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**Education Policy Center Newsletter**

**From The Independence Institute**

**December 13, 2013**

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**Two Days Left to Request Union Political Refund**

The deadline is almost here. Colorado Education Association members who want to get back as much as $63 in Every Member Option union political funds have to submit their requests by this Sunday. You can [watch Ben DeGrow discuss the EMO on the *Devil’s Advocate*](http://education.i2i.org/2013/12/devils-advocate-colorado-teachers-can-get-refunds/), listen to him [explain how union officials have helped us get the word out this year](http://education.i2i.org/2013/12/amy-oliver-show-union-tells-teachers-%e2%80%9cbeware%e2%80%9d-of-political-refund-information/), just take 45 seconds to [view the animated EMO video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWidDnXtVYU), or go straight to [**IndependentTeachers.org**](http://independentteachers.org) to get all the information needed to request a refund, or learn about the membership options available to Colorado educators.

More from Ed Is Watching:

## [Colorado Educators Again to Decide Whether to Request EMO Political Refunds](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/11/colorado-educators-again-to-decide-whether-to-request-emo-political-refunds/)

**Scholarship Tax Credits Key Part of Reform**

The holiday season is a time to show you care about others, and telling teachers how they can save a little extra money is not the only way to show a little extra kindness. Join the cause to help [**Colorado Kids Win**](http://coloradokidswin.org/) through tax credits for donations to K-12 scholarship organizations that help students who need better educational opportunities. As [Pam Benigno explained on the Amy Oliver Show](http://education.i2i.org/2013/11/amy-oliver-show-looking-back-looking-ahead-on-education-reform/), a scholarship tax credit program is key to the future of Colorado education reform. It also happens to be [better than an invisible Day of Action](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/12/ive-got-better-ideas-for-a-real-day-of-action-help-colorado-kids-win/).

More from Ed Is Watching:

## [Survey of Tax Credit Scholarship Parents Gives Insights into School Choices](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/11/survey-of-tax-credit-scholarship-parents-gives-insights-into-school-choices/)

**Reform-Minded School Boards on the Rise**

The thrill of election victory has worn off for pro-reform leaders newly elected to Colorado school boards. In Adams 12 a [legal controversy](http://completecolorado.com/pagetwo/2013/12/06/one-man-all-of-the-votes-adams-12-election-case-holds-big-implications/) over the election has left things in limbo, but nearly all new directors have been sworn in. Meanwhile, a lot of eyes are on Jefferson County after the school board election results there. [Listen to Sheila Atwell of Jeffco Students First](http://education.i2i.org/2013/12/amy-oliver-show-jeffco-schools-taking-fresh-look-at-reform/) discuss with Ben DeGrow the transition of power and hopes for future reform plans in Colorado’s largest school district.

More from Ed Is Watching:

[Column Comes Oh-So-Close to Intriguing Case for Education Transformation](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/11/column-comes-oh-so-close-to-intriguing-case-for-education-transformation/)

**Open Enrollment Season Heads into Full Swing**

We’re heading into the heart of open enrollment season for most major Colorado school districts, when students and parents can apply to get into a different public school (within or across district lines) for the following year. If you’re looking for an educational option outside your neighborhood assignment, find a school and the resources you need to navigate the open enrollment process on our [**School Choice for Kids** website](http://schoolchoiceforkids.org). As Colorado School Grades this coming Monday releases its latest scores—another great resource for parents—you should also check out the new [Colorado School Grades Take Action blog](http://coloradoschoolgrades.com/wordpress/).

More from Ed Is Watching:

[Open Enrollment: Friday Appreciation](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/11/open-enrollment-friday-appreciation/)

**Eddie Rounds Up School Reform for 2013**

Closing out a busy year and preparing to roll up the sleeves in 2014, our little blogger Eddie [celebrates good school choice news out of Louisiana](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/11/thankful-for-the-mostly-good-news-for-louisiana-school-choice-families/), [chews on new research about preschool](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/11/time-for-preschool-for-all-not-so-fast-says-new-gold-standard-research/), [looks ahead to National School Choice Week](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/12/warmed-by-the-thought-of-another-school-choice-whistle-stop-tour/), [begins buckling down for a teacher licensure debate](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/11/thankful-for-the-mostly-good-news-for-louisiana-school-choice-families/) in the next legislative session, and [hopes for a big step forward in student-friendly digital learning policies](http://www.ediswatching.org/2013/12/eagle-net-broadband-delays-test-patient-hopes-for-digital-learning-policies/).

Thanks for your interest in our work. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2014!!!

Pamela Benigno, Director  
Ben DeGrow, Senior Policy Analyst  
Marya DeGrow, Research Associate

Raaki Garcia-Ulam, Hispanic Education Coordinator

**Contact Information**

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email: [pam@i2i.org](mailto:pam@i2i.org)

phone: 303-279-6536

web: <http://www.education.i2i.org>

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