



COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

MARCH 21, 2025

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Today's Townhall

Welcome & Updates

DAN SCHALLER

President, Colorado League of Charter Schools

State Legislative Updates

PRATEEK DUTTA

VP of Policy

Recent Federal Actions: Get the Facts

ERIC HALL

Sparks Willson P.C.

AGENDA

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Welcome and Updates



DAN SCHALLER

President



Announcements

- PERA Amicus
- SCOTUS Amicus April 7
- Charter School Facility Assistance Program **NEW DEADLINE** for Intent to Apply
- Great Schools Colorado news
- Denver South Regional Gathering: Thursday, April 10, 6pm
- Northern Colorado Regional Gathering: Wednesday, April 15, 6pm

Legislative Update



PRATEEK DUTTA

VP of Policy

Budget Update

NEWS: POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Colorado's budget hole is now \$1.2 billion, as Medicaid costs continue to climb

The rise in Medicaid costs, which have continued unabated since last spring, remain the single biggest driver of the state's budget woes

Take-home Message: The budget appears to be on an unsustainable path. Without significant ongoing actions to reduce obligations and/or make additional revenues available, the State would exhaust the 15.0 percent General Fund reserve before FY 2029-30, even without a recession. The recession scenarios only accelerate the depletion of the reserve. Sustaining a viable reserve will require structural change to revenues and/or obligations.

Polis, state lawmakers negotiating alternative school funding plan after backlash from education leaders

Colorado House Speaker Julie McCluskie's plan would cut \$50 million instead of \$150 million

Budget Update

- 1) New Funding Formula and “Averaging”**
- 2) CSI Equalization/Charter School Capital Construction/At-Risk Supplemental/Part-Time Enrichment**
- 3) Next Steps**

Policy Update

1. Streamlined authorizing in high-need areas
2. Bolster support for Alternative Education Campuses (AECs)
3. Reduce regulations and red-tape/requirements that do not benefit students
4. Increase the moral obligation cap
5. Defense – Do No Harm

Recent Federal Actions



ERIC HALL

Sparks Willson P.C.

Get the Facts on Recent Federal Actions: What Schools Need to Know

Presented by: Eric Hall

March 21, 2025



SPARKSWILLSON, P.C.

U.S. Department of Education

- Education Secretary Linda McMahon has said Trump's goal is to close the USDE
- Trump signed an Executive Order yesterday aimed at eliminating the USDE
- Last week 1,315 USDE employees were laid off
 - One-third of its workforce
- Congressional approval required to close USDE
- If it closed, its programs would have to be moved to other federal agencies



Religious Charter Schools?

Consolidated Cases: Oklahoma Statewide Charter School Board v. Drummond & St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School v. Drummond

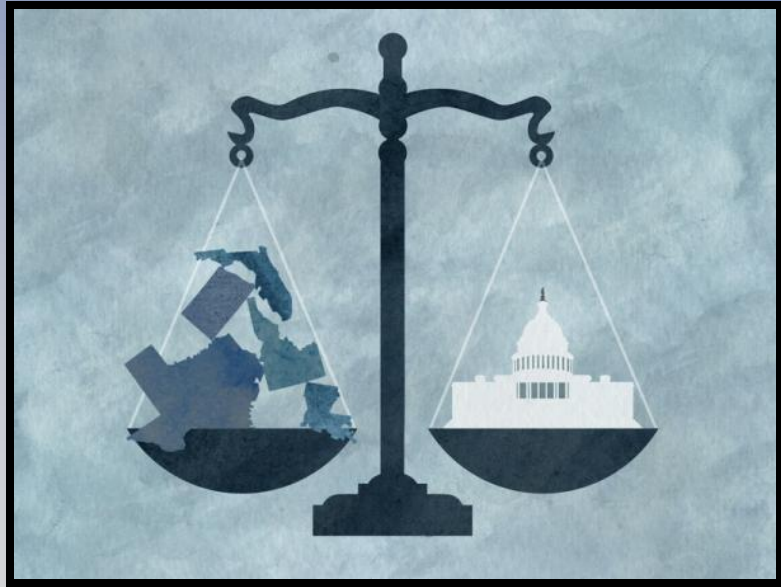


Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- EO 14151: Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing
- EO 14173: Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity
 - Prohibits recipients of future federal grants or contracts from operating programs that promote DEI
- EO 14190: Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling
 - Summary: Targets programs that promote “anti-American, subversive, harmful, and false ideologies” including those based on “general ideology” and “discriminatory equity ideology”
 - Timeline: 90 days for USDE to prepare strategy that eliminates federal funding “for illegal and discriminatory treatment and indoctrination in K-12 schools”
- OCR’s February 14, 2025 “Dear Colleague” letter
 - Title VI’s prohibition on discrimination may affect DEI programs at schools that receive federal funds
- *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, 600 U.S. 181 (2023)



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



What Comes Next?

- Agencies to promulgate plans under EOs
- Expected challenges to federal actions
- Continued private industry response

Immigration

- On January 21, 2025, DHS announced that it was rescinding its guideline on ICE acting in “sensitive locations,” like schools, churches, and hospitals
- The Administration has threatened to withhold federal funds from state and local governments who have “sanctuary” policies
- Schools should have immigration protocols in case ICE comes to campus

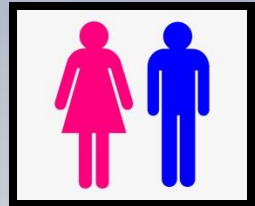
Federal Funding Freeze

- Within two days in late January, OMB issued, and then rescinded, a memorandum ordering a “pause” on all federal grants and loans
- Federal courts in the District of Columbia and Rhode Island issued temporary restraining orders to prevent the “pause” on federal grants and loans

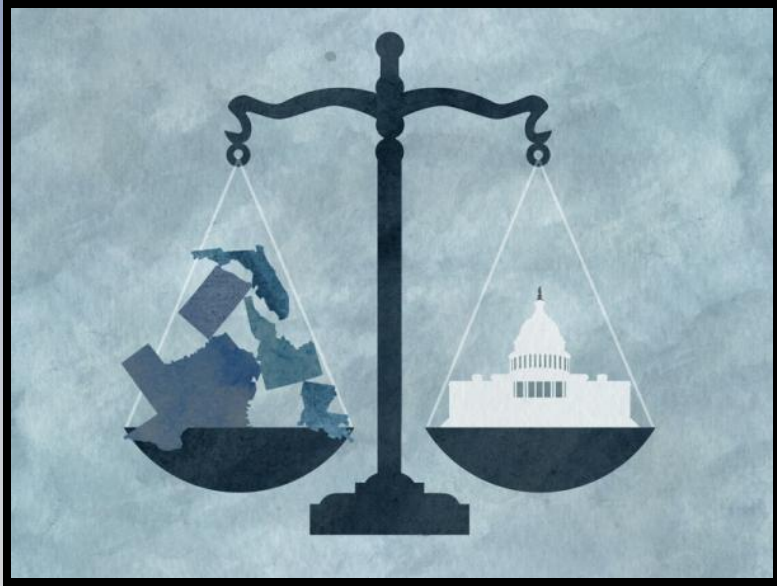


Gender / Title IX

- *Tennessee v. Cardona*, 2025 WL 63795 (E.D. Ky. Jan. 9, 2025)
 - Federal district court vacated 2024 Title IX regulations across the country
 - Schools should have returned to Title IX policy based on 2020 regulations
- EO 14168: Federal government will recognize biological sex only
- EO 14201: Bans transgender females from women's sports
- OCR "Dear Colleague" Letter issued February 4, 2025



Gender



Intersection with Colorado law:

- Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act protects transgender students and employees (C.R.S. 24-34-402 & -601)
- CADA regulations protect transgender and gender identity (3 C.C.R. 708-1, Rule 81.6 and 81.9)
- Harassment in K-12 Schools (C.R.S. 22-1-143)
- Student Name Change (C.R.S. 22-1-145)
- CHSAA Policy on Transgender Inclusion





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Townhall Survey



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