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**Education Policy Center Newsletter**

**From The Independence Institute**

**November 10, 2011**

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**Center Calls for Online Policy Changes, Not More Regulations**

The effort to move Colorado toward more full-time and customized K-12 online learning opportunities was given a momentum boost by the October 13 release of the [Nation’s Digital Learning Report Card](http://digitallearningnow.com/nations-report-card/). While our state is ahead of many others there is plenty of room for improvement. [Pam Benigno’s recent *Denver Post* op-ed](http://education.i2i.org/2011/10/balancing-innovation-accountability-in-cyberschools/) explains how the attacks and criticisms of Colorado’s full-time online education programs highlight the need for such pro-student policy changes. A 13-minute [iVoices podcast interview with the Innosight Institute’s Michael Horn](http://education.i2i.org/2011/10/colorado-online-education-fix-the-system/) makes the same important point that Colorado needs to reject calls to increase crushing regulations on cyberschools.

More from Ed Is Watching:

[Effective Colorado Online K-12 Education? Change Policies without More Regulation](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/10/effective-colorado-online-k-12-education-change-policies-without-more-regulation/)

[Colorado Digital Learning Policies Middle of the Pack with Room for Great Improvement](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/10/colorado-digital-learning-policies-middle-of-the-pack-with-room-for-great-improvement/)

**Report: Colo. School Districts Need to Improve Financial Transparency**

In the past week the Education Policy Center officially released the new issue paper [*Time to Show the Money: Complying with Colorado’s Public School Financial Transparency Act*](http://education.i2i.org/2011/11/time-to-show-the-money-complying-with-colorado%e2%80%99s-public-school-financial-transparency-act/), by research associate Devan Crean and senior policy analyst Ben DeGrow. The report, which found most local K-12 agencies fall short in disclosing the full amount of required financial information online, has [drawn attention from Ed News Colorado and some local newspapers](http://education.i2i.org/2011/11/ed-news-colorado-highlights-i-i-report-on-state-of-local-k-12-financial-transparency/). To get a quick picture of the report’s findings, [listen to the podcast of Ben’s Monday interview from the Amy Oliver Show on 1310 KFKA in northern Colorado](http://audio.ivoices.org/mp3/iipodcast513b.mp3).

More from Ed Is Watching:

[New I.I. Report Shows Colo. Local K-12 Agencies Have a Lot of Room to Follow the Law and Improve Financial Transparency](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/11/new-i-i-report-shows-colo-local-k-12-agencies-have-lots-of-room-to-follow-the-law-and-improve-financial-transparency/)

**Center Helps Undercut Prop 103, Looks Ahead to Productive Innovation**

Before last week’s election, Ben made [several media appearances](http://education.i2i.org/2011/09/degrow-responds-to-tax-hike-proposal-for-education-funding/), and [provided important research context cited by prominent local radio host Mike Rosen](http://education.i2i.org/2011/10/850-koas-mike-rosen-cites-center-research-data-to-make-case-against-prop-103/), to explain why the Proposition 103 tax hike was not only a bad idea but also built on some questionable claims. The day after Prop 103 was soundly rejected by Colorado voters, Ben posted [commentary on the Ed News Colorado blog](http://www.ednewscolorado.org/2011/11/02/27852-time-now-for-innovation-to-forge-ahead) to emphasize the urgent need for more productive spending through effective innovations. He also found time from his new online perch at Public Sector Inc. to observe how the state’s largest teachers union, the Colorado Education Association, [made a bad political bet with members’ money](http://www.publicsectorinc.com/forum/2011/11/teachers-union-bet-member-money-on-tax-hike-loser.html).

More from Ed Is Watching:

[Prop 103 Not Good for Much But Inspiring My New Love of Toppling Dominoes!](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/10/prop-103-not-good-for-much-but-inspiring-my-new-love-of-toppling-dominoes/)

[Cookie Monster Invoked Again, in Great Prop 103 Public Radio Takedown](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/10/cookie-monster-invoked-again-in-great-public-radio-prop-103-takedown/)

**DeGrow Stars in Choice Media TV Dougco Voucher Video**

Colorado’s biggest news for school choice supporters from last week’s election results was the clean sweep election of Douglas County school board candidates in support of the groundbreaking Choice Scholarship Program. As if on cue, the election news was closely followed by the release of the excellent 8-minute Choice Media TV feature video on [“Colorado Vouchers, Under Attack.”](http://choicemedia.tv/2011/11/03/douglas-county-voucher-program/) The video includes interviews of our own Ben DeGrow – alleged to be [“the real power behind the BOE in Douglas County”](http://www.coloradopols.com/showComment.do;jsessionid=3411C9514A58DF80C202487128A8B6CB?commentId=449895) – as well as of Dougco scholarship parents and education officials.

More from Ed Is Watching:

[Need to Keep Hope Alive? Choice Media TV Highlights Dougco Program](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/11/need-to-keep-hope-alive-choice-media-tv-highlights-dougco-program/)

**Eddie on Ed Reform: School Choice Myths to Performance Pay**

As usual, our young prodigious blogger “Eddie” rounds up the education reform topics that you may have missed elsewhere:

[Overcoming Denver School Board Race Voucher “Myth-Information”](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/10/overcoming-denver-school-board-race-voucher-myth-information/)

[New AAE Member Survey Shows Again that Teacher Opinion Isn’t Monolithic](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/11/new-aae-member-survey-shows-again-that-teacher-opinion-isnt-monolithic/)

[Harrison School District’s Bold Pay Reform Shows Early Success, Draws Attention](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/09/harrison-school-districts-bold-pay-reform-shows-early-success-draws-attention/)

[Time to Follow Florida and End Social Promotion for 3rd Graders Who Can’t Read](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/10/time-to-follow-florida-and-end-social-promotion-for-3rd-graders-who-cant-read/)

[Comprehensive National Study Deflates Knee-Jerk Anti-Charter Mythology](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/10/comprehensive-national-study-deflates-knee-jerk-anti-charter-mythology/)

[Research Strongly Suggests Denver ProComp Success, Room to Improve](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/10/research-strongly-suggests-denver-procomp-success-room-to-improve/)

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