



**WHAT IF COLORADO SCHOOLS WERE #1?**

# A BUSINESS GUIDE FOR COLORADO'S NEXT GOVERNOR

PRESENTED BY:



SUPPORTED BY:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER:





## What if Colorado students obtained the levels of education needed to compete in today's economy?

The impact would be an astounding return on investment for the state.

### **COLORADO'S NEXT GOVERNOR HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFORM EDUCATION IN COLORADO**

That's why we developed A Business Guide for Colorado's Next Governor that shows:

- The economic impact if Colorado had the best schools in the country and prepared students for Colorado jobs
- The improvement strategies supported by Colorado voters and employers
- The gubernatorial candidates' plans for getting us there

SEE THE FULL BUSINESS GUIDE AT:  
**BESTSCHOOLSCO.ORG**  
[#BestSchoolsCO](https://www.instagram.com/bestschoolsco)

# The Impact of Colorado's Skills Gap

## VOTERS & EMPLOYERS ARE ALIGNED ON COLORADO'S CHALLENGE TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

**77%** OF EMPLOYERS STRUGGLE TO FIND COLORADANS WITH THE RIGHT SKILLS

**62%** OF COLORADANS BELIEVE OUR HIGH SCHOOLS ARE NOT PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE WORKFORCE OR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

WHEN ASKED ABOUT COLORADO'S SKILLS GAP,

**86% OF EMPLOYERS**

SAY IT'S A THREAT TO THEIR BUSINESSES AND

**MORE THAN 50% EXPERIENCE:**



HIGHER RECRUITING & TRAINING COSTS



PRODUCTIVITY & REVENUE LOSS



SLOWER BUSINESS GROWTH



LOWER WORK QUALITY



HIGHER TURNOVER

# Voters & Employers Are Aligned on Solutions

## NEARLY 90% OF VOTERS AND EMPLOYERS SUPPORT THESE IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES:

- Attracting and retaining effective teachers
- Developing workplace and applied skills such as collaboration
- Providing access to work-based learning and career and technical education
- Developing computer and digital literacy skills

OVER 10 YEARS IF COLORADO IMPROVED EDUCATION TO THE LEVELS NEEDED BY THE WORKFORCE,

**57,600 MORE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

WOULD OBTAIN SOME FORM OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

**THAT'S ENOUGH TO FILL THE PEPSI CENTER THREE TIMES OVER**



IF WE CLOSED THE SKILLS GAP IN COLORADO,  
**EMPLOYERS WOULD MAKE INVESTMENTS IN THE STATE**

**HIRED**

**85% WOULD HIRE**  
APPLICANTS FROM  
COLORADO



**84% WOULD GROW**  
THEIR OPERATIONS IN  
COLORADO AND  
CREATE MORE JOBS



**76% WOULD INCREASE**  
EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION



# IF COLORADO STUDENTS OBTAINED THE LEVELS OF EDUCATION NEEDED TO COMPETE IN TODAY'S ECONOMY

## OVER THE SPAN OF 10 YEARS:



Colorado would **gain 57,600 additional graduates** with post-secondary education levels needed for Colorado's jobs



These graduates would **earn an additional \$8.5 billion**

This additional income means **more money flowing into the economy....**



**\$1 billion** in new revenue and public savings



**\$472 million increase** in auto spending



**\$1.4 billion increase** in home spending

Leading to **greater economic outcomes** for Colorado



**14,600 new jobs** created



**Over \$12 billion** in increased GDP growth

LEARN MORE AT:  
**BESTSCHOOLS.CO.ORG**

#BestSchoolsCO

# Principles for Transforming Education in Colorado

We recommend Colorado's next governor put these principles into action:

- **Set expectations, get out of the way**
- **Empower local learning providers**
- **Focus on outcomes, not inputs**
- **Fund students, not systems**
- **Equip all families with information and access**
- **Eliminate silos, share everything**
- **Measure performance, continually improve**



Visit [BestSchoolsCO.org](https://BestSchoolsCO.org) to access a full candidate survey on key education issues.