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## Legislative Update: April 21, 2011



### House Finds More Money for School Finance, Passes Bill on Second Reading

This morning, the House of Representatives debated [Senate Bill 230](#), the 2011 School Finance Act on second reading. As anticipated, the bill sponsor, **Rep. Tom Massey**, R-Poncha Springs, brought an amendment to provide more funding for K-12. The Massey amendment does the following:

1. Takes \$22.5 million from the State Education Fund to decrease the 2011-12 cut to school districts. With this money, the K-12 cut drops from \$250 million to approximately \$228 million; and
2. Takes \$67.5 million of the state revenues that will be collected in June -- above what was anticipated in the March revenue forecast -- and transfers this money to the State Public School Fund. The amendment states that it is the intent of the General Assembly that these funds be used to fund increases in student enrollment, increases to the number of at-risk students being served or any loss in local property tax revenues. This money would be received by school districts as part of the General Assembly's 2012 supplemental funding. As you may recall, the General Assembly did not fund increases in enrollment or at-risk for the current fiscal year.

The legislature will not be working tomorrow so we anticipate the bill will be up for a final vote in the House on Monday. We do not anticipate further changes to the bill on Monday and do believe that the Senate and Governor's office have agreed to the Massey amendments. Assuming this is the case, the next step will be for the Senate to adopt the House version of school finance and then send the bill to the Governor for signature.

Working with Rep. Massey and others, CASB's advocacy effort was instrumental in introducing these additional dollars to the school finance mix. It's not a done deal, but today's action was a good sign, and we are optimistic about the final outcome. We will be sure to keep you posted as the bill climbs over these final hurdles.

For a complete listing of the bills CASB is lobbying, including defeated bills, visit [Colorado Capitol Watch](#).

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