

Education

TABOR has unintentionally crushed our education system. This must be fixed. Our investment in education per capita is one of the lowest in the country. Our teacher's pay is ranked between 47th and 50th out of 50 states – but our economy is #1 (US News & World Report/McKinsey data). Education is the key to financial wellbeing and success. Why on earth wouldn't we invest in this?

We need to put apprentice and technical training into our High Schools and Community Colleges. I would also suggest that we encourage students with limited resources to go to their Community College for their first 2 years, then transfer to a 4 year college for their degree. Much less expensive and the student can see if college is right for them. If not, change to an apprentice program or a technical/trade skill. Let's keep in mind that not every person wants to go to college. However, that doesn't mean they shouldn't maximize their education and earning potential to their ability and goals.

There is a petition being circulated to get the 1982 Gallagher Amendment fixed (Amendment 93). This would put additional money into our education system and would only affect people earning over \$150,000 per year. If you are in that higher income group, wouldn't you want **YOUR** children and grandchildren to have the best education possible?

We need to find a way to financially help our students. Lower tuition is one way. Offering them public service jobs in Colorado where they can have their student debt reduced or eliminated is another option. We can do this.

Vouchers? NO, it only takes money out of public education. If you want a private school for your children, then you should pay for it.

Charter Schools? Not as black and white. If there is local accountability and control, then possibly. However, this often is just an excuse to exclude minorities and students with disabilities.

Corporate for-profit school systems? Why create an education system just to make money for some corporation? Teachers join the profession to teach. Students come first!



Kent is endorsed by the Pikes Peak Education Association.