
Amendment 73
Funding for Public Schools
(This measure requires at least 55 percent of the vote to pass.)

ANALYSIS

Amendment 73 proposes amending the Colorado Constitution and Colorado statutes to:

- ◆ increase funding for preschool through twelfth grade (P-12) public education;
- ◆ raise the state individual income tax rate for taxpayers with taxable income over \$150,000, and increase the state corporate income tax rate to provide additional funding for education; and
- ◆ for property taxes levied by school districts, set the assessment rate at 7.0 percent for residential properties and decrease the assessment rate to 24.0 percent for most nonresidential properties.

Summary and Analysis

Amendment 73 increases funding for P-12 public education by raising the individual income tax rate for some individuals, increasing the corporate income tax rate, and setting new assessment rates for property taxes levied by school districts. This analysis describes current funding for public education, how the measure increases school funding, and how the measure changes Colorado’s income and property tax systems.

Education Funding

Current P-12 education funding. P-12 public schools in Colorado are funded through a combination of state, local, and federal sources. Based on the latest available data, total education funding is approximately \$9.7 billion, of which \$6.6 billion is allocated to school districts through a formula in state law. Formula funding begins with the same amount of funding per student, known as the base per pupil funding, which is constitutionally required to increase by at least the rate of inflation annually. In budget year 2017-18, the base per pupil amount was \$6,546. The base funding amount is then adjusted by the following factors to determine a final per pupil amount that varies by district:

- **district size factor**, which provides additional funding based on student enrollment, with smaller districts receiving more funding;
- **cost-of-living factor**, which provides additional funding based on the cost of living in a given district relative to other districts;
- **at-risk factor**, which provides additional funding based on the number of low-income and non-English speaking students; and
- **budget stabilization factor**, which was adopted in 2010 as a budget-balancing tool and applies an equal percentage reduction in formula funding across all school districts.

After the factors were applied, final per pupil amounts ranged from \$7,236 to \$16,247 across all school districts in budget year 2017-18. Once the funding is distributed to districts, each locally elected school board determines how to spend the revenue in its own district.

Formula funding sources. Formula funding is provided by state and local sources. The state pays for the portion of the formula that school districts are unable to fund with their local revenue. Of the \$6.6 billion distributed through the formula in budget year 2017-18, the state share was \$4.1 billion and the local share was \$2.5 billion. The state share is funded by income taxes, sales taxes, and other state revenues, while the local share is funded through local property taxes and vehicle ownership taxes.

Other funding sources. In addition to funding set by the formula, districts receive additional state assistance for specific programs, known as "categoricals." Categoricals include special education, English language learning, gifted and talented and vocational programs, and transportation and totaled \$297.6 million in budget year 2017-18. Additional sources of revenue for education include federal funding, district-assessed fees, competitive state grants for specific purposes, and state capital construction programs, among other sources.

In many school districts, voters have approved property tax revenue above the amount authorized through the school finance formula. These additional property taxes are called "mill levy overrides," and are used for specific local education needs. As of 2018, voters in 121 out of 178 districts have approved mill levy overrides. For those districts, the additional per pupil funding ranges from \$32 to \$5,024 per student.

Education funding under the measure. The measure encourages the state legislature to adopt a new public school finance act that distributes funding to public schools. The new distribution formula must be transparent and easy to understand, and meet criteria related to:

- an increase in base per pupil funding;
- equitable allocation of funding among districts, based on certain student and district characteristics;
- additional funding for certain specialized and early childhood programs; and
- the recruitment and retention of teachers.

Until a new act is adopted, the additional revenue generated by the measure must be spent as shown in Table 1. Of the \$1.6 billion in new revenue generated in the first year of implementation (budget year 2019-20), \$866 million must be spent on specific funding criteria. The remaining \$738.6 million must also be spent on public education, as determined by the state legislature.

**Table 1. Funding Requirements Under Amendment 73
Until a New Formula is Adopted**

Funding Criteria	Under Current Law For Budget Year 2018-19	Under Amendment 73 For Budget Year 2019-20
Base Per-Student Funding	\$6,769 per student	\$7,300 per student
Fully Fund Kindergarten	Districts receive approximately half of the per-student funding for each kindergarten student.	Districts receive full per-student funding for each kindergarten student.
Low-income Students	Districts receive funding based on the number of students whose families earn below a certain income level.	Relaxes the income requirements for students to be considered low-income for funding purposes.
Special Education	\$176.1 million	\$296.1 million (an increase of \$120 million)
Gifted and Talented	\$12.5 million	\$22.5 million (an increase of \$10 million)
English Language Proficiency	\$21.6 million	\$41.6 million (an increase of \$20 million)
Preschool	\$121.0 million	\$131.0 million (an increase of \$10 million)
Remaining funding generated by the measure to be spent on public education as determined by the state legislature.		\$738.6 million*

*Money generated in budget year 2018-19 and future years is also required to be spent on public education.

Tax Changes to Fund Education

Income taxes. Amendment 73 increases income tax rates to provide additional revenue for public education. Colorado's current individual and corporate income tax rate is a flat 4.63 percent. Beginning in 2019, the measure creates a graduated individual income tax rate for taxable income above \$150,000, and increases the corporate tax rate from 4.63 percent to 6.0 percent. The measure is expected to generate \$1.6 billion in budget year 2019-20, the first year of implementation, to be spent on public education. This revenue is exempt from constitutional spending limits.

Individual income tax. Table 2 shows the change in individual income tax rates under the measure and the percentage of filers in each tax bracket. The income tax increase will impact 8.2 percent of individual and joint income tax filers. For joint filers, the income tax tiers shown in Table 2 apply to the joint filers' combined taxable income. The graduated income tax rate also applies to estates, trusts, and businesses that file individually. The change in income tax rates is expected to increase state revenue by an estimated \$1.4 billion in budget year 2019-20.

Table 2. Individual Income Tax Rates Under Amendment 73

Taxable income* between...	...is taxed at a rate of...	Percent of filers whose maximum income is in each tax bracket
\$0 and \$150,000	4.63% (current rate)	91.8%
\$150,001 and \$200,000	5.0%	3.2%
\$200,001 and \$300,000	6.0%	2.5%
\$300,001 and \$500,000	7.0%	1.4%
Over \$500,000	8.25%	1.1%

**These taxable income tiers apply to single, head of household, and joint filers.*

Those with taxable income equal to or less than \$150,000 will not experience an income tax increase under the measure. The impact of the graduated tax increase on taxpayers with higher earnings will differ based on a taxpayer's taxable income. For example, a taxpayer with taxable income equal to \$250,000 would be taxed at 4.63 percent for the first \$150,000 in income. The subsequent \$50,000 would be taxed at a rate of 5.0 percent, and the final \$50,000 would be taxed at a rate of 6.0 percent. Table 3 shows examples of average annual increases in individual income tax liability under the measure.

Table 3. Example Individual Income Tax Increases Under Amendment 73

If your taxable income* is...	The measure will increase your annual income tax liability** by...
less than \$150,000	\$0
\$200,000	\$185
\$250,000	\$870
\$400,000	\$3,925
\$1.0 million	\$24,395

** These examples apply to single, head of household, and joint filers.*

***Actual tax liability may vary based on state income tax credits.*

Corporate income tax. The measure increases the corporate income tax rate from 4.63 percent to 6.0 percent. In contrast to the measure's individual tax rate changes, the increase in the corporate income tax rate is not a graduated tax rate and applies to all corporate taxpayers. The change is expected to generate \$229.4 million in budget year 2019-20. On average, each corporate income taxpayer with an income tax liability is expected to pay an additional \$14,139 per year under the measure.

Property taxes. Property taxes are paid on a portion of a property's value, determined by an assessment rate. Under current law, the assessment rate for most nonresidential property is set at 29 percent, and the rate for residential property is determined by the state legislature based on a formula in the state constitution. Over time, the residential assessment rate has declined from 21 percent in 1983 to the current rate of 7.2 percent. Based on the most recent projection published by Legislative Council Staff, the rate is expected to fall to approximately 6.1 percent for 2019 and 2020. The actual rate will be determined during the 2019 legislative session.

Changes to property taxes under Amendment 73. For school district property taxes only, beginning in 2019, Amendment 73 reduces the nonresidential assessment rate from 29 percent to 24 percent, thereby reducing taxes for nonresidential property. The measure reduces the current residential assessment rate from 7.2 percent to 7.0 percent, and sets it at this lower rate, keeping it from falling further. Relative to a projected 6.1 percent residential assessment rate, the rate under the measure will result in a tax increase for residential property taxpayers. The measure does not impact the assessment rates for mines and lands producing oil and gas.

Taxpayer impacts. As explained above, the measure is expected to decrease school district property taxes for most nonresidential property taxpayers, and increase school district property taxes for residential property taxpayers above what would be paid in 2019 without the measure. The impact on property owners will vary significantly based on several factors, including the school finance formula mill levy rate for the local school district, the actual value of the property, the 2019 residential assessment rate without the measure, and whether and what type of mill levy overrides have been approved by the voters in the school district. For information about the projected impacts on taxpayers in a particular school district, please visit <http://www.coloradobluebook.com/amendment73map>.

School finance impacts. In 2019, the measure is projected to decrease school district property tax revenue by \$62.4 million, reflecting a decrease in nonresidential property tax revenue of \$317.8 million, partially off-set by an increase in residential property tax revenue of \$255.3 million. This decrease in school district revenue in 2019 could be replaced by state funding, which could come from the additional income tax revenue generated by the measure, depending on decisions made by the state legislature. In future years, local property tax revenue for school districts will only be impacted by changes in property values and mill levy rates, not by a changing residential assessment rate.

Reporting Requirements

Amendment 73 requires the Colorado Department of Education, within five years of the measure's implementation, to review how the additional revenue is spent and identify best practices for promoting continuous student achievement. In addition, the state legislature, within ten years of the implementation of the new school finance formula, is required to review the formula and make any necessary adjustments.

For information on those issue committees that support or oppose the measures on the ballot at the November 6, 2018, election, go to the Colorado Secretary of State's elections center web site hyperlink for ballot and initiative information: <http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Initiatives/InitiativesHome.html>

Arguments For

- 1) The state needs a sustainable source of revenue to adequately and equitably fund public education. Colorado cut P-12 public education funding as a result of the Great Recession, and funding levels have not recovered relative to what the formula would otherwise require, even though Colorado has one of the healthiest economies in the nation. Since the 2010-11 budget year, the budget stabilization factor has cut education funding by a total of \$7.2 billion. As a result, school districts have had to make difficult choices, such as limiting teacher salaries, increasing class sizes, limiting mental health and counseling services for students, and narrowing course offerings. Further, approximately half of Colorado school districts are currently operating on four-day weeks. The measure alleviates the impact of these historical cuts by providing a dedicated income tax increase to fund public education.
- 2) The measure provides property tax relief for business property owners, farmers, and ranchers who have paid an increasingly higher proportion of property taxes compared to residential property owners. Since 1983, the nonresidential assessment rate has been set at 29 percent, while the residential assessment rate has fallen from 21 percent to the current 7.2 percent. The measure lessens these inequities between residential and nonresidential property owners by both stabilizing the residential assessment rate and lowering the nonresidential assessment rate for school district property taxes.

- 3) One of the government's most important functions is to provide children with a high-quality public education. Local school districts will prioritize how to spend the new revenue in ways that best fit their community, such as recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers, improving access to early childhood education programs, strengthening science and math, vocational, and literacy programs, and providing a safe learning environment for all students. These are key investments in a successful public education system, which could help ensure a strong Colorado economy that is capable of competing in today's global market.
- 4) Constitutional constraints have suppressed local property tax revenue in many areas and led to greater pressure on the state general operating budget to meet required education funding levels. Stabilizing the local share of required school formula funding and creating a dedicated source of state revenue for education provide additional flexibility for the state to use more of its general operating budget on other core programs, such as transportation, public safety, and health care.

Arguments Against

- 1) The measure imposes a tax increase without any guarantee of increased academic achievement. A focus on educational reform and opportunity rather than new revenue is more likely to improve student outcomes. Policymakers should find efficiencies within the current system and reprioritize existing revenue in order to meet current education funding requirements. Since the 2012-13 budget year, total formula funding has increased by between 1.3 percent and 7.4 percent annually, and just this year, the state share of school formula funding increased by \$425.6 million without a tax increase.
- 2) Increasing the state income tax rate could negatively impact the state's economy. Individuals will have less money to spend, save, and invest, and businesses will have less money to invest in their workers. Many businesses report their earnings through individual income tax returns and would pay the higher income tax rates under the measure. Colorado may also have a harder time attracting or retaining workers and businesses, as the top income tax rate under the measure would be 8.25 percent, the ninth highest state income tax rate in the country. This puts Colorado at a competitive disadvantage compared to other states.
- 3) The measure increases the property tax burden on homeowners, providing a tax cut for businesses at the expense of homeowners. In addition, it complicates an already complicated property tax system. By creating one assessed value for school districts and another assessed value for all other local taxing entities, the measure will lead to confusion among taxpayers and further complicate tax administration for state and local governments.
- 4) The measure does not allow the state legislature to adjust the income tax thresholds to account for inflation. As a result, over time, more taxpayers will end up in the higher tax brackets as their incomes are adjusted for inflation, resulting in additional revenue that must be spent only on education. To the extent that more revenue is raised than is needed to sufficiently fund education, the state will not be able to use this money to address other critical needs such as transportation and health care. Finally, the additional revenue generated by the measure is exempt from the state's constitutional spending limit, thereby removing an important protection for taxpayers.

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

State revenue. The measure increases state revenue by \$750.9 million in budget year 2018-19 (half-year impact) and \$1.6 billion in budget year 2019-20. This amount is from individual income taxes and corporate income taxes. This revenue is exempt from constitutional spending limits and must be used for educational purposes identified in the measure.

State expenditures. The measure increases state expenditures by \$174,933 in budget year 2018-19 for administrative costs. In budget year 2019-20, the measure increases expenditures for education by \$1.6 billion. Revenue generated in other years must also be spent on education.

School district impact. The measure increases school district revenue by a minimum of \$866 million and up to a net \$1.5 billion in budget year 2019-20, the first full fiscal year the measure is implemented. The minimum spending represents the funding requirements specified in the measure; the maximum increase is the result of the \$1.6 billion in new state revenue in budget year 2019-20, and a \$62.4 million decrease in revenue from property taxes.

Local government impact. The measure increases costs for county assessors and treasurers offices to update computer and data systems related to the changes in assessment rates. Specific costs will vary among counties.

State Spending and Tax Increases

Article X, Section 20, of the Colorado constitution requires that the following fiscal information be provided when a tax increase question is on the ballot:

- estimates or actual amounts of state fiscal year spending for the current year and each of the past four years with the overall percentage and dollar change; and
- for the first full year of the proposed tax increase, estimates of the maximum dollar amount of the tax increase and of state fiscal year spending without the increase.

"Fiscal year spending" is a legal term in the Colorado constitution. It equals the amount of revenue subject to the constitutional spending limit that the state or a district is permitted to keep and either spend or save for a single year. Table 4 shows state fiscal year spending for the current year and each of the past four years.

Table 4. State Fiscal Year Spending

	Actual FY 2014-15	Actual FY 2015-16	Actual FY 2016-17	Preliminary FY 2017-18	Estimated FY 2018-19
Fiscal Year Spending	\$12.36 billion	\$12.82 billion	\$12.89 billion	\$13.70 billion	\$14.35 billion
Four-Year Dollar Change in State Spending: \$1.99 billion					
Four-Year Percent Change in State Spending: 16.1 percent					

FY = fiscal year. The state's fiscal (or budget) year runs from July through June.

Table 5 shows the revenue expected from the income tax increase for FY 2019-20, the first full fiscal year for which the tax increase would be in place, and an estimate of state fiscal year spending without the tax increase.

Table 5. Estimated State Fiscal Year Spending and the Proposed Income Tax Increase

	FY 2019-20 Estimate
Fiscal Year Spending Without the Income Tax Increase	\$17.2 billion
Revenue from the Income Tax Increase	\$1.6 billion

TITLE AND TEXT

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution or Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution and Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

SHALL STATE TAXES BE INCREASED \$1,600,000,000 ANNUALLY BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND A CHANGE TO THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES CONCERNING FUNDING RELATING TO PRESCHOOL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING AN EXCEPTION TO THE SINGLE RATE STATE INCOME TAX FOR REVENUE THAT IS DEDICATED TO THE FUNDING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS; INCREASING INCOME TAX RATES INCREMENTALLY FOR INDIVIDUALS, TRUSTS, AND ESTATES USING FOUR TAX BRACKETS STARTING AT .37% FOR INCOME ABOVE \$150,000 AND INCREASING TO 3.62% FOR INCOME ABOVE \$500,000; INCREASING THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE BY 1.37%; FOR PURPOSES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY TAXES, REDUCING THE CURRENT RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT RATE OF 7.2% TO 7.0% AND THE CURRENT NONRESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT RATE OF 29% TO 24%; REQUIRING THE REVENUE FROM THE INCOME TAX INCREASES TO BE DEPOSITED IN A DEDICATED PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND AND ALLOWING THE REVENUE COLLECTED TO BE RETAINED AND SPENT AS VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGES; REQUIRING THE LEGISLATURE TO ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE FUND TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS THROUGHOUT THE STATE WITHOUT DECREASING GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS; DIRECTING THE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT, REGULARLY REVIEW, AND REVISE WHEN NECESSARY, A NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE LAW THAT MEETS SPECIFIED CRITERIA; UNTIL THE LEGISLATURE HAS ENACTED A NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE LAW, REQUIRING THE MONEY IN THE FUND TO BE ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED FOR SPECIFIED EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PURPOSES; REQUIRING THE MONEY IN THE FUND TO BE USED TO SUPPORT ONLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REQUIRING GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS FOR LIC EDUCATION TO INCREASE BY INFLATION, UP TO 5%, ANNUALLY; AND REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COMMISSION A STUDY OF THE USE OF THE MONEY IN THE FUND WITHIN FIVE YEARS?

Text of Measure:

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, section 17 of article IX, **add** (4.5) as follows:

Section 17. Education – Funding. (4.5) Quality Public Education Fund Created. (a) THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE KNOWN AND CITED AS THE "QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND AMENDMENT OF 2018". THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO CREATE A MORE SUSTAINABLE, FAIR, AND ADEQUATE SYSTEM FOR FINANCING PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT IS DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EVERY STUDENT IN THE STATE OF COLORADO TO PREPARE THEM FOR SUCCESS IN CAREER, COLLEGE, AND LIFE.

(b) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND. THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND SHALL RECEIVE ALL REVENUES COLLECTED THROUGH AN INCOME TAX INCREMENT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING APPROVED BY THE VOTERS AT THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION. ALL INTEREST EARNED ON MONEYS IN THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND AND SHALL BE USED BEFORE ANY PRINCIPAL IS DEPLETED. MONEYS REMAINING IN THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND AT THE END OF ANY FISCAL YEAR SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND AND NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND, THE STATE EDUCATION FUND, OR TO ANY OTHER CASH FUND.

(c) IN STATE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020, AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE, AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAY ANNUALLY EXPEND, MONEYS FROM THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS SHALL BE SPECIFIED BY LAW TO IMPROVE, SUPPORT AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF PRE-PRIMARY, PRIMARY, AND SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, RESOURCES, AND OPPORTUNITIES ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS FOR THE BENEFIT OF STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

(d) MONEYS APPROPRIATED FROM THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND SHALL BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT, AND NOT SUPPLANT, THE LEVEL OF FISCAL YEAR GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING EXISTING ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION.

SECTION 2. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, section 3 of article X, **amend (1)(b)** as follows:

(1)(b)(I) Residential real property, which shall include all residential dwelling units and the land, as defined by law, on which such units are located, and mobile home parks, but shall not include hotels and motels, shall be valued for assessment at twenty-one percent of its actual value. For the property tax year commencing January 1, 1985, the general assembly shall determine the percentage of the aggregate statewide valuation for assessment which is attributable to residential real property. For each subsequent year, the general assembly shall again determine the percentage of the aggregate statewide valuation for assessment which is attributable to each class of taxable property, after adding in the increased valuation for assessment attributable to new construction and to increased volume of mineral and oil and gas production. For each year in which there is a change in the level of value used in determining actual value, the general assembly shall adjust the ratio of valuation for assessment for residential real property which is set forth in this paragraph (b) as is necessary to insure that the percentage of the aggregate statewide valuation for assessment which is attributable to residential real property shall remain the same as it was in the year immediately preceding the year in which such change occurs. Such adjusted ratio shall be the ratio of valuation for assessment for residential real property for those years for which such new level of value is used. In determining the adjustment to be made in the ratio of valuation for assessment for residential real property, the aggregate statewide valuation for assessment that is attributable to residential real property shall be calculated as if the full actual value of all owner-occupied primary residences that are partially exempt from taxation pursuant to section 3.5 of this article was subject to taxation. All other taxable property shall be valued for assessment at twenty-nine percent of its actual value. However, the valuation for assessment for producing mines, as defined by law, and lands or leaseholds producing oil or gas, as defined by law, shall be a portion of the actual annual or actual average annual production therefrom, based upon the value of the unprocessed material, according to procedures prescribed by law for different types of minerals. Non-producing unpatented mining claims, which are possessory interests in real property by virtue of leases from the United States of America, shall be exempt from property taxation.

(b)(II) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (1)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION, FOR ALL SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY TAX LEVIES IN ANY PROPERTY TAX YEAR COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2019, RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY SHALL BE VALUED FOR ASSESSMENT AT SEVEN PERCENT OF ITS ACTUAL VALUE, AND ALL OTHER TAXABLE PROPERTY SHALL BE VALUED FOR ASSESSMENT AT TWENTY-FOUR PERCENT OF ITS ACTUAL VALUE EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (1)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION WITH REGARD TO PRODUCING MINES AND LANDS OR LEASEHOLDS PRODUCING OIL OR GAS.

SECTION 3. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, section 20 of article X, **amend (8)(a)** as follows:

(8) Revenue limits. (a) New or increased transfer tax rates on real property are prohibited. No new state real property tax or local district income tax shall be imposed. Neither an income tax rate increase nor a new state definition of taxable income shall apply before the next tax year. Any income tax law change after July 1, 1992 shall also require all taxable net income to be taxed at one rate, excluding refund tax credits or voter-approved tax credits, with no added tax or surcharge; EXCEPT THAT MULTIPLE RATES MAY APPLY TO TAXABLE NET INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS, TRUSTS, ESTATES, AND CORPORATIONS IF SPECIFIC RATE INCREASES IN EXCESS OF THE TAX RATE IN EFFECT ON THE DAY OF AN ELECTION ARE APPROVED BY VOTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AN INCOME TAX INCREMENT DEDICATED TO THE FUNDING OF PRE-PRIMARY THROUGH SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-55-109** as follows:

22-55-109. Quality Public Education Fund – purpose and implementation. (1) KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING BEING ESSENTIAL FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LIBERTY AND A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO DECLARE THAT:

(a) A SOUND PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM IS FUNDAMENTAL TO ENABLING EVERY PERSON TO DEVELOP HIS OR HER FULL POTENTIAL AND TO PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY IN THE CIVIC AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY;

(b) QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE QUALITY WORKFORCE THAT WILL DRIVE A VIBRANT COLORADO ECONOMY FOR DECADES TO COME;

(c) OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN THE PATHWAY TO OPPORTUNITY AND A BETTER LIFE FOR GENERATIONS OF COLORADOANS;

(d) EACH AND EVERY COLORADO CHILD REQUIRES ACCESS TO EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS, QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OFFERINGS, A HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL AND WELL-SUPPORTED TEACHING FORCE, APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER SCHOOL SUPPLIES, AND BROAD, HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES; AND

(e) A MORE SUSTAINABLE, FAIR, AND ADEQUATE SYSTEM FOR FINANCING PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS AND MEET THE NEEDS OF EVERY STUDENT IN THE STATE OF COLORADO TO PREPARE THEM FOR SUCCESS IN CAREER, COLLEGE AND LIFE IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO IMPLEMENT SUBSECTION (4.5) OF SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, AS APPROVED BY THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THIS STATE AT THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION.

(3) (a) IN STATE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020, AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE, AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAY ANNUALLY EXPEND, MONEYS FROM THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND FOR THE PURPOSES STATED IN THIS SUBSECTION (3).

(b) UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A COMPREHENSIVE NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE LAW SUBSTANTIALLY IN COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTION (3)(c) OF THIS SECTION HAS BEEN ENACTED AND HAS TAKEN EFFECT, THESE MONEYS SHALL BE APPROPRIATED AND SPENT AS FOLLOWS:

(I) TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL STATEWIDE BASE PER PUPIL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION FROM PRESCHOOL THROUGH THE TWELFTH GRADE TO NO LESS THAN SEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS, PLUS ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION;

(II) TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF TOTAL ANNUAL STATE FUNDING FOR CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS DIRECTED TO SPECIAL EDUCATION BY AN AMOUNT NO LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS, TO PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS BY AN AMOUNT NO LESS THAN TEN MILLION DOLLARS, AND TO PROGRAMS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY BY AN AMOUNT NO LESS THAN TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS OVER THE AMOUNTS OF FUNDING FOR THOSE PROGRAMS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019, PLUS ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION;

(III) TO INCREASE ANNUAL STATE FUNDING FOR PRE-SCHOOL EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY AN AMOUNT NO LESS THAN TEN MILLION DOLLARS OVER THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING FOR THOSE PROGRAMS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019, PLUS ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION;

(IV) TO INCREASE ANNUAL STATE FUNDING FOR PUPILS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE LUNCH AS NECESSARY TO INCLUDE PUPILS ELIGIBLE FOR REDUCED LUNCH PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE FEDERAL "RICHARD B. RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 1751, ET SEQ; AND

(V) TO FUND ALL KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A FULL DAY PROGRAM AT THE LEVEL OF ONE FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT.

(c) IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ENACT AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE A NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE LAW THAT WILL SUBSTANTIALLY MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA: PROVIDE A BASE PER PUPIL FUNDING LEVEL FOR ALL STUDENTS MOVING TOWARD OR EXCEEDING THE NATIONAL AVERAGE; ALLOCATE FUNDING IN A FAIR AND EQUITABLE MANNER AMONG THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, WITH RECOGNITION OF DIFFERENCES RELATED TO SIZE, GEOGRAPHY, POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS, AND LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COST FACTORS; ASSURE MORE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS ADDRESSED TO STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS, STUDENTS LIVING IN POVERTY, ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS, AND OTHER IDENTIFIABLE GROUPS WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM SUCH PROGRAMS; MORE ADEQUATELY FUND PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING; PROVIDE FOR THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF QUALITY TEACHERS; AND PROVIDE A MODEL FOR FUNDING THAT WILL BE TRANSPARENT AND EASILY UNDERSTANDABLE BY THE PUBLIC. AT SUCH TIME AS A NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE LAW SUBSTANTIALLY MEETING THESE CRITERIA HAS BEEN ENACTED AND HAS TAKEN EFFECT, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE, AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAY ANNUALLY EXPEND, MONEYS FROM THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND FOR THE PURPOSES PROVIDED IN SUCH LAW.

(4) MONEYS FROM THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND SHALL BE APPROPRIATED AND EXPENDED TO SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS, EXCEPT THAT SUCH MONEYS MAY BE SPENT AS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM UNDER THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT OF 2004", 20 USC §1400, ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, OR SUCCESSOR ACT.

(5) MONEYS APPROPRIATED FROM THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND SHALL BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT, AND NOT SUPPLANT, THE LEVEL OF FISCAL YEAR GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING EXISTING ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION, PLUS ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION UP TO A MAXIMUM ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF FIVE PERCENT.

(6)(a) UPON RECEIVING MONEYS FROM THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND, AND PURSUANT TO ESTABLISHED DISTRICT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THE "EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009", ARTICLE 11 OF TITLE 22, THE FEDERAL "EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT", PUB.L. 114-95, AND REGULATIONS DEVELOPED BY THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO STATE EDUCATION LAW, EACH DISTRICT SHALL MAKE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON ITS WEB SITE ITS MISSION AND VISION AND CURRENT BUDGET, AUDIT, UNIFORM IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SCORES.

(b) WITHIN FIVE YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND, AND PURSUANT TO A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS WITH COMPETITIVE BIDDING, THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WILL COMMISSION A STUDY TO INVESTIGATE HOW MONEYS FROM THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND WERE SPENT AND TO DETERMINE THE BEST PRACTICES OF VARIOUS DISTRICTS FROM DIVERSE GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS IN PROMOTING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT. MONEYS FROM THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND MAY BE USED FOR THIS STUDY. THIS STUDY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND POSTED ON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WEBSITE.

(c) WITHIN TEN YEARS AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SUCCESSOR TO THE "PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE ACT OF 1994", AND EVERY FIVE YEARS THEREAFTER, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUCCESSOR ACT TO ENSURE THAT THE FORMULA SET FORTH IN THE SUCCESSOR ACT ENABLES ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO MEET COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORKS. IF THE FORMULA REQUIRES CHANGES TO MEET THESE GOALS IN AN ADEQUATE AND EQUITABLE MANNER, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ADOPT REVISIONS TO THE SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-22-104, **amend** (1.7) as follows:

39-22-104. Income tax imposed on individuals, estates, and trusts – single rate – definitions – repeal. (1.7) Except as otherwise provided in section 39-22-627, subject to subsection (2) of this section, with respect to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2000, a tax of four and sixty-three one hundredths percent is imposed on the federal taxable income, as determined pursuant to section 63 of the internal revenue code, of every individual, estate, and trust. IN ADDITION TO THE TAX RATE AUTHORIZED IN THIS SUBSECTION ON FEDERAL TAXABLE INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS, ESTATES, AND TRUSTS, FOR ALL TAXABLE YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2019, AN INCOME TAX INCREMENT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING TO BE DEDICATED TO THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND CREATED BY SUBSECTION (4.5) OF SECTION 17 OF TITLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION SHALL BE IMPOSED ON THE FEDERAL TAXABLE INCOME OF SUCH TAXPAYERS:

(a) OVER ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND UP TO AND INCLUDING TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, AT THE RATE OF THIRTY-SEVEN ONE HUNDREDTHS PERCENT;

(b) OVER TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND UP TO AND INCLUDING THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, AT THE RATE OF ONE AND THIRTY-SEVEN ONE HUNDREDTHS PERCENT;

(c) OVER THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND UP TO AND INCLUDING FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, AT THE RATE OF TWO AND THIRTY-SEVEN ONE HUNDREDTHS PERCENT; AND

(d) OVER FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, AT THE RATE OF THREE AND SIXTY-TWO ONE HUNDREDTHS PERCENT.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-22-301, **amend** (1)(d)(I)(I), as follows:

39-22-301. Corporate tax imposed. (1)(d)(I) A tax is imposed upon each domestic C corporation and foreign C corporation doing business in Colorado annually in an amount of the net income of such C corporation during the year derived from sources within Colorado as set forth in the following schedule of rates:

(I) Except as otherwise provided in section 39-22-627, for income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2000, four and sixty-three one hundredths percent of the Colorado net income. IN ADDITION TO THE TAX RATE AUTHORIZED IN THIS SUBSECTION (1)(d)(I)(I), FOR ALL TAXABLE YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2019, AN INCOME TAX INCREMENT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING TO BE DEDICATED TO THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND CREATED BY SUBSECTION (4.5) OF SECTION 17 OF TITLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION SHALL BE IMPOSED ON COLORADO NET INCOME AT THE RATE OF ONE AND THIRTY-SEVEN ONE HUNDREDTHS PERCENT.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-22-623, **amend** (1)(b) as follows:

39-22-623. Disposition of collections. (1) The proceeds of all moneys collected under this article, less the reserve retained for refunds, shall be credited as follows:

(b) Following apportionment of the city, town, and county shares pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) and pursuant to section 29-21-101, C.R.S., all remaining funds, less the amount credited to the reserve created in section 39-29-107.8, in accordance with subsection (2) of said section, shall be credited AS FOLLOWS:

(I) FOR ALL TAXABLE YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2019, ALL MONEYS DERIVED FROM THE INCOME TAX INCREMENT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING UNDER SECTIONS 39-22-104(1.7) AND 39-22-301(1) C.R.S., SHALL BE CREDITED TO AND DEPOSITED IN THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND CREATED BY SUBSECTION (4.5) OF SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LIMITATIONS ON REVENUE, SPENDING, OR APPROPRIATIONS CONTAINED IN SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, ALL MONEYS CREDITED TO AND DEPOSITED IN THE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND PURSUANT TO THIS SUBPARAGRAPH AS APPROVED BY THE VOTERS AT THE STATEWIDE ELECTION IN NOVEMBER 2018, MAY BE COLLECTED AND SPENT AS VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGES AND SHALL NOT REQUIRE SUBSEQUENT VOTER APPROVAL.

(II) ALL REMAINING FUNDS SHALL BE CREDITED to the general fund, and the general assembly shall make appropriations therefrom for the expenses of the administration of this article.