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**Education Policy Center Newsletter**

**From The Independence Institute**

**April 30, 2013**

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**New Colorado Kids Win Site Highlights Scholarship Tax Credits**

Have you ever considered what kind of difference a private K-12 scholarship can make in the life of a struggling student? Following our recent publication [*A Scholarship Tax Credit Program for Colorado*](http://education.i2i.org/2013/02/a-scholarship-tax-credit-program-for-colorado/), the Education Policy Center has produced a pair of brief videos to explain how these K-12 tax credits would work and how they could help real kids. Go to our brand-new website [**Colorado Kids Win**](http://coloradokidswin.org) to watch the videos and find links to other important information. If you would like one of our team to come speak to your group about K-12 scholarship tax credits, [please contact us](http://education.i2i.org/contact/)!

More from Ed Is Watching:

[Scholarship Tax Credits Could Help Denver, Aurora HS Students Overcome Challenges](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/04/scholarship-tax-credits-could-help-denver-aurora-hs-students-overcome-challenges/)

[New Hampshire School Choice Defensive Victory Brightens Hopes for Colorado](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/04/new-hampshire-school-choice-defensive-victory-brightens-hopes-for-colorado/)

**DeGrow Tackles Big School Finance Reform Debate (Cont.)**

Senate Bill 213—the school finance legislation that has become [more about new tax revenues than real reform](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/04/split-partisan-sb-213-vote-shifts-debate-from-real-reform-to-raising-taxes/)—has passed both houses and appears headed to the governor’s desk soon. The policies won’t go into effect without a billion dollar tax increase. Senior policy analyst Ben DeGrow has noted the need for deeper reforms (especially [dollars following students to the course level](http://education.i2i.org/2012/05/online-course-level-funding-toward-colorado-secondary-self-blended-learning-options/) to promote customized digital learning) at several local speaking events, in a [Vincent Carroll *Denver Post* column](http://education.i2i.org/2013/04/post-column-cites-degrows-call-for-deeper-student-funding-reforms/), in a [radio interview of End the Education Plantation’s John Conlin](http://education.i2i.org/2013/04/empowering-students-with-real-school-finance-reform/), in [a Colorado Watchdog story](http://education.i2i.org/2013/04/colorado-watchdog-cites-critique-of-weak-sb-213-reform/), and on [the April 19 episode of *Devil’s Advocate*](http://education.i2i.org/2013/04/devils-advocate-sb-213-billion-dollar-colo-education-tax/).

Speaking of the *Devil’s Advocate*, this month Ben also made his guest-hosting debut in a special program on cage-busting education leadership with the American Enterprise Institute’s Rick Hess and Douglas County superintendent Liz Fagen. Those who missed the original broadcast can [watch the full 27-minute video on YouTube](http://education.i2i.org/2013/04/devils-advocate-cage-busting-education-leadership/).

More from Ed Is Watching:

[Hey, Colorado: Billion Dollar K-12 Tax Hike or End the Education Plantation?](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/04/hey-colorado-billion-dollar-k-12-tax-hike-or-end-the-education-plantation/)

**Center Covers Teachers Union Showdown in Adams 12**

Tensions have been heating up again in Colorado’s fifth-largest school district, as teachers union leaders respond to the Adams 12 school board’s decision to ask employees to pay a little more of their own pension costs. The school board sought to clear the air by [requesting to hold negotiations in public](http://education.i2i.org/2013/04/adams-12-school-board-steps-into-the-light-calls-union-leaders-bluff/), but [union leaders refused](http://thecoloradoobserver.com/2013/04/teachers-union-rejects-offer-of-open-negotiations-with-adams-12-school-district/). Perhaps there is some concern that the policy of [tax-funded union release time might be reconsidered](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/04/adams-12-negotiations-reconsider-tax-funded-teachers-union-release-time/). To talk about developments, Adams 12 board member Norm Jennings made two appearances on the Amy Oliver Show—[one with Amy as host](http://education.i2i.org/2013/04/amy-oliver-show-adams-12-weathers-union-attacks/) and [one with Ben as guest-host](http://education.i2i.org/2013/04/amy-oliver-show-adams-12-union-resists-open-negotiations/).

**Raaki Garcia Show Covers KIPP, Parent Resources, Dougco**

Especially for the Education Policy Center’s Spanish-language fans, three episodes this month of the weekly Raaki Garcia Show highlighted some key issues. On April 23, [Raaki spoke with a student, parent, and staff member](http://raakigarcia.com/2013/04/04-23-13-raaki-garcia-show/) from the second-year [KIPP Montbello College Prep](http://www.kippcolorado.org/our-schools/kipp-montbello-college-prep1) charter school. Earlier in the month she hosted conversations with [Annika Walbert](http://raakigarcia.com/2013/04/04-16-13-raaki-garcia-show/) from the [Denver Metro Community Parent Resource Center](http://denvermetrocprc.org/) and with our own Ben DeGrow [about school reform developments in Douglas County](http://raakigarcia.com/2013/04/april-2-raaki-garcia-show/).

More from Ed Is Watching:

[Latest Research Builds Winning Record for School Choice: Still Waiting for DougCo](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/04/latest-research-builds-winning-record-for-school-choice-still-waiting-for-dougco/)

**Confused about Weather, Eddie Rounds Up April K-12 Topics**

Never quite sure whether to dress for springtime or to go out and play in the Colorado snow, our young blogging prodigy Eddie nonetheless found time in April to cover a few other key happenings in K-12:

[Parent Power in Colorado: Aiming to Join or Surpass the Dazzling Dozen](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/04/parent-power-in-colorado-aiming-to-join-or-surpass-the-dazzling-dozen/)

[Well, Teachers Union Leaders Could Use a New Argument Against School Choice](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/04/well-teachers-union-leaders-could-use-a-new-argument-against-school-choice/)

[Of Broken Records or Repeating MP3 Files: Colorado Remediation Rate Still Too High](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/04/of-broken-records-or-repeating-mp3-files-colorado-remediation-rate-still-too-high/)

[Don’t Punish Students in American Indian Charter Success Story for Controversy](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/04/dont-punish-students-in-american-indian-charter-success-story-for-controversy/)

[A Different Way to Look at Coloradans’ Financial Contributions to K-12 Education](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/04/a-different-way-to-look-at-coloradans-financial-contributions-to-k-12-education/)

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