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**Education Policy Center Newsletter**

**From The Independence Institute**

**July 31, 2012**

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**Space Available Thursday for John Corcoran Brown Bag Lunch Event**

If you haven’t responded, there’s still room for you at the **Brown Bag Lunch** **this Thursday (August 2)** with special guest speaker, **John Corcoran**, president and CEO of the [John Corcoran Foundation](http://www.johncorcoranfoundation.org/). Doors at the **Independence Institute**’s new Freedom Embassy (727 E 16th Avenue, Denver, CO 80203) open at 11:30 AM, with the presentation running promptly from noon to 1 PM. You are welcome to bring your own food along with some thoughtful questions for our guest speaker. Please send an email to **RSVP@i2i.org** if you plan to attend this **free event**. [The official event flyer contains more details.](http://education.i2i.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/John-Corcoran-Event-Flyer-08-02-12.pdf)

**Dougco Teachers Union Still Waiting for Governor’s Decision**

The Education Policy Center continues to stay on top of unfolding events in the reform hotbed of Douglas County. A full month has passed since the Douglas County Federation lost its monopoly bargaining power, making Colorado’s third-largest school district the state’s largest without a teachers union contract. The AFT affiliate has [pinned hopes to restore its political power on state intervention](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/07/aft-union-pins-fading-hopes-on-state-intervention-to-save-power-in-dougco/). With the school year just around the corner, Governor Hickenlooper—who [received the maximum $10,000 in campaign contributions from AFT in 2010](http://education.i2i.org/2012/07/will-hicks-10000-from-aft-affect-dougco-intervention-decision/)—has yet to announce whether he plans to try to rescue union leaders.

More from Ed Is Watching:

[Douglas County Aftermath Means Time to Inform about Teacher Member Options](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/07/douglas-county-aftermath-means-time-to-inform-about-teacher-member-options/)

**DeGrow Comments, Adds Context to School Funding Debates**

Last month the Colorado Department of Education released its latest data on school district finances. The numbers are not as dire as you might believe. Ben DeGrow [provided the needed context of 10-year increased funding trends](http://education.i2i.org/2012/07/colorado-k-12-education-spending/) on an iVoices podcast. Ben also [commented on a 9News story](http://education.i2i.org/2012/06/degrow-questions-proposed-denver-education-tax-hike-on-9news/) to inform the debate surrounding a potential Denver Public Schools bond issue. Seems like we’ve been pointing it out a lot this year, but fiscal realities mean it’s time for state officials and local agencies to focus on school finance reform and productive spending practices—including reforms from other states highlighted in [a new iVoices podcast interview with former commissioner William Moloney](http://education.i2i.org/2012/06/bad-times-bring-great-education-reforms/).

More from Ed Is Watching:

[State Data Show Colorado 10-Year K-12 Funding Trends Still Going Up](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/07/state-data-show-colorado-10-year-k-12-funding-trends-still-going-up/)

[Time to Revisit the Need for Serious Cost-Saving K-12 Reforms in Colorado](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/07/time-to-revisit-the-need-for-serious-cost-saving-k-12-reforms-in-colorado/)

**Eddie Returns from Vacation, Blogging Strong**

Coming back from a fun-in-the-sun summer vacation, our young blogging prodigy Eddie also has chimed in on some other important education issues:

[Would More States Adopt School Choice If I Took Blogging Breaks More Often?](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/07/would-more-states-adopt-school-choice-if-i-took-blogging-breaks-more-often/)

[Let’s Put Together Good Ideas to Improve How We Hold K-12 Schools Accountable](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/07/lets-put-together-good-ideas-to-improve-how-we-hold-k-12-schools-accountable/)

[Choice Media K12 Video Reminds Colorado It’s Time to Move Ahead on Digital Learning](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/07/choice-media-k12-video-reminds-colorado-its-time-to-move-ahead-on-digital-learning/) [NEA Delegates Fight Their Own Power; Pres. Obama Phones In from Underwater?](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/07/nea-delegates-fight-their-own-power-pres-obama-phones-in-from-underwater/)

[Harvard Study Puts Three States on Medal Stand for Boosting K-12 Achievement](http://www.ediswatching.org/2012/07/harvard-study-puts-three-states-on-medal-stand-for-boosting-k-12-achievement/)

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