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## Legislative Alert: May 10, 2012



### Special session slated for Monday

Wednesday was the scheduled close of the 2012 Colorado General Assembly, but a Republican filibuster in the House Tuesday night resulted in some final day shuffling of education bills and led to the governor calling a special session Monday to debate the civil unions bill.

On Tuesday night, Republicans extended debate on other bills leaving no time to debate and vote on the civil unions bill. On Wednesday, the Senate rescued four education bills that were sidelined in the filibuster by amending them into other education bills. The Senate and House subsequently passed those bills on Wednesday meaning education should be off the table during Monday's special session.

Despite House Education Chair **Tom Massey's** initial reluctance, the School Finance Act was the vehicle for the discipline bill that softens zero tolerance requirements, and a bill that provides funding for districts wishing to use the Accuplacer basic skills test for high school students. Sen. **Mike Johnston's** bill that requires Colorado to join a multistate testing consortium was tacked on an education clean-up bill.

In the next two weeks, CASB will provide a more complete review of this session's major legislative action. In the meantime, be assured that school finance has been put to bed this year, and for the first time in four years, state allocations for school districts did not decrease. While there were no dollars to restore the cuts of recent years or to cover inflation, at least the statewide average per pupil funding will remain unchanged.

**Address Colorado Association of School Boards**

2253 S. Oneida St., Ste. 300  
Denver, CO 80224

**Phone**

303-832-1000 or 800-530-8430

**Fax**

303-832-1086

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