



COLORADO
Department of Education

CASBO

Financial Transparency

April 20, 2017

Agenda

- A) Project Overview: Requirements and Timeline
- B) Small Rural District Considerations
- C) Public Website Preview
- D) Narrative Component
- E) Financial Transparency Document Posting Requirements/Changes - July 1, 2017
- F) Next Steps

Financial Transparency Overview

What you already know:

- LEPs in Colorado are mandated to post financial data in accordance with financial transparency requirements resulting from legislation in both 2014 and 2015, primarily Section 22-44-105, C.R.S. and Section 22-44-304, C.R.S. resulting from HB14-1292 and HB15-1321

Financial Transparency Overview

What you may not know:

- Legislation mandates that a public website be built that “translates district- and school-level expenditures into a format that is readable and comparable by a layperson”
- BrightBytes and FPP Subcommittee have spent last 18 months working together to build the public website view and a data approval tool for business officials
 - Piloted the website and approval tool with 12 districts in 2016
- There is an optional narrative component that allows districts the opportunity to add context to their financial information

Primary District Involvement

FPP Sub-Committee

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools
- Centennial BOCES
- Cherry Creek 5
- Denver 1
- Douglas County RE 1
- Fountain 8
- Jefferson County R-1
- Littleton 6
- Peyton 23JT
- St. Vrain Valley Re-1J
- Widefield 3
- Academy 20

Pilot Participants

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools
- Centennial BOCES
- Aurora Public Schools
- Cherry Creek 5
- Douglas County RE1
- Jefferson County R-1
- Kiowa C-2
- Littleton 6
- Mapleton 1
- St. Vrain Valley Re-1J

Financial Transparency Timeline

- May 2014 - HB14-1292 Passed
- August 2014 - FPP Sub-Committee Kickoff
- October 2015 - BrightBytes Selected and Project Kickoff
- July 2016 - Website Pilot - Version 1
- December 2016 - Website Pilot - Version 2
- January 2017 - LEP Outreach and Training
- March 1, 2017 - Deadline to Post FY15-16 Data
- June 2017 - “Soft Opening” of website for Districts
- July 1, 2017 - Website in Production

Small Rural Considerations

- [HB15-1321](#) allows small rural districts to report only district level expenditures
 - Small rural districts are still required to post FY15-16 financial data files to be used in the website view
 - If a small rural district chooses to tie expenditures to the unique schools in the district, the website will present that information - it will not be suppressed



You are viewing pilot data. Data does not represent actual school data and is subject to change.

Financial Transparency for Colorado Schools

Welcome to the Colorado K12 Financial Transparency website. Here you will find revenue and expenditure information for each school, district, and BOCES throughout the state. Click below to learn more, or begin exploring using the search and map features.

[Learn more](#) 

The Narrative

- Every LEP has the option of adding one narrative to their financial data page on the public website view
 - The narrative section is optional - if you choose not to include a narrative, the formatting of the page will adjust the display accordingly
 - Narrative formatting options include the ability to add hyperlinks
- The overall purpose of the narrative is to allow LEPs to add context to their financial data
- The narrative is added through the data approval tool
 - Your business officer should have access credentials
 - You can post your narrative at any time between now and July 1
 - You can adjust your narrative anytime before/after July 1

The Narrative

Tips and Suggestions

- Collaborate with your team - work with superintendent, communications, and finance personnel to come up with what you want to communicate
- Think of the most commonly asked questions about your finances - this might be a place to address some of those
- Keep it simple - keep in mind the audience's understanding of financial terms and practices
- Keep it concise - people generally won't read more than a couple of paragraphs
- Share your narrative with a non-finance audience to get their feedback
- Use the sneak-preview window (June 6 - July 1) to look at other districts' narratives and find examples that resonate with you

Sample Narrative #1

Whispering Pines School District is on the Southwestern end of Colorado City. As the 5th lowest funded district in the state, we are very proud of the educational opportunities we have been able to provide to nearly 9,700 students. We have 7 elementary schools, 3 middle schools and 2 high schools along with Susan B. Anthony Charter Academy. Whispering Pines Elementary is a music focus school and Lewis and Clark Elementary School is a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) focus school. Whispering Pines School District also provides many Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs through Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses from middle to high school.

The information contained on this financial transparency website can be very informative. However, comparisons of schools and districts should be done with caution as no two schools are alike. Please contact the Whispering Pines School District Business Services Department if you have any questions regarding this data.

Sample Narrative #2

Blue Spruce School District Reorganized is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado and a body corporate formed in 1959 upon the reorganization and consolidation of several former school districts for the purpose of operating and maintaining an educational program for school-aged children residing within its boundaries. The District is located in the Southeast corner of the state, and the district encompasses approximately 160 square miles in Spruce County. The District is the only school district serving the towns of Crystal Lake, Twin Hills, Platteland and Arroyo.

There are various uncontrollable but viable aspects facing the School District each year. Enrollment in the School District has steadily declined over the past ten years.

The District provides a range of educational programs and services authorized by Colorado state statute to approximately 300 enrolled students. District programs and services include basic K-12 education in elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, option schools, special education, vocational education, preschool and numerous other programs. Blue Spruce School District employs 35 full and part-time employees.

We have successfully completed our fifth year as an elementary school for Kindergarten through Fifth grade only, and have worked with a neighboring district through a tuition agreement to educate our middle and high school students who live within our district boundaries.

Please contact the Blue Spruce School District Business Department if you have any questions regarding our data.

Next Steps

- Get everyone on the same page
 - Work with business managers to utilize the data approval tool
 - Start thinking about how you will want to shape your narrative
 - Start thinking about how you can utilize this as a resource for your community
 - Start thinking about how you will want to communicate about this to your community
- Public Website Preview: Starting on June 6th
 - More information on that will be coming out in early May
- Public Website Goes Live on July 1

Document Posting Requirements

July 1, 2016

Required Financial Transparency

Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-44-304

(Commencing July 1, 2017)

- **District Adopted Budget - Including Uniform Budget Summary (current and prior two years)**
- **District Financial Audit (current and prior two years)**
- **Quarterly Financial Statements (current and prior two years)**
- **Salary Schedules or Policies (current and prior two years)**
- **Accounts Payable Check Registers (current and prior two years)**
- **Credit, Debit and Purchase Card Statements (current and prior two years)**
- **Investment Performance Reports or Statements (current and prior two years)**
- **Individual School Site Financial Information* (current and prior two years)** *(districts identified as small/rural with less than 1,000 K-12 students, and having no charter schools, required to post district level financial information only)*
- **Other District-Specific Financial Information**

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ESSA Per-Pupil Expenditure Reporting

ESSA Per-Pupil Expenditure Reporting

ESSA requires state report card to include:

The per-pupil expenditures of Federal, State, and local funds, including actual personnel expenditures and actual non-personnel expenditures of Federal, State, and local funds, disaggregated by source of funds, for each local education agency and each school in the State for the preceding fiscal year.

Regulations were officially rescinded on March 27th

Reporting is effective for FY2016-17 data to be reported by December 31, 2017.

ESSA Per-Pupil Expenditure Reporting

FPP Subcommittee Recommendations:

- Generally follow the rescinded regulations.
- Report data available through Finance December Data Pipeline. Although school-level expenditure reporting to CDE is not required, most non-small rural districts reported school-level expenditure data to CDE.
- Submit data when available (Spring 2018).
- Include current operating expenditures, exclude community services, adult education and debt service and eliminate flow-through coding.
- Report state and local funds, including Impact Aid and excluding private sources as outlined in regulations. Additionally, report private sources separately below the line.
- Districts determine expenditures reported at school-level. Allocate remaining central expenditures proportionally to the school-level based upon student membership.

District Responsibilities ESSA PPE Reporting

- Districts will continue to submit Finance December Data Pipeline data
- Districts determine what expenditures are coded to the school-level
- Districts determine if school-level expenditures are included in Data Pipeline submission
- CDE will continue to prepare the State Report Card and LEA Report Cards



BEST Facility Insight Website Preview

BEST Facility Assessment History

- 2008 - Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program was created
- 2009 - Financial Assistance Priority Assessment was conducted of all Colorado public schools
 - ~13.9 billion was identified in facility needs
 - ~17.8 billion in deficiencies was projected by 2018
- 2015 - Legislature approved Facility Insight program to update and continually assess schools throughout the state with an in-house team
- Summer 2016 - Division assessors began conducting assessments
- Spring 2017 - Facility Insight website launched
- SY16-17 to SY18-19 - All districts will be contacted

Facility Insight Process

- Division assessors will contact schools at least 2 weeks in advance to schedule visits
- Division assessors will spend 2 to 3 days per school conducting surveys
- Includes adequacy survey completed by school/district
- After surveys are complete a report will be sent to the school/district
- Data will be published on Facility Insight website

Contact Information

Dustin Guerin
Facility Insight Supervisor
303-866-6263
Guerin_D@cde.state.co.us

Ashley Moretti
Capital Construction Office Manager
303-866-2153
Moretti_A@cde.state.co.us

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/capconstassessment>

Questions?

