



## **CSCA/CCHS-CR Weekly Legislative Narrative March 8-12, 2010**

### *Overview*

This week was quiet compared to the last few as bills continued to move through the chambers. Many bills have been set aside for further consideration by sponsors and stakeholders, including Representative Terrance Carroll's set of highly anticipated charter school bills. We are now at the halfway point in session and things will begin to heat up as we see increases in partisan fights, the introduction of budgetary legislation and the movement of many controversial bills. Starting off the debates will be the School Finance Act, which is scheduled to be introduced in the House this upcoming Monday 3/15 and will be discussed in the House Education Committee on Thursday 3/18.

### *Budget*

This week the Joint Budget Committee met to discuss additional figure setting items for the Department of Education. This set of recommendations includes CDE management and administration, grant programs and other miscellaneous programs administered through state funding. Funding suspensions of note include the Counselor Corps Grant Program and the School Leadership Academy Program, both created through legislation during the 2008 session. The JBC is unable to fund these programs due to concerns about the insolvency of the State Education Fund. However funding hopes for these programs remain, as both were included in Colorado's Race to the Top Grant application.

On Friday March 19<sup>th</sup> the JBC will receive the budget forecast from the Office of State Planning and Budgeting and Legislative Council. The JBC will then spend the following week finalizing recommendations based on any changes they heard in the forecast presentation. We have heard that the cuts in 'real dollars' could range from \$149 million, the best case scenario and what districts have been anticipating based on previous figures provided by the Governor's Office and CDE, to \$291 million, based on the JBC's recommendation from last week. We will have more information after Friday's forecast as to the final number.

### *Upcoming Dates*

- Bill Hearings –
  - Wednesday
    - Joint Education Committee
      - Presentation of the Declining Enrollment Study – CDE
      - Presentation From the Office of Dropout Prevention and Student Re-Engagement – CDE
  - Friday
    - Senate Appropriations Committee
      - SB10-039 Sen. M. Carroll - Job Training Scholarship Programs
    - Joint Budget Committee
      - March Revenue Forecast by Legislative Council and Office of State Planning and Budgeting