



POSITION STATEMENT: Opposition to Proposition 119, Learning Enrichment and Academic Progress (LEAP) Program

Advocates for Public Education Policy opposes Proposition 119. While it proposes to provide after-school learning opportunities for children, it does nothing to address the underfunding of our public schools, but instead takes money away from public school finance and opens the door for the private sector to tap into critically needed public education funding.

It robs money from public schools.

- It will divert over \$20 million annually from the State Land Trust currently going to our underfunded public schools.
- It will compete with public schools for state and federal grant funds.

It creates an unaccountable and unnecessary bureaucracy, designed for private profit.

- The LEAP agency uses public tax money with no oversight by state government.
- The appointed LEAP board can choose whichever private providers it desires, with no state input or supervision, making the program ripe for fraud and abuse.
- The \$1500/year minimum payment for three years per participating child creates a model that makes the program attractive to for-profit providers.
- LEAP seeks to provide services that are already being federally funded to address “learning loss” resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

It claims to help poor children, but is deceptive.

- While low-income children are prioritized, LEAP has no criteria to address how these students will be invited to participate, allowing higher-income students to be served.
- The LEAP fund will be inadequate for serving more than a fifth of low-income students.
- The program uses a supplemental education model that has proven to be ineffective for most students.

It invades families’ privacy.

- It implies that children will not qualify for the program unless their families provide the private LEAP agency with tax documentation of their income.
- It allows families’ income information to be shared with private providers.
- The LEAP agency will be required to integrate its data with school districts, but data privacy is not guaranteed – putting districts in jeopardy of violating federal privacy laws.

In addition to A4PEP, many organizations that support public education oppose LEAP:

- Colorado Association of School Boards
- Colorado Association of School Executives
- Colorado PTA
- Taxpayers for Public Education
- American Federation of Teachers
- AFL-CIO
- Working Families Party
- ... and the list is growing