The following preliminary ColoradoK-12 budget information from Governor

Hickenlooper was provided by CEA Communications. This highlights the necessity for 3A, but also underscores that it is not a long term solution to our budget problems.

November 1, 2012

Governor John Hickenlooper [released his proposed FY 2013-14 budget today](http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&amp;childpagename=GovHickenlooper%2FCBONLayout&amp;cid=1251633509961&amp;pagename=CBONWrapper), outlining his ideas for funding education, infrastructure, public safety, and critical state services. After presenting his budget proposal, the Governor took some questions from the media, including questions about public education funding. He said, “On education, we’re a billion dollars behind where we were five years ago. We’re not making additional cuts. What we’re trying to do is look at places where we can restore, and they’re very modest in areas that need major restoration.”

The Governor added, “The budget increase breaks down to roughly $200 million of new money to K-12 – that’s $31.7 million above what would have been necessary just to keep up with inflation and increased enrollment. As a way to frame that, we’re making up about 3% of what we lost over the last five years, not a large enough amount. It includes $21 million for full-day kindergarten and pre-school. Overall on a per-student basis, it’s about $185 per-student increase.”

CEA released this statement from President Kerrie Dallman this afternoon:

“Teachers, students and families across Colorado are appreciative that Governor Hickenlooper has proposed a state budget which includes a modest increase for K-12 public education. The Governor is correct to point out that this increase, $31.7 million after accounting for inflation and higher student enrollment, repairs very little of the damage caused by massive state budget cuts over the last five years. Our K-12 investment is still more than $1 billion behind the level of public education funding that Colorado voters said they want for their children through Amendment 23, passed in

2000.

“School districts across the state have made a wide range of painful, unpopular budget cuts, resulting in larger class sizes, fewer curriculum offerings for students, and increased fees for families. State leaders still need to address these serious shortfalls.

“Great economies start with great education, and all Coloradans need to recognize that this budget only marginally increases the investment we need to make in our students in order to secure the strong, dynamic state economy we all desire for them when they enter the workforce. It is time for all groups –business, education, communities and families - to come together and achieve full funding for our schools for the benefit of our students and our state.”

The next state release of information about the condition of the state budget will be December 20, a regular quarterly revenue projection. This is less than a month from the start of the next legislative session on January 9.

Jeanne Beyer

CEA Communications

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