

2011 Policy Agenda



STAND FOR CHILDREN IS AN INNOVATIVE CHILD ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO USE THE POWER OF GRASSROOTS ACTION TO HELP ALL CHILDREN GET THE EXCELLENT PUBLIC EDUCATION AND STRONG SUPPORT THEY NEED TO THRIVE.

Core Value

Stand for Children's members believe that all children must graduate from high school prepared for college, the workplace, and life. In order to reach that goal, we must give teachers, principals, and students the opportunity to access vibrant, excellent schools that set and achieve high expectations for students, regardless of demographics.

Stand for Children supports policy priorities at the school, district, and state level that are in line with this value.

Policy Priorities

1. Increased Administrative, Teacher, and Principal Effectiveness

Teachers and principals are an essential part of the solution to improving public schools, and we must provide them with the support they need to give all students a quality education, while holding them responsible for multiple measures of student growth.

Stand for Children supports policies that will:

- Hold school district administrations accountable for effectively implementing policies that create a successful school environment. This includes the recruitment and retention of great teachers and principals as a key strategy to improve student learning.
- Provide teachers and principals with adequate resources in the classroom, differentiated professional development, and quality mentoring programs.
- Attract a talented workforce to the education profession and prepare educators for their careers by elevating standards for teacher preparation.
- Incentivize, attract, retain, and reward teachers and principals whose work results in measurable student growth.

Stand for Children will support the implementation of Senate Bill 191, the Great Teachers and Leaders Law:

- Advocate for an improved and research-based teacher and principal evaluation system, to be recommended by the State Council for Educator Effectiveness and the State Board of Education.
- Provide teachers who demonstrate high performance with job security. Non-probationary status should be renewed as long as it is merited.

2. Choice and Accountability

Every child deserves a high-quality public education, regardless of school model. We must support parents in choosing the school that best meets their children's needs by using a common, accessible, and meaningful set of standards and assessments to determine student learning and school performance.

Stand for Children supports policies that will:

- Identify best practices and expand successful models of high-performing schools.
- Create innovation schools and give them the intended autonomy they need to be successful.
- Close and/or turn around low-performing schools.
- Increase awareness of and access to public school choice by improving the application procedures, transportation system, and overall understanding of the choice process.

3. Education Funding

Colorado's public schools must have the resources to sufficiently prepare children to meet the demands of the 21st century. We must advocate for adequate investment in education, along with increased efficiency and transparency at the local and state levels.

Stand for Children supports policies that will:

- Minimize the effects of the economic crisis on children and schools by encouraging the greatest possible investment in public education.
- Adequately fund schools by improving the fairness and stability of Colorado's tax structure.
- Modify Colorado's school funding formula to better support student needs.
- Equalize funding for charter schools.
- Protect funding for full-day kindergarten and the Colorado Preschool Program.

OUR POLICY AGENDA IS BASED UPON DATA-DRIVEN BEST PRACTICES AND INPUT FROM OUR MEMBERS - PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND CONCERNED COLORADANS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING PUBLIC EDUCATION IN OUR STATE.

Who We Are

Stand for Children brings together parents, teachers, and community members to improve public education by influencing policy and politics at the school board and state legislature.

Our Strategy

Our members are working toward a Colorado filled with vibrant, high-performing schools, where educators are inspired to do their best work, and all children can reach their highest potential. We will achieve this by:

- Electing school board members and state legislators who will boldly lead efforts to improve the quality of all schools.
- Working with state and local decision-makers to pass child-centered, research-based education policies and secure responsible investments for schools.

Our Members

Stand for Children is made up of parents, teachers, and community members who effectively elect and influence state and local officials to make meaningful improvements to public schools. Our members make a profound difference for children, while acquiring lifelong skills to lead their communities.