

Great Futures Colorado Campaign Membership

“Great Futures Start with a Great Education”

What is the Great Futures Colorado Campaign?

The Great Futures Colorado Campaign is a coalition of community organizations that advocates for implementation of, and adequate funding for, an education system that will prepare *all* children for the challenges of the 21st century – as outlined in the “core principles” of the Campaign’s “Membership Statement.” The Campaign provides member organizations with a platform and simple tools for united action toward our shared vision.

Organizations join the Great Futures Colorado Campaign by:

- agreeing to the Great Futures core principles;
- signing the “Membership Statement;” and
- making a donation to the Great Futures Colorado Campaign at a financial level that is meaningful to the joining organization.

What does it mean to be a “member organization” of the Great Futures Colorado Campaign?

Opportunities. Member organizations will be given opportunities to participate in Great Futures education and advocacy activities, which may include online actions, rallies, press conferences, and policy conferences. Great Futures will also provide resources to members such as a speakers’ bureau and online PowerPoint presentations.

For example, in March 2010, the Coalition launched its first action - the “Great Futures Map & Petition,” an interactive map and joint petition (greatfuturescolorado.org/map) that shows the impact of budget cuts to schools and colleges around the state and asks the state leaders to do everything in their power to minimize cuts. Together, the coalition delivered over 2,700 petitions and 1,000 stories about the impact of education cuts on Colorado’s students from over 150 communities.

Responsibilities. By signing the membership statement, organizations authorize Great Futures to use their name and/or logo on the Great Futures website and other educational and advocacy materials.

Member organizations will be asked and encouraged to use their own networks to disseminate Great Futures’ online actions and information about upcoming Great Futures events (rallies, conferences, press events, etc.). These actions promote and reinforce the Campaign’s core principles. However, no particular actions will be required.

Organizations that commit to promoting most or all Great Futures actions may choose to serve on the Great Futures Colorado Campaign Advisory Council, which will meet periodically to discuss policy initiatives and potential Great Futures actions and events.

What has Great Futures accomplished so far?

The Coalition formed in January 2010 and quickly grew to over 20 organizations. In mid-March 2010, Great Futures introduced the DECIDE legislation, which stands for “Decide: Education Cuts or Invest in our Democracy and Economy.” If passed by the legislature, the DECIDE proposal would have placed on the November 2010 ballot a referred measure to give the legislature options to balance the budget other than deep cuts to education. Unfortunately, in a 35-30 vote, the State House of Representatives failed to reach the two-thirds vote necessary to put DECIDE on the ballot in November 2010.

By bringing DECIDE to the Legislature, the Great Futures Coalition put the education funding crisis [front and center](#) for the last eight weeks of the legislative session, and significantly advanced the public conversation about budget reform. Nearly 50,000 e-mails were sent to legislators, and hundreds attended and testified at the Legislature (most for their first time ever). Most major media outlets covered DECIDE, Great Futures, and its broad and diverse support, further expanding the reach of the DECIDE conversation.

Following the legislative session, the Great Futures released and distributed an open letter to Colorado voters, signed by hundreds of constituents stating “We commit to a ballot measure in November 2011 that will increase funding for public education, because our children have already waited far too long.”

What’ s next for the Great Futures Coalition?

In the Fall of 2010, the Great Futures coalition will work together to inform organization members, local communities and Colorado voters about the consequences of Amendments 60 & 61, and Proposition 101, were they to pass. The coalition will focus primarily on these initiatives’ potential impact on Colorado’s schools, colleges and universities.

Moreover, the coalition will undertake this education program in a way that will raise awareness of the impact that Colorado’s already dire financial situation is having on Colorado’s students and economy. Together, we will help build a network of public education supporters who are well-informed about budget issues and prepared to take action to create and pass a ballot solution in 2011.

How is the Great Futures Colorado Campaign organized?

The Great Futures Colorado Campaign is a collaborative project of member organizations and Great Education Colorado, a 501c3 charitable organization that provides the staffing and technology platform for the Campaign.