

Great Education Colorado is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, statewide, grassroots organization focused on increasing Colorado's long term investment in public education.

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## Great Education Colorado: A Leading Voice for Improved Public Education Since 2003

Great Ed's mission is to improve education in Colorado through wise and increased investment in public schools, colleges, and universities.

Great Ed began in 2003 as a grassroots organization of public school parents who were concerned about the eroding funding of schools, the increasing disparities among schools, and the dangers of using the K-12 budget to balance the state's budget. Since then, Great Ed has played a key role in major accomplishments for Colorado students, including the passage of Referendum C in 2005, the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program, and the development of the "Great Futures Campaign."

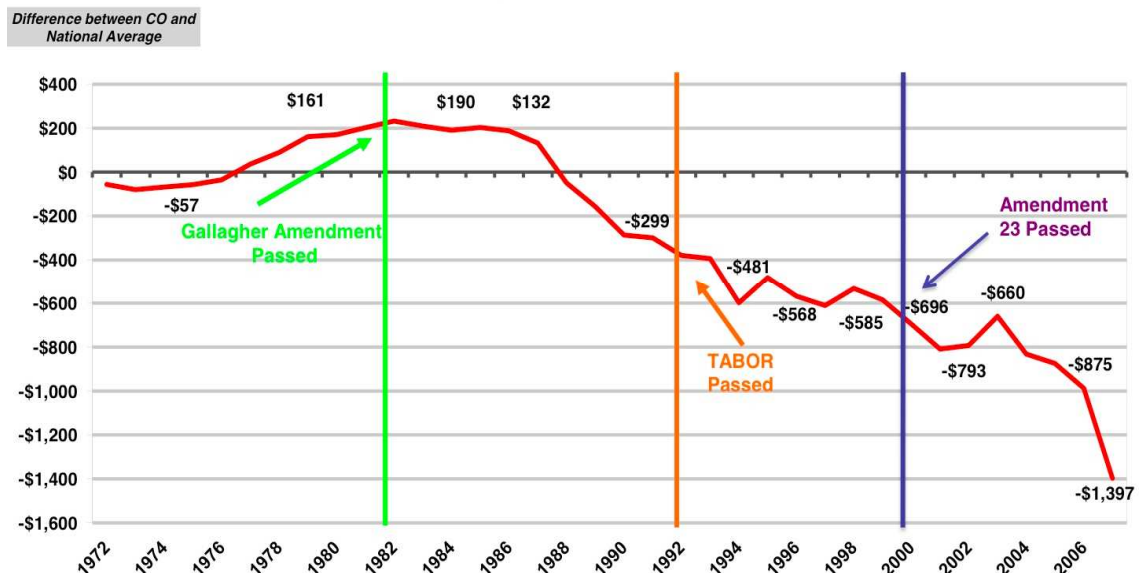
Over the years, Great Ed has built a strong reputation in the legislative arena for integrity, well-referenced information, and timely, effective statewide grassroots action. Our cooperative relationships with numerous advocacy organizations have uniquely positioned Great Ed to work effectively and collaboratively for improved investment in public education.

Today, Great Ed has matured into a non-profit organization with an active board of directors, a professional and effective staff, an expanded capacity to organize and collaborate, a significant online presence, and a broader and stronger revenue base.

With Colorado's schools, colleges and universities facing unprecedented, devastating cuts beyond anything we could have envisioned, the need for Great Ed has never been greater. Colorado is at a crossroads where successful, sustainable education reform is dependent on statewide passage of meaningful, long-term budget reform. With continued community and philanthropic support, Great Ed will continue to educate and organize to make both a reality.

### K-12 Per-Pupil Funding: Colorado vs. National Average

Source: National Center for Education Statistics





Lisa Weil, director of Policy and Communications, addressing a Denver parent organization

*“Education is increasingly recognized as one of the preeminent civil rights issue of our time.”*



Great Education Colorado volunteer meeting

Dear Supporters:

As this report indicates, 2009 was a year of continued growth and challenges for Great Education Colorado.

While policymakers promise education reforms, public education funding in our state faces a severe cliff with the end of federal stimulus dollars and the effective demise of Amendment 23. Even before the proposed cuts of at least \$440 per pupil, Colorado ranked 42nd in the nation for K-12 per-pupil funding, and our higher education funding is among the lowest in the country.

Instead of being forced to debate which is more important, Colorado needs to find the will to adequately fund both P-12 and higher education. No longer can we pit rural districts versus urban districts, special needs versus gifted and talented versus at-risk, P-12 versus higher education. With education increasingly recognized as one of the preeminent civil rights issues of our time, we need an education system that addresses the needs of all children throughout their school careers.

To this end, Great Education Colorado worked hard to meet our stated goals for 2009. We furthered our mission of education and advocacy for improved investment in schools, aware of the need to match education reform with necessary resources. We mobilized and expanded our community of public school supporters, strengthened our community partnerships, and accelerated our grassroots preparation for a ballot measure to reach these goals.

We all realize that success at the ballot will be impossible without the further coordinated efforts of public education supporters - especially parents. Our electoral force has never before been informed and mobilized on a statewide level to affect meaningful change. *Until now.*

Over the past five years, Great Ed has been working methodically and strategically to form a coalition that spans preschool through higher education; that joins communities of all locales, demographics and needs; and that enables partner organizations to inform their members of the depth and true causes of, and possible solutions for, the budget woes that have been steadily eroding our state's ability to provide a 21<sup>st</sup> century education for every child.

The “Great Futures Colorado Campaign,” developed in 2009 and launched this year, activates public school supporters to advocate for a ballot proposal that will improve investment in Colorado's schools and colleges.

We are grateful to the individuals, companies, and foundations listed on the back of this report for making this work possible. We hope you will join us in this important mission, in 2010 and beyond, because great futures start with a great education.

Sincerely,



Liane Morrison  
Executive Director



Carol Boigon, Denver City Councilwoman  
Board Chair

## “BEST” (Building Excellent Schools Today)

BEST, the most significant legislative investment in Colorado school construction since statehood, was inspired by Great Ed’s statewide tours for state leaders in 2007 and 2008. Governor Ritter signed BEST into law on May 22, 2008. In 2009, more than \$100 million in construction projects was spent to improve our state’s schools.



Students at Sangre de Cristo Elementary look at layout of new school

## The Second Annual Great Education Colorado Tennis Open

Back by popular demand, the second annual Great Education Colorado Tennis Open took place on September 20, 2009 at the Gates Tennis Center in Denver. Once again, more than 250 kids, teenagers, parents, tennis players, public officials and local celebrities made our largest fundraiser a success, raising over \$30,000. Food and drink was generously donated by a wide array of contributors and sponsors, and over 80 volunteers participated.



Denver DA Mitch Morrissey and State Senate President Brandon Shaffer

## Great Ed Communication Network

Great Education Colorado has continued to utilize the latest forms of technology to reach the public about the crucial issues in education. In addition to our website which received tens of thousands of visits last year, our blog, Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and email communications continue to keep our readers up-to-date on the latest in education funding news. Great Ed’s staff and volunteers reach out in person as well through our regular “Lunch and Learns” for supporters who want to stay current on the issues.

## RAFT for Teachers and Students

The first Great Education Colorado Volunteer Day was at the Resource Area for Teachers (RAFT), which provides a tangible, effective way to help kids and teachers. We did the set-up work while volunteers put together low cost electric circuit kits and DNA models for teachers who need hands-on, interactive student experiences at affordable prices. All materials were donated from businesses who would normally discard the items.



RAFT grand opening on Oct. 4 in Denver

## SAVE OUR STATE

In September of 2009, Great Ed joined other advocacy groups and citizens at a rally at the Capitol urging our elected officials to consider all options in addressing our state’s budget crisis.



Save our State rally, September 2009

Great Education Colorado received several generous grants in 2009, including those from the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado, the Rose Community Foundation, the El Pomar Foundation, the Brett Family Foundation, the Reinisch Family Foundation, and the Barton Family Foundation.



**\$25,000+**

Rose Community Foundation  
El Pomar Foundation

**\$10,000 — \$24,999**

Barton Family Foundation  
Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado  
Reinisch Family Foundation

**\$5,000 — \$9,999**

The Cherryble Fund  
Colorado Campaign for Children  
and Public Schools

**\$1,000 — \$4,999**

1st Bank  
Brett Family Foundation  
Carson Foundation  
Comcast  
Deane Family Fund  
El Pomar Foundation  
Lederer Family Foundation  
Steele Street Bank & Trust  
Lisa Weil  
Nancy and Jerry Weil

**\$500 — \$999**

Liz Adams  
Scott Benefield  
Carol Boigon  
Libby Bortz  
Lynn Dolven  
Paula and Stan Gudder  
Barbara Jo Hamblin  
Raymond Huff  
Craig and Lorraine Jones  
Cynthia Kahn  
Kaplan, Kirsch & Rockwell  
Kelly, Garnsey, Hubbell & Lass  
Peggy LaPlante  
Marcy Morrison  
Katie Reinisch  
Scott Reisch  
Stephanie and Stephen Ruyle  
Jamie Sarche  
Gail R. Sigman  
Webb Group International  
Wheeler Trigg Kennedy

**\$250 — \$499**

David Aschkinasi and Merrill Stern  
Virginia Belval  
Gary Benson  
Patricia Bortz  
Linda Campbell  
Michael Canges  
Tyler Chafee  
Cynthia Chapman  
Pamela Coe  
Susan Daggett  
Terrel Davis  
Michael Dino  
Jane Feldman  
Beth Ferguson  
Peter and Georgianna Forbes  
Gwen Fornia  
Frederick Franko

Lynne Gertz  
James and Lorrie Grillo  
Jill Hanauer  
David Harwood  
Daniel Kagan  
Milton Kahn  
Lynn Lancaster  
Julie Malek and Rick Kornfield  
Roberta Marks  
Anne L. McGihon  
Mary McNeil Cheever  
Janine and Mark Melberg  
Miller and Steiert  
Scott and Therese Chavez Murphy  
Nora Neureiter  
Kathy Neustadt Hankin Fund  
Caren Press  
Rich Rainaldi and Martha Records  
Ellen Robinson  
Jay and Kathleen Rust  
Sally Shafroth  
Anne Sneed  
Craig Stewart  
Robin Vidimos  
John Walsh  
Chris Watney  
Jennifer and David Wiener  
Carla Witt  
Gene Wolfel  
Les and Marianne Woodward  
Lisa Zoeller

**Up to \$249**

Arthur and Patricia Aaron  
Wende Abraham  
Nancy Abramson  
Margie and Joseph Adams  
Advanced Orthodontic Care  
Wendy and Ed Aro  
Larry Adler and Howard Torgove  
John and Frances Augenblick  
Steven Bailey  
Stephen and Lisa Bain  
Tamara and Francis Barron  
Maria Barsallo  
Rick Beethe  
Joy Benenson  
Kim Benson  
Victoria Berge  
Jennifer Bezoza  
Vina Sue Bishop  
Alan Bortz  
Beryl Brasch  
Anne Brehmer  
Joan Brennan  
Michael Brewer  
Bruce Broderius  
Wes and Linda Brown  
Susan Buck  
Anne Buton  
Eric Butz  
Jana and Thomas Caldwell  
Kathy Callum  
Tracey Campbell  
Mary Lou Cass  
Tanya Caughey

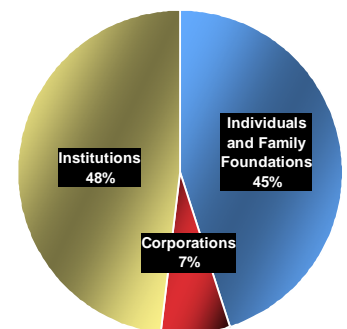
Cary Chapman  
Jay and Barbara Chapman  
Children's Dentistry of Cherry  
Creek  
Samuel Clark  
Kathryn Clayman  
Claire Coeshott  
Alvin Cohen  
Judy and Harvey Cohen  
Lois Court  
Linda Crain  
Virginia Crocker  
Jennifer Culhane  
Lesley Dahikemper  
Schlager Daniel  
Michael Darling  
Gail Daukas  
Paula Daukas  
Kate Demong  
Susan Denny  
Andrea Dowdy  
Bob Drake  
Elisa Erickson  
Kady Everard  
Wendy Fiedler  
Karen Fisher  
Betty Flaten  
Robin Fleischmann  
Sandra Fritz  
Alan and Belina Fruitman  
Jo Ann Fujjoka  
Stephanie Gawler  
Kathy Gebhardt  
Lindy Gilchrist and Tim Dudley  
Lorie Gillis  
Marcy Glenn  
Bill Goldberg  
Julie Gonzales  
Alan Greenberg  
Mariellen Guerra  
Alice Guin  
Lucia Guzman  
Steven Hamilton  
Michael Hare  
Kristi Hargrove  
Misty Hart  
Lisa Hartman  
Allegra Haynes  
Anna Jo Haynes  
Carol Hedges  
Susan Heinzeroth  
Diana Hersh  
Susan High  
Jennifer Hilger  
Susan Homiak  
Suzanne Hoover  
Kurt Hotto  
Renee Howell  
Ervie Hudak  
Carol Hunt and Gwen Huit  
Lara Jakubowski  
Diane Jarbawi  
Daphne Jean  
Helayne Jones  
JWK Foundation  
Martin Katz

Robert Keller  
Tom and Linda Kelley  
Laura Kent  
Ashley Kilroy  
Thomas Kimmell  
Tessa Kirchner  
Dorothy Lamm  
Celeste Landry  
Martha Lassen  
Kate Laub  
Angelique Layton  
Virginia Lew  
David Lewis  
Councilman Doug Linkhart  
Tracey Lovett  
Maureen H. Loyacono  
Tish Maes  
Elinor and Philip Mancoff  
Sue Marinelli  
Elaine Mariner  
Nate Mariner  
Vicki Mattox  
Beth McCann  
Janice McCoy  
Terry McCullough  
Deborah McGlathery  
Christina McGrath  
J P McGuckin  
Susan McGuinness  
Marnie Mc Kercher  
Olivia Mendoza  
Jennifer Mercado  
Laura Michaels  
Megan Mistler-Jackson  
Peter Monson  
Lisa Morris  
Brenda Morrison  
Karen and Kelly Morrison  
Karen Mortimer  
Donna Mosely  
Gloria Nedved  
Andrew Newman  
Betty and Peter Ney  
John Noriega  
Debbly Oberbeck  
Julie O'Brien  
Elizabeth Palmquist  
Patricia Pascoe  
Jeffery and Jessica Pearson  
Daniel Perlman and Lili Zohar  
Cassie Perlmutter  
Jordan Perlmutter  
Mary Pettigrew  
Sarah Pezoa  
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Frank and Gale Puzio  
Dorelle Raab-Peters  
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Diane Reeder  
Kevin Reese  
Nancy Reinisch  
Micheal Reynolds  
Nancy Rhine  
T.R. and Ann Rice  
Rodney Rice  
Andrew Rindfleisch

Theodore Rinehart  
Kristin Robbins, DDS  
Jim and Cathy Roper  
Judith Rothman  
Jeff Salzenstein  
Diane Sanders  
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Paula Schmitt  
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Rod and Victoria Schuster  
Mary Seawell  
Ruth and Brad Segal  
Amy Shapiro  
Steven Shapiro  
Patrick and Elizabeth Shea  
Michelle Shedro  
Janet Sherman  
Martina Shulte  
Jacqui Shumway  
Karen Silverman  
Walter and Amy Silvesky  
David Skaggs  
Lori Snyder  
Judy Solano  
Gully Stanford  
Pam Stearman  
Karen Steinhauer  
Cynthia Stevenson  
Vicki Sullivan  
Jean Sullivan-Beall  
Cathy Summer  
Glenn Tacke  
Heather Taussig  
Tina (Elizabeth) Taylor  
Michael Theis  
Shelley Thompson  
Joyce Thorn  
Carol Torsch  
Wayne and Kimberly Turnbow  
Garrett and Niki Tuttle  
Jill Viehweg  
Anthony Viorst  
Daniel Wake  
Jay Want  
Martha Ward  
Carrie Warren-Gully  
Nancy Watzman  
Kenneth Weaver  
Judith Weingarten  
Colin Wells  
Stephanie Welsh  
Terry and Jolene Whitney  
Chris Williams  
Jill Williams  
Susan Windels  
Joanna Witt  
Lisa Wolff  
Elizabeth Wright  
Kathleen Wussow  
Francoise and Lynn Yehle  
Kathleen and Bob Zachman  
Laurie and Marty Zeller

Great Education Colorado relies on the generous contributions of individuals, foundations and corporations to further its mission to advocate for fully funded public education reform.

Our revenue comes from three sources:



In addition to the generous amount of monetary support we received, our volunteers contributed an invaluable number of hours throughout the year. Thank you – we could not have done it without you!

## Staff

Liane Morrison  
Executive Director

Lisa Weil  
Director of Policy & Communications

Casey Shea  
Research & Community Partnerships Coordinator

Eva Cherin  
Organizational Coordinator

## Professional Services

Patty Bortz  
Volunteer & Fundraising Consultant

Eric Mills  
Web Consultant

Skyler McKinley  
New Media Advisor