

Ask Your Candidate: What About Student Outcomes?



Reading by third grade and doing math by eighth grade are key milestones that determine whether a child graduates, goes on to college or a career, and earns a living wage.

Colorado has taken real steps forward with a more equitable school funding formula, but progress on paper isn't the same as results in the classroom. Our next policymakers need to **make sure every student actually gets there.**

THE NUMBERS

6 in 10

Six in ten Colorado third graders **can't read or write at grade level**

3 in 4

A majority of Black, Hispanic, and Latino students from low-income families are **more likely to fall behind**

28%

Nearly one in three Colorado students — about 245,000 kids — **are chronically absent**

WHAT IS COLORADO GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

KEY PRIORITIES

- **Fund students, not systems** — fully implement the new school funding formula so resources flow to the kids who need them most, including multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and kids in poverty
- **Make reading accountability real** — require every school to use a state-approved literacy model and ensure kids identified with a reading gap in K-2 get immediate support — not just a plan on paper
- **Treat math the same way** — middle school is the make-or-break moment for postsecondary readiness; Colorado needs the same accountability for math that it's building for reading
- **Scale what's working** — identify what's actually helping underserved students and spread those practices statewide
- **Track what matters** — measure whether students are truly ready for adulthood, not just whether schools checked the right boxes

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE

- ✓ How will you ensure the new school funding formula actually delivers resources to the students who need them most?
- ✓ What will you do to make sure every Colorado student who struggles with reading gets real, immediate support — not just a plan?
- ✓ How will you hold schools accountable for math proficiency, especially heading into middle school?
- ✓ What is your plan to close the achievement gap for Black, Hispanic, and Latino students and kids from low-income families?
- ✓ How will you address chronic absenteeism and keep kids in school?
- ✓ What does student readiness for adulthood look like to you, and how will you measure it?

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