



Key Components of the Lobato ruling

December 12, 2011

On Friday, December 9, 2011, Denver District Judge Sheila Rappaport ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in the Lobato v. State lawsuit. Rappaport found that the state's funding system for public K-12 education violates the constitutional requirement for a "thorough and uniform" school system.

The finding states that there is no clear connection between what schools are required to do by law, and the funds that they are given by the state. Rappaport's decision states that *"The Court finds that the Colorado public school finance system is unconstitutional. Evidence establishes that the finance system must be revised to assure that funding is rationally related to the actual costs of providing a thorough and uniform system of public education. It is also apparent that increased funding will be required. These are appropriately legislative and executive functions."*

Key CASE messages about the ruling

- This is a great day for the kids of Colorado!
- The voices of the people who care about the future of public education in Colorado have been heard. We know that Colorado is not living up to the promise of our constitution, which requires the state to provide a "thorough and uniform system of free public schools."
- The state has failed to give schools the resources they need to meet the needs of all students. Inadequate funding has caused too many students to attend school in dilapidated and unsafe facilities, learn from obsolete textbooks, and miss out on critical 21st century learning opportunities.
- Let's take this opportunity to refocus our state's attention and energy on the critical and constitutional duty of providing students with the education they need to succeed and become productive and contributing citizens.

- We look forward to working with Commissioner Robert Hammond, Governor John Hickenlooper, and members of the State Board of Education and General Assembly on a remedy. Clearly this changes the conversation about the future of public education in Colorado—with the urgency of addressing this issue in the 2012 legislative session.