

2017-2018 #98 - Amended

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S. WARD  
6:09 P.M.

*Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:*

Colorado Secretary of State

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, amend section 2 of article IX as follows:

**Section 2. Establishment and maintenance of public schools.** (1) KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING BEING ESSENTIAL FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LIBERTY AND A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, AS WELL AS FOR THE ABILITY OF EVERY PERSON TO DEVELOP HIS OR HER FULL POTENTIAL AND TO PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY IN THE CIVIC AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO DECLARE THAT EVERY PERSON THROUGH TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE RESIDING IN THE STATE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE AN EARLY-CHILDHOOD, PRIMARY, AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT WILL ADEQUATELY PREPARE THEM TO MEET THESE GOALS. THE PEOPLE DECLARE THAT THESE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ON A THOROUGH, UNIFORM, CONSISTENT, AND EQUITABLE BASIS TO ALL PERSONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THE PEOPLE FURTHER DECLARE THAT THE PURPOSES STATED IN THIS SUBSECTION (1) ARE AMONG THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES ENTRUSTED BY THE PEOPLE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO EACH LOCAL DISTRICT.

(2) The general assembly shall, ~~as soon as practicable,~~ provide for the establishment and maintenance of a thorough and uniform system of free public schools throughout the state, ~~wherein~~ THROUGH WHICH all residents of the state, ~~between the ages of six and~~ THROUGH twenty-one years OF AGE, may ~~be educated~~ RECEIVE gratuitously AN EARLY-CHILDHOOD, PRIMARY, AND SECONDARY EDUCATION DESIGNED TO PERMIT EVERY STUDENT TO RECEIVE EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY. One or more public schools shall be maintained in each school district within the state, ~~at least three months in each year;~~ any school district failing to have such school shall not be entitled to receive any portion of the school fund for that year.

(3) AS A LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY, AND NOTWITHSTANDING AND OVERRIDING ANY LIMITATION, REQUIREMENT, PROCEDURE OR RESTRICTION OTHERWISE APPLICABLE UNDER PARAGRAPH (b) OF SUBSECTION (1) OF SECTION 3, OR SECTION 20, OF ARTICLE X OF THIS CONSTITUTION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES AND PUBLIC FUNDING ARE AVAILABLE STATEWIDE AND WITHIN EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT SO THAT THE QUALITY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION PRIORITIZED BY THIS SECTION IS CONSISTENTLY AND EQUITABLY AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ENSURE THAT STATEWIDE FUNDING FOR ~~THESE-THE~~ PURPOSES **PRIORITIZED BY THIS SECTION** SHALL BE MAINTAINED AT A LEVEL AT LEAST EQUAL TO THREE AND SIXTY-SEVEN ONE-HUNDREDTHS PERCENT OF STATE AND LOCAL PERSONAL INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020, AT LEAST THREE AND EIGHTY-THREE ONE-HUNDREDTHS PERCENT OF STATE AND LOCAL PERSONAL INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021, AND AT LEAST FOUR PERCENT OF STATE AND LOCAL PERSONAL INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER.

(4) SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAY IMPLEMENT DIRECTIVES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, NOTWITHSTANDING AND OVERRIDING ANY LIMITATION, REQUIREMENT, PROCEDURE OR RESTRICTION OTHERWISE APPLICABLE UNDER PARAGRAPH (b) OF SUBSECTION (1) OF SECTION 3, OR SECTION 20, OF ARTICLE X OF THIS CONSTITUTION.

(5) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL REDUCE OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THE MANDATES AND REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED WITHIN SECTION 17 OF THIS ARTICLE IX.

(6) EVERY FIVE YEARS, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL PREPARE AND DISSEMINATE A REPORT TO THE PEOPLE IDENTIFYING ALL STEPS TAKEN DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS AND PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE MANNER OF IMPLEMENTATION AND COSTS OF SUCH STEPS, ITS EVALUATION OF SUCCESS AND SHORTCOMINGS IN ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE GOALS AND PURPOSES, AND SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS ANY SHORTCOMINGS IN MEETING SAID GOALS.