

MEMORANDUM

From: Colorado Commits to Kids
To: Interested Stakeholders
Re: Impact on DeBeque School District under Amendment 66
Date: October 10, 2013

Question

How will the DeBeque School District fair under Amendment 66? Specifically, what funding will the district see under Senate Bill 213, the new school finance formula that Amendment 66 would implement?

Short Answer

DeBeque will see a funding increase of \$1007 per pupil, or \$120,063 as a district, if Amendment 66 is approved at the November 2013 ballot, according to non-partisan Legislative Council forecasts for the implementation of SB 213.¹

Discussion

DeBeque's current funding level (school year 2013-2014) through Colorado's current school finance formula is \$14,453/pupil, or \$1,657,780 in total. Importantly, this amount is funded entirely through local property taxes, making DeBeque one of only four districts in the state that currently receive \$0 in *state* funding through the finance formula.

SB 213 makes several structural changes to the state's school finance formula, two of which are significant for DeBeque. First, SB 213, unlike the current finance formula, will ensure every district in the state receives some amount of state aid. In DeBeque's case, the district will receive \$53,008, or \$461/pupil, in state funding it did not receive previously. This means that DeBeque, which currently pays state income taxes to fund public schools statewide but receives no state funding for its schools through the finance act in return, will receive \$53,008 in return if Amendment 66 is approved.

Second, SB 213 transfers, or re-categorizes, some formula funding for a select number of districts that, like DeBeque, support most or all of their finance formula

¹ These projections, "Comparisons of SB 13-213 with Current Law," can be found here: <http://colorado.gov/legcouncil/SB13-213%20Appendix%20B%20Tables.xlsx>. All numbers in this memorandum were prepared using these tables.

funding at present with local property taxes.² In DeBeque’s case, SB 213 moves \$120,063 in district property taxes to a local mill levy override. Crucially, this transfer does not decrease the amount of funding the district receives, limit the school board’s control of these funds, or require or assume any increase in local property taxes, all of which remain constant. Accordingly, it is best thought of merely as a re-categorization.

DeBeque’s current funding, and projected funding under Amendment 66, is summarized in the following table:

	Local Funding through School Finance Act	State Funding through School Finance Act	Local Cost of Living Override	Total	Total Per Pupil (based on 115 pupils)
DeBeque Current Funding	\$1,657,780	\$0	\$0	\$1,657,780	\$14,453
DeBeque Projected Funding Under Amendment 66	\$1,614,261	\$53,008	\$110,574	\$1,777,843	\$15,460
Change	(\$43,519)	\$53,008	\$110,574	\$120,063	\$1,007

Conclusion

DeBeque School District 49-JT, like every district in Mesa County and the state, will see a funding increase if Amendment 66 is approved. In DeBeque’s case, this funding increase will include state funding the district currently does not receive.

² Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-54.5-203(3)(d), available at http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2013a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont/27A661F189ABDCF787257AEE00571A66?Open&file=213_enr.pdf.