

## Frequently Asked Questions

---

**Q: There are recent reports of higher than expected state revenues that provide adequate funding for education. Why do we need this initiative?**

**A.** *The State Education Fund is currently not sufficient to support the annual and ongoing needs of our students. The higher-than-expected revenues are largely one-time in nature and are not guaranteed to be available in the future. Because of the higher-than-expected revenues, the State Legislature transferred additional money into the State Education Fund. The additional money constitutes a one-time boost, however, and cannot be relied upon in future years. It is unlikely that these transfers will continue beyond the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Colorado requires ongoing, sustainable funding to support our students via the reforms outlined in Senate Bill 213.*

**Q. How do you guarantee the new revenues will end up in our schools?**

**A.** *The additional money is locked in a newly created fund – the School Educational Achievement Fund– which is constitutionally protected from any use other than for improvements in the classroom. It is important to note that these funds will be tracked at a school level so every dollar spent will be transparent to voters.*

**Q. Can this money be used or re-allocated to backfill the \$20 billion school division PERA shortfall?**

**A.** *It would be unconstitutional to bail out PERA using any of this money or any existing money that is being spent on K-12.*

**Q. How will charter schools be affected by Amendment 66? Will they still pay for capital requirements out of general fund money?**

**A.** *Program funding will follow the student to the school they attend which is inclusive of charter schools. The amount of funding for charter school facilities will be quadrupled if Amendment 66 passes. Charter schools that own or lease their own facilities will get \$450 per student in facilities funding.*

**Q. How will rural schools fare with Amendment 66?**

**A.** *Every district's overall funding will increase. All districts are better if this passes.*

**Q. How will more money ensure that we see improvements in academic performance?**

**A.** *In previous years, our Colorado legislature adopted new academic standards and assessments and have taken significant steps in educator accountability. SB213 AND Amendment 66 tie funding to those success metrics by requiring a return on investment analysis every four (4) years to see what expenditures actually produce results, what expenditures don't and to drive funding toward achieving defined results.*

**Q. If District 6 doesn't collect the amount of local taxes deemed appropriate by the state, will they lose their share of state funding? Will we need to increase our mill levy?**

**A.** *Every district will receive the full amount of state funding owed them, regardless of what their local mill levies are. District 6 already collects the maximum mill levy for operations allowed by law. Any increase in mill levies would require voter approval.*

**Q. Why does this school tax reform require a constitutional amendment?**

**A.** *Without amending the constitution, funds collected in excess of the Tabor cap of \$200 million would have to be refunded to taxpayers, negating the increased collected funds. It also gives us the ability to protect the funds from being diverted for other uses than K-12 education.*