



**Concerning a Study of a Student Count System based on
Average Daily Membership (SB 10-8)
Senator Johnston and Representative Scanlan
-A Bill from the Interim School Finance Committee-**

Please Vote Yes on SB 8 and the Sponsor's Proposed Amendment

What SB 8 will do:

- Authorizes a study of student enrollment count that uses Average Daily Membership (ADM) to determine school district funding.
- An ADM system funds school districts based on an average daily count of the number of students enrolled, rather than the current policy of a single count date, October 1, which provides no financial incentive to keep kids in school throughout the school year.
- Provides for a report to the Senate and House Education Committees by January 2011.
- Funds the study with gifts, grants, or donations.
- Establishes an advisory committee to advise the study.
- Ensures that all stakeholders have a voice on the committee by including representatives of the following on the advisory committee: school districts, state legislators, Colorado Department of Education (CDE), and national and state researchers.
- Requires that the study examine the effects of student count on school attendance; examine the impacts of ADM on school district funding; provide a cost analysis of implementing ADM; and consider other states' policies.

Why vote yes on SB 8:

- Examining the impacts of a different student count mechanism will advance understanding of a more accurate and fair way to fund school districts and support students.
- The current system of funding school districts by counting students on one date, October 1, provides no incentives for school districts to ensure that students complete school, which increases their risk of dropping out.
- The current system does not fairly compensate districts for students who enroll after October 1.
- Only a quarter of the states count their students on one date. Half of the states fund school districts with an average daily membership or attendance count.
- School districts in other states report that average daily attendance policies have increased their focus on keeping kids in school.
- One in every four Colorado students fails to graduate from high school, damaging their chances of success in life and hurting the state's economy.
- Students who drop out of school have higher unemployment rates, earn less money during their careers, are more likely to commit a crime and be incarcerated, rely more on public assistance, and pay half as much in state taxes as high school graduates.

Your YES vote on SB 8 will help Colorado policymakers have a better understanding of the implications of student enrollment count on school success and address a significant systemic factor of the school dropout rate.

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