

The officers of the McAuliffe Manual PTSA ask you to please review and consider supporting Amendment 73, also known as the Great Schools, Thriving Communities school funding initiative, which will be on the ballot this fall. This ballot measure has been endorsed by many school districts (including Denver Public Schools), the Colorado PTA, the Colorado Education Association, the NAACP, and many others. If passed, Amendment 73 would raise \$1.6 billion for Colorado schools each year bring.

We all care deeply about providing high-quality education for kids, but our state still ranks 39th in the nation for education funding, spending approximately \$2,500 less per pupil than the national average. Colorado has 900,000 students. It would take more than \$830 million to just return per-pupil spending to levels that existed in 2010. The \$1.6 billion amount does not even return us to the national average.

According to nonpartisan, nonprofit BallotPedia, “The measure would establish a fund called the Quality Public Education Fund. Revenue generated from the new taxes would be dedicated to the Quality Public Education Fund to fund preschool through 12th-grade public education. Specifically, the fund would be used to increase the statewide base per-pupil funding and increase spending for special education, preschool, English language proficiency, and gifted programs, among other things.” Local school districts will decide where to allocate the dollars to address the most critical needs they face.

According to the Great Schools Thriving Communities website, the amendment will:

- Create a graduated income tax structure that begins at \$150,000 in federal taxable income (income after exemptions and deductions) that helps to address inequities in Colorado's current tax system. [The measure would make] the tax code more fair for hard-working Coloradans.
- Provide sustainable support for schools for years to come by stabilizing the volatile local share of education funding by first lowering property tax rates and then freezing the rates, which are third lowest in the nation.

You can use the [Amendment 73 Impact Calculator](#) to enter your own information to find out how this would impact your income and property taxes.

Additional Resources:

- [BallotPedia](#)
- [Ballot Information Booklet \(Blue Book\)](#)
- [Yes on Amendment 73 website](#)
- Colorado PTA website

Sincerely,

MMMS PTSA Executive Board

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