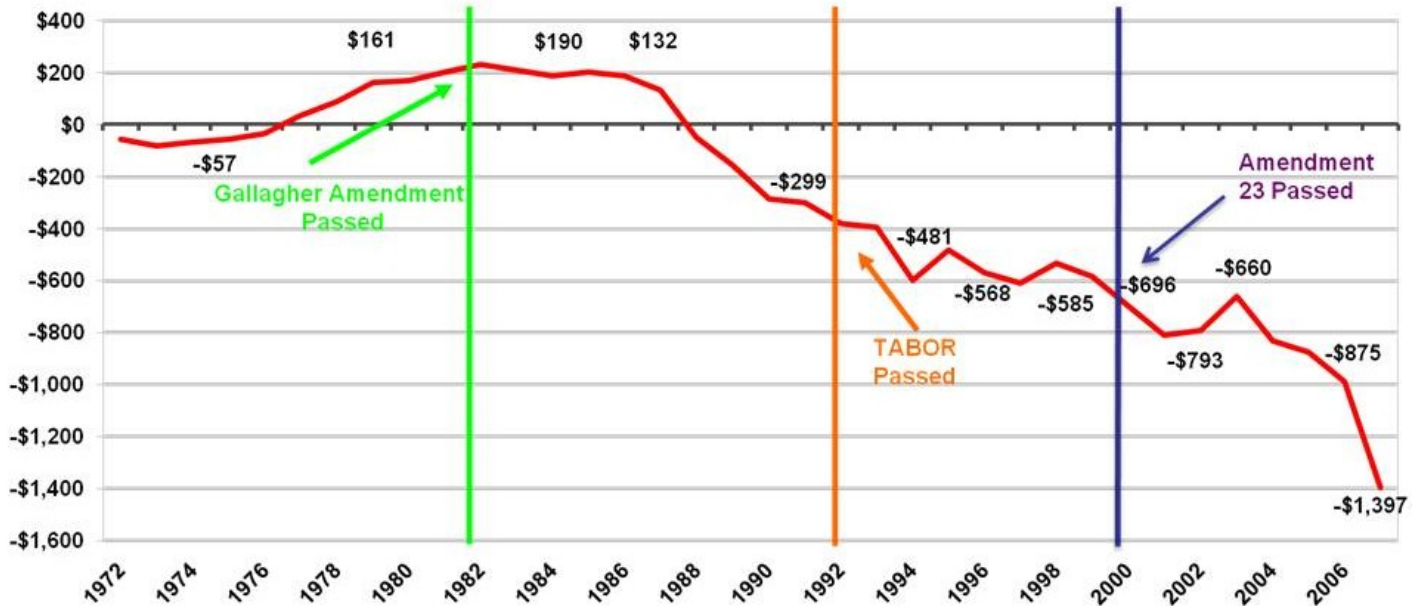


K-12 Per-Pupil Funding: Colorado vs. National Average

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Difference between CO and National Average



HOW DID WE GET HERE? The falling red line on this graph documents how Colorado's per pupil funding compares to the national average from 1972-2007. With conventional wisdom in and around the Capitol that K-12 funding is "fine" and has been protected – perhaps *too* protected – by Amendment 23, this graph tells the real story of Colorado's 30 year history of disinvestment. The downward trend started with the Gallagher Amendment in 1982 and continued to decline with the passage of TABOR in 1992. Even with a slight increase following Amendment 23, Colorado continued dropping to new lows relative to the national average. In 2007, Colorado was \$1,397 below the national per pupil funding average. [Learn more at greateducation.org](http://www.greateducation.org).

FOLD OVER

PRINT THIS OUT

ASK YOUR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND LEGISLATORS

Even with Amendment 23, Colorado has fallen further and further behind the National Average for per pupil funding (\$1,397 below in 2007). With the new interpretation of Amendment 23, schools will likely experience cuts in January 2010 with worse cuts expected in the 2010-11 fiscal year.

1. *How would cuts impact kids, the future of our community, and communities across the state? What is your plan to address potential cuts?*
2. *In 2011, the education funding cliff will really arrive for P-20 schools—the 5 year timeout in Ref. C sunsets, the extra 1% in Amendment 23 expires, and Federal Stimulus dollars will no longer be propping up school, college, and university budgets. With our shrinking investments, how can we continue to meet the individual needs of all Colorado kids and implement important reform efforts to improve our education system for the long term?*
3. *In your position as [School Board Member or Legislator], what are you going to do to avoid the Cliff?*