

# DECIDE

## No More Cuts to Education in Colorado! Support our Schools, Colleges, and Universities! The Future of Colorado’s Kids and Economy is at Stake!

### The Facts

- ➔ As of 2007, Colorado was funding K-12 education \$1400 per pupil below the national average. That was *before* the legislature recently cut \$400—\$500 per pupil from K-12 schools.
- ➔ Colorado ranks 48th in the nation in funding higher education.
- ➔ We have one of the lowest tax structures in the U.S., ranking 46th based on combined state and local taxes.
- ➔ We are the only state in the country that does *not* allow our legislature to control revenues for education.

### The Bad News

- School districts around the State are going to 4-day school weeks, charging for buses, eliminating or scaling back art, music, PE and summer school because of cuts.
- It was just announced that public college tuition will increase by as much as 9% next year while programs are cut at the same time (tuition rose as much as 174% over the last 10 years).
- Some of our community colleges are in danger of closing.
- Schools and colleges are laying off thousands of educators all over Colorado.
- Class sizes, already some of the largest in the nation, are increasing at every grade level, including college.

### The Good News

- Together, we can do something about the bad news.
- We can give the voters a chance to DECIDE to support public schools, colleges and universities.
- Support DECIDE: Decide—Education Cuts or Invest in our Democracy and Economy which is House Concurrent Resolution 1002 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 002.

If approved by the legislature, DECIDE will go on the ballot in November of 2010. If it passes, DECIDE will give the legislature the ability to increase revenues for education in order to invest in our schools, colleges and universities.

#### Quote from the Great Futures Colorado Coalition:

*“Colorado voters should get an opportunity to DECIDE which is the higher value: keeping the strictest revenue limits BAR NONE, BY FAR in the country or investing in the education of the next generation. We can't do both. If we don't put DECIDE on the ballot, the choice will be made for us, and education, our kids -- and ultimately our economy -- are the losers.”*



Sponsored by the non-partisan Great Futures Colorado Coalition, a project of Great Education Colorado.  
[www.greatfuturescolorado.org/decide](http://www.greatfuturescolorado.org/decide)

## **TAKE ACTION NOW**

### **What you can do to support DECIDE:**

Go to [www.greatfuturescolorado.org/decide](http://www.greatfuturescolorado.org/decide) now to:

1. Call and e-mail legislators to let them know you support public education and DECIDE.
2. Join us on April 19th and/or 29th at the Capitol to show that you value the future of our state. (information below)
3. Volunteer to help get DECIDE passed. E-mail [casey@greateducation.org](mailto:casey@greateducation.org).

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## **Join Supporters of DECIDE**

### **April 19th and 29th—Colorado State Capitol Hearings**

**Drop in anytime between 1:15pm and 5:30pm (may go later)**

There are several ways you can show your support on the 19th and 29th:

- Just come and sit in the audience on either or both afternoons. We need 500 people each day and even 45 minutes of your time will make a difference. Feel free to even bring your kids!
- Voice your concerns and tell your story about how these cuts have affected and will affect your schools, college or universities. Tell them that you value Colorado and the future of our children.

R.S.V.P. to attend at [greatfuturescolorado.org/decide](http://greatfuturescolorado.org/decide)

R.S.V.P to speak at [lisa@greateducation.org](mailto:lisa@greateducation.org)

Parking	Bring \$6-\$13 - park close in or park in the Art Museum lot (entrance on 12th, west of Broadway). On-street parking is sometimes available, but only for 1-2 hours. Carpool!
Entrances	First floor on the north (Colfax) side, basement on the south (14th Ave) side -- will have to go through security
Location	Supreme Court chambers is on 2nd floor north side inside the Capitol
Wear	RED shirt or a shirt from your school
Signs	Not allowed
Snacks	Will be provided
Contact	Day-of phone number: 303-919-9468

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[casey@greateducation.org](mailto:casey@greateducation.org)

303-722-5901