



## A4PEP Update

We know that many of you haven't heard from us in a while, but we have not been idle.

### LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES:

We provided input and research on several bills before the Legislature.

- We supported these bills:
  - SB 23-061 was to eliminate the Social Studies assessment, but it died on the calendar.
  - SB23-071 would have allowed judicial review of the State Board of Education decisions, but it was defeated in the Senate Education Committee.
  - HB23-1239 would have allowed for local innovation in educational assessments, but it was defeated in the House Education Committee, although parts of it were added to HB23-1241.
  - HB23-1241 created a task force to study the K-12 Accountability System, and it passed. We are not pleased with the selected members, however, as 85% are associated with DFER or charter schools.
- We opposed HB23-1188, Individualized Learning Schools and Programs, which was another attempt to grab school funds for private programs. Fortunately, it died on the calendar.

### ACTIONS:

- We helped with the **design and distribution of a survey** about attitudes toward the current CMAS testing protocols. Parents overwhelmingly felt the tests were unfair and unnecessary.
- **A4PEP circulated its 2023 Resolution** to Redesign Colorado's Accountability System and presented it to the Legislature.
- We did the **research on low-rated schools** and found that these schools were in neighborhoods with high populations of poverty, minorities, and non-English language speakers. The districts of "distinction" were primarily white, well-to-do neighborhoods, proving the current system is discriminatory.

### FORUMS:

- We had an excellent speaker in January, **Charles Siler**. He spoke about **Privatization - A Dangerous Threat to Our Public Schools**. See his presentation on our website.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

- In October several of our board members will be going to **Washington DC** to participate in the Network for Public Education's conference [Public Schools: Where Democracy Grows](#). They will be presenting on behalf of A4PEP.
- A4PEP will be reaching out to **local school board candidates** who align with A4PEP values to help them with some of today's most important issues.
- A4PEP has engaged professional support in **redesigning our website**. Please check it out! There are amazing resources and information.

### WANT TO HELP?

Feel free to share this email with anyone else you think would be interested. Encourage them to email us a [Advoc4PEP@gmail.com](mailto:Advoc4PEP@gmail.com) to join our mailing list. Also, we always welcome donations.