 categories:

- **Leadership**
- **Advocacy**
- **Fiscal Solutions**
- **Local Governance**

## *Local Governance*

Strong, effective schools are reflective of the communities they serve. Local leadership, management and control are essential to running our schools effectively and efficiently. CASB pursued the restoration of Colorado's constitutional balance of authority and responsibility between state officials and locally elected school boards.

**CASB's successful legal challenge** restored the longstanding statute requiring that a school district consent to another school district furnishing transportation to its students.

Policy team assisted local school boards in exercising their local control by working with boards and district staff to **update local board policy**.

**Policy manual audits** provided spot checks of board policy manuals for legally required policies and for feedback on organization and format.

**Online District Policy Maintenance Service** provided dozens of school boards the convenience of online policies for their district and community.

# THROUGH EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP BY LOCALLY ELECTED BOARDS OF EDUCATION

## *Fiscal Solutions*

Strong, effective schools require adequate, equitable and sustainable resources. CASB participated in efforts to develop and implement a solution to the state's fiscal crisis.

**District-specific advocacy resources** on Amendment 73 were prepared for local school boards resulting in 120 local resolutions of support.

Active engagement with the **Governor, state legislators and their staff** to collaborate on potential policy approaches.

**Special Delegate Assembly** was held in conjunction with the Winter Legislative Conference on the uniform statewide school mill levy concept.

CASB serves as a **contributing member on several coalitions** focused on addressing Colorado's fiscal policy issues.

## *Advocacy*

Advocating for strong, effective schools begins with locally elected boards of education. As a leading education advocacy organization for public schools, CASB mobilized its members through its robust and engaging advocacy program.

Led by the Legislative Resolutions Committee, the **Delegate Assembly** passed 34 resolutions addressing local governance, finance and student academic growth and achievement that guided CASB's work during the legislative session.

**Successfully passed legislation** to allow boards of education to discuss negotiation strategy in executive session, regulate online schools, remove unconstitutional language in foster care bill on inter-district transport of students and strengthen the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program.

**Delegation of 19 CASB members advocated** for special needs funding in Congress as part of the Federal Relations Network.

**CASB School Bus Tour** included 30 board members and legislators who visited several school districts to learn and make connections in order to create a strong advocacy network.



# Celebrating Colorado's most precious resource...

## OUR STUDENTS

Colorado has over 900,000 public school students and their experience in school will determine the future of this amazing state. CASB highlights students throughout its Annual Convention and includes a student leadership strand.



1. Student Achievement: The Manufacturing Industry Learning Lab (MILL), Widefield School District 3 and Peyton School District 23

2. Student Achievement: Tiger Open Pathways, Cañon City High School, Cañon City School District

3. Elementary Student Art: Evan Lay, Moffat County RE-1

4. Middle School Student Art: Alma Alejandre, Holyoke School District

5. High School Student Art: Alexis Garcia-Moreno, Weld 6 School District (accepted by Principal Insoon Olson)

6. National Anthem Performer: Divine Windy-Boy, Ignacio School District 11 JT

7. Fountain-Fort Carson Army Junior ROTC Guard, Fountain-Fort Carson School District

8. Preston Middle School Symphonic Orchestra, Poudre School District

9. Harrison High School Panther Jazz Band, Harrison School District 2

10. Student videographers, Pueblo City School District

# & Colorado's public school champions



1. 2018 All State School Board Award: Westminster Public Schools — Ken Ciancio, board secretary; Joe Davidek, board vice president; Max Math, board treasurer; Ryan McCoy, president; Larry Dean Valente, board director
2. 2018 Legislative Excellence Awards: Senator Bob Rankin and Representative Millie Hamner
3. 2018 State Leadership Award: Glenn Gustafson, Deputy Superintendent and CFO, Colorado Springs D-11
4. 2018 State Leadership Award: Amendment 73 Team — Tracie Rainey (Colorado School Finance Project), Lisa Weil (Great Education Colorado) and Susan Meek (CASB)

## 2018 McGuffey Award Winners

The CASB McGuffey Award honors unique board members who bring committed and passionate service to their board work. Every district was invited to honor one member with the McGuffey Award. Honorees were recognized at the CASB Fall Regional Meetings.

### *Region 1*

CHRISTI HERRICK  
Liberty J-4

### *Region 2*

TODD NATALE  
Big Sandy 100J

### *Region 3*

DARREN GARCIA  
Rocky Ford R2

TEALE HEMPHILL  
McClave RE-2

CHRIS TUMA  
Crowley County RE-1J

### *Region 4*

TEMPY BOWMAN  
Weld RE-4

KIM CHACON  
Weld County RE-1

SUSAN GUTOWSKY  
Poudre School District

### *Region 4 (cont'd)*

CAROL MCDERMOTT  
Weld Re-8

DR. JULIA RICHARD  
Weld County 6

MARK WHITE  
Weld RE-9

### *Region 5*

JACKIE KUUSINEN  
School District 27J

DAVID RAY  
Douglas County RE-1

HARVEST THOMAS  
Adams 14

CARRIE WARREN-GULLY  
Littleton Public Schools

### *Region 6*

LLOYD HARWOOD  
Cañon City Schools

### *Region 7*

JEANNIE JENKINS  
North Park R-1

### *Region 9*

ROD RUYBALID  
South Conejos RE-10

### *Region 11*

PHOEBE BENZIGER  
Montrose County RE-1J

PETE BLAIR  
Delta County 50J

STAN GALLEY  
West End Public Schools  
RE-2

PAUL REICH  
Telluride R-1

### *Region 12*

KELLY MCCAWE  
Ignacio 11-JT

SHERI NOYES  
Montezuma-Cortez RE-1

# CASB Staff

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## CASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS *Executive Committee*



**KATHY GEBHARDT**  
President  
Boulder Valley  
School District  
Region 5



**MONICA PELOSO**  
President-elect  
Cheyenne  
Mountain 12  
Region 6



**PAUL REICH**  
Immediate Past  
President  
Telluride R-1  
Region 11



**RICHARD "DICK"  
MARTYR, Ph.D.**  
St. Vrain Valley RE-1J  
Large District



**KATHY PLOMER**  
Adams 12 Five Star  
Schools  
Large District



**NANCY SARCHET**  
Weld County RE-1  
Region 4



**CARRIE WARREN-  
GULLY**  
Littleton Public  
Schools  
Region 5 (*resigned*)



**JOHN WITTLER**  
Vilas RE-5  
Region 3



**KEN DELAY**  
Executive Director  
CASB



# CASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## *Directors*



CHRISTI HERRICK  
Liberty J-4  
Region 1



WENDY POTTORFF  
Limon Public  
Schools  
Region 2



CATHY KIPP  
Poudre School Dist.  
Region 4  
*(resigned)*



LAURA CASE  
Estes Park R-3  
Region 4



DOUG LIDIAK  
Weld County 6  
Region 4



RYAN MCCOY  
Westminster Public  
Schools  
Region 5



TRACEY JOHNSON  
Academy District 20  
Region 6



JAYE SUDAR  
Huerfano Re-1  
Region 6



JO ANN BAXTER,  
Ph.D.  
Moffat County RE-1  
Region 7



TESSA KIRCHNER  
Eagle County  
Schools  
Region 8



ARLAN VAN RY  
Alamosa Re-11J  
Region 9



ANNE GUETTLER  
Garfield Re-2  
Region 10



CASEY MCCLELLAN  
Dolores RE-4A  
Region 12



KAREN FISHER  
Cherry Creek  
Schools  
Large District



AMANDA STEVENS  
Jeffco Public Schools  
Large District

CASB's Board of Directors represents the geographic diversity of elected school boards across Colorado. The job of the Board is to direct the work of CASB and to represent and lead the membership.

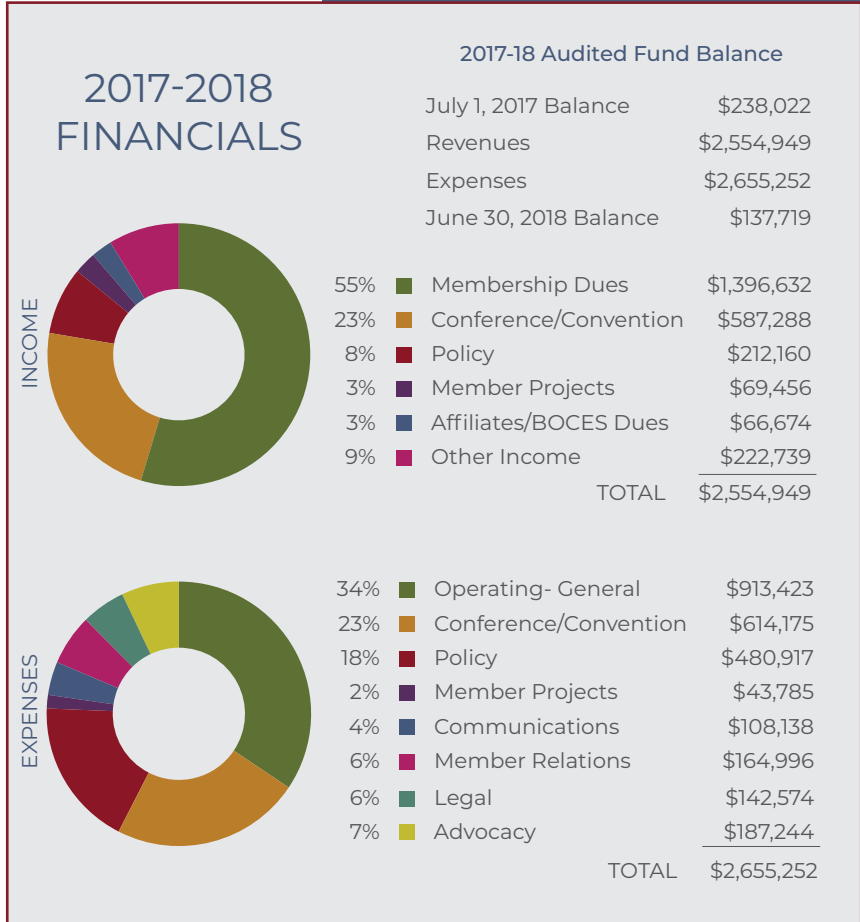
# Your

## ASSOCIATION

The Colorado Association of School Boards is the only statewide organization that advocates for school board leadership in Colorado. We are dedicated to strengthening public education through our work, tools and services provided to our members. High-quality education for all Colorado children begins with effective school board leadership.

In order to achieve its mission, CASB uses its expertise and collective state presence to provide cost-effective services and information to enable locally elected boards of education to operate efficiently and effectively in an increasingly complex and resource-challenged environment.

CASB is your association and your involvement drives our collective success.



TOGETHER

# we are stronger

The Colorado Association of School Boards was founded 79 years ago for the purpose of promoting the interests and welfare of Colorado public schools through investigation, discussion and cooperative effort. Virtually all of Colorado's 178 school boards are CASB members.

Working with and through our local school boards, CASB continues to lead the effort to advance excellence in public education through effective leadership by locally elected boards of education. By empowering our members with tools, knowledge and skills to govern with excellence and advocate for public schools, we will deliver on the promise of public education.

Building on a foundation that values the diversity of our state's 178 unique school districts, CASB advocates for public schools in Colorado. By harnessing the collective wisdom of school boards, we keep Colorado strong and support the more than 900,000 students our school boards are charged with serving.





Our people are the resource that supports, connects and advocates  
for Colorado's local school boards and the students they serve.

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