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**Education Policy Center Newsletter**

**From The Independence Institute**

**June 19, 2012**

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**Dougco School Board Nears Key Decision about Teachers Union Power**

Currently, 137 of Colorado’s 178 school districts operate without a teacher collective bargaining agreement. By the time the month ends, 60,000-student Douglas County R-1 may become the state’s largest non-union district. Now that the Colorado Department of Education has stopped keeping track of school district collective bargaining agreements, [check out our new listing](http://education.i2i.org/k-12-issues/labor-and-employment/unions-and-bargaining/colorado-school-district-collective-bargaining-agreements/).

Douglas County’s focus on serious pay-for-performance contrasts greatly with [Boulder Valley’s recent teacher negotiations](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/06/what-will-high-paying-boulder-valley-get-for-boosting-new-teacher-salaries/). Ben DeGrow explains some of the ramifications of the Dougco school board’s looming decision in online columns for [Public Sector, Inc.,](http://www.publicsectorinc.com/forum/2012/06/a-lot-of-attention-rightly.html) and [Colorado Peak Politics](http://www.coloradopeakpolitics.com/diary/1371/dougco-union-power-not-worth-sticking-out-a-neck). No time to read? Listen to Ben discuss the topic with Pam Benigno [on an iVoices podcast](http://education.i2i.org/2012/06/the-end-of-teacher-collective-bargaining-in-dougco/), or on a recorded segment for [American Family Radio News](http://education.i2i.org/2012/06/degrow-touts-dougco-transparency-bold-reforms-and-declining-union-power/).

More from Ed Is Watching:

[School’s Out, But Douglas County Summertime Happenings Still Worth Watching](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/06/schools-out-but-douglas-county-summertime-happenings-worth-watching/)

[Wisconsin & Douglas County (CO): Key Moment for Professional Teaching Reform?](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/06/wisconsin-douglas-county-co-key-moment-for-professional-teaching-reform/)

[Teachers Union Officials Get Sappy, Sentimental about Declining Power](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/06/teachers-union-officials-get-sappy-sentimental-about-declining-power/)

**Watch *Devil’s Advocate* Discussion of Digital Learning**

If you missed the June 1 episode of *The Devil’s Advocate* *with Jon Caldara*, go online to learn more about [“What is blended learning?”](http://education.i2i.org/2012/06/what-is-blended-learning/) with Colorado Department of Education Assistant Commissioner Amy Anderson and our own Ben DeGrow. Ben’s new paper on [*Online Course-Level Funding*](http://education.i2i.org/2012/05/online-course-level-funding-toward-colorado-secondary-self-blended-learning-options/) was featured not only on the TV show but also in [a recent *School Reform News* story](http://education.i2i.org/2012/06/report-on-funding-colo-blended-learning-featured-in-school-reform-news/) and on [an iVoices podcast discussion](http://education.i2i.org/2012/05/let-money-follow-students-to-the-course-level/).

More from Ed Is Watching:

[Colorado K-12 Funding for the 21st Century: Toward Mass Customized Learning?](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/05/colorado-k-12-funding-for-the-21st-century-toward-mass-customized-learning/)

**Case for Bold K-12 Funding Reforms Growing Strong**

The case for making bold reforms to Colorado’s school funding system continues to grow strong. Following the release of [our 2-minute viral video](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/05/video-time-to-rethink-how-colorado-finances-student-learning-success/) highlighting such changes, State Board of Education member Paul Lundeen penned [an excellent op-ed](http://www.gazette.com/articles/education-139597-finance-school.html) in the *Colorado Springs Gazette*. The Education Policy Center continues to support a finance system in which money follows the child and rewards successful learning.

More from Ed Is Watching:

[Winters: Give K-12 Schools More Freedom to Boost Bang for Taxpayers’ Buck](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/05/winters-give-k-12-schools-more-freedom-to-boost-bang-for-taxpayers-buck/)

[Hey Abbott!!! Colorado Doesn’t Really Rank 49th in K-12 Education Spending](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/06/hey-abbott-colorado-really-doesnt-rank-49th-in-k-12-education-spending/)

**Eddie Gets on School Choice Roll, Plus a Couple Odds & Ends**

You may also be interested in listening to an iVoices podcast discussion about a growing reading intervention program that works on [building brain skills](http://education.i2i.org/2012/05/building-brain-skills-to-develop-early-literacy/), or in reading our published comments about the [school test cheating scandal in Denver](http://education.i2i.org/2012/05/degrow-chimes-in-on-denver-school-csap-testing-investigation/). But it was our prodigious young blogger Eddie’s take on several school choice-related developments that was really on a roll this past month:

[Former Gov. Jeb Bush Headlines Denver ACE Luncheon with Inspiring Message](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/05/former-gov-jeb-bush-headlines-denver-ace-luncheon-with-inspiring-message/)

[Let's Discuss Seriously How to Strengthen Successful Tuition Tax Credit Programs](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/05/lets-discuss-seriously-how-to-strengthen-successful-tuition-tax-credit-programs/)

[Parental Demand for Public Charter Schools Nationwide Growing Fast, Data Show](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/06/parental-demand-for-public-charter-schools-nationwide-growing-fast-data-show/)

[How Can School Choice Best Lead Us to the Greenfield of Effective Innovation?](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/06/how-can-school-choice-best-lead-us-to-the-greenfield-of-effective-innovation/)

[School Choice News from Indiana and Tennessee Should Brighten Your Monday](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/06/school-choice-news-from-indiana-and-tennessee-should-brighten-your-monday/)

[Fuller, Coulson and Ladner: Three Views on the Best Choice Policies to Pursue](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/05/fuller-coulson-and-ladner-three-views-on-the-best-choice-policies-to-pursue/)

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