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BillBoard is a semimonthly newsletter on the latest developments at the state capitol that impact K–12 education. It is distributed during the legislative session to school board members, superintendents, legislators, governor's office, various statewide organizations, BOCES executive directors and the Colorado Council of School Board Attorneys.

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Sine Die: The end or a new beginning?

The Second Regular Session of the 69th General Assembly officially adjourned sine die Wednesday evening. This marked the end of a rather remarkable session and, we believe, the beginning of a new way of doing business at the capitol.

As always, CASB's advocacy team worked hard, along with other education lobbyists, to eliminate new mandates and increase the resources available to school districts. However, this year our work was bolstered by the increasingly powerful voices of superintendents, school board members and teachers demanding more for their students. Through their advocacy efforts this session, the education community

Bills & Thrills

[Tune in to hear Jane's 10-minute legislative recap](#)

has taken critical steps towards regaining control over the education policy debate in the state and, as a result, we have far fewer new mandates than we have seen in recent sessions.

The \$110 million pay down of the negative factor is not nearly enough, but it is a decent start – particularly when you consider that no one at the capitol wanted to talk about the negative factor when the session convened in January. ([Read Chalkbeat's overview of the School Finance and Student Success Acts.](#))

District Final "Run" from CDE

The district by district final "run" illustrates the impacts that HB 1298 has on projected funding for next year. Keep in mind the pupil counts are estimates only, and that the additional preschool slots were allocated proportionately based on current allocations. There will be an application process for these additional slot.

We did not see any legislation (outside the school finance/student success context) with the magnitude or impact of SB 191, SB 212 or the READ Act, and school board members will have two seats on the 15-member task force created to study concerns regarding the level at which we are testing our students.

We will see some changes to the requirements around gifted and talented programs (though new *mandates* were scaled way back to *encouragements*), school board executive sessions (also scaled way back) and open records policies.

On a more positive note, we will see more money for BOCES, some reporting relief for small rural school districts, funding to support AP programs in rural schools and flexibility around the student growth component of educator evaluations. Unfortunately, we did not see any extension of the BEST program's statutory cap, which means that matching grants will not be available to districts looking to build new school facilities.

Clearly, we still have much work to do. School boards and superintendents took the crucial first steps when they came together to demand more resources, and each of you must continue to advance this conversation in your communities. Now is the time to invite legislators into your schools and boardrooms so they can see the incredible work

you are doing and better understand the serious challenges you are facing.

As you continue these discussions, consider resolutions you may bring forward at the [2014 Delegate Assembly](#), which will guide CASB's advocacy efforts. Build your local lobbying teams and enlist the support of your communities in this fight. Remember, it's an election year and there is power in numbers!

CASB will continue to bring you resources and support during the "off season" and we hope to see you at one of our [legislative debriefings](#). Please do not hesitate to contact [Jane Urschel](#) or [Michelle Murphy](#) with any questions about the session and/or your local lobbying efforts.

CASB members are invited to join us for an informal luncheon as we say thank you for all your hard work this legislative session, give a retrospective of what happened under the gold dome and start laying the groundwork for 2015. Meetings will be held in Montrose, Sterling, Denver and Pueblo starting Monday, May 12. There is no cost to attend; however, [registration is required](#).

Thank you legislators!

May 7, sine die, is the day to honor and thank the numerous legislators, House and Senate, who made phenomenal progress in supporting and not mandating (much) on K-12 education this year. Also, the majority of the General Assembly went from the belief that there is no such thing as the negative factor, to vigorously debating CASB's resolution that a billion dollars must be restored to K-12 education over the next 5 years. CASB thanks them for the worthy beginning to that through restoration of \$110 million. Specifically, the lawmakers who took grief from our K-12 coalition, but who also demonstrated real leadership to help us restore funding, are: **Speaker Ferrandino, Reps. Hamner, Murray, Holbert, Wilson, Dore and Sens. Todd, Steadman, Kerr, Renfro, Scheffel, Marble and Johnston**. The so-called "Education Mafia" thanks you from the bottom of our hearts.

More thanks!

CASB's advocacy team also extends its deepest thanks to the districts that [adopted negative factor resolutions](#), as well as CASB directors, board members, superintendents and other district leaders who carved time out of their busy schedules to testify before the House and Senate Education Committees on CASB's behalf:

Harry Bull, Cherry Creek Schools
Lyndon Burnett, Agate 300
Walt Cooper, Cheyenne Mountain School District
Lisa Escárcega, Aurora Public Schools

Dennis Herman, Holyoke Re-1J
Cathy Kipp, Poudre School District
John Knapp, Rocky Ford
Debbie Lammers, St. Vrain Valley Re-1J
Sonja McKenzie, Cherry Creek Schools
Bret Miles, Holyoke Re-1J
Mary Nichols, Littleton Public Schools
Jim O'Brien, Cherry Creek Schools
Jan Tanner, Colorado Springs D-11
Phil Virden, Hinsdale County School District

We would also like to thank our [Legislative Resolutions Committee](#) for invaluable input and feedback on proposed legislation:

Lyndon Burnett, chairman, Agate 300
Christi Herrick, Liberty J-4
John Sampson, Strasburg 31J
Regina "Jo" Dorenkamp, Granada RE-1
Sean Ash, Weld RE-4
Debbie Lammers, St. Vrain Valley Re-1J
Nancy Sarchet, Weld RE-1
Candace Veldhuizen, Weld County RE-3J
Jennie Belval, Boulder Valley Schools
Ray Garcia, Mapleton Public Schools
Mary Nichols, Littleton Public Schools
Greg Piotraschke, School District 27J
Rosemary Rodriguez, Denver Public Schools
JulieMarie Shepherd, Aurora Public Schools
Sherryl Dillon, Cheyenne Mountain
Tracey Johnson, Academy 20
Patricia Milner, Pueblo City Schools
Donald Scott, East Grand
Erin Young, Summit RE-1
Tina Freel, Moffat Consolidated #2
Matthew Hamilton, Roaring Fork
Cheryl Miller, Telluride
Diane Fox, Montezuma-Cortez RE-1
Jim O'Brien, FRN chair, Cherry Creek Schools
Jan Tanner, CASB board president, Colorado Springs D-11
Dale McCall, Colorado BOCES Association
Paula Stephenson, Colorado Rural Schools Caucus
Adele Reester, Council of School Board Attorneys
David Olson, Council of School Board Attorneys
Darci Mohr, Council of School Board Attorneys
Toni Wehman, Council of School Board Attorneys
Jerome DeHerrera, Council of School Board Attorneys

Save the date!

CASB Fall Conference & Delegate Assembly
 September 26-27, 2014
 Pueblo Marriott and Convention Center

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