

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-06-02

A Resolution of the Board of Education of the
Steamboat Springs School District RE-2
to Endorse Initiative 195

WHEREAS, public education is the bedrock of our democracy, fundamental to individual opportunity, the foundation of thriving communities, and essential to Colorado's long-term economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 195 is projected to provide meaningful new annual funding to Steamboat Springs RE-2 School District, estimated at approximately \$2,060,000, supporting local priorities such as student and staff safety and security, staffing, class size, and student services; and

WHEREAS, sustained and adequate investment in Colorado's public schools is critical to maintaining the state's economic competitiveness and has been shown to yield strong returns, including higher graduation rates, increased lifetime earnings, and reduced long-term public costs; and

WHEREAS, Colorado educators and support staff make invaluable contributions to students and communities despite one of the largest teacher wage gaps in the nation, and research demonstrates that improved compensation is directly linked to better student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's school funding has not kept pace with modern educational demands, with inflation-adjusted per-pupil funding near 1989 levels, significant cumulative reductions through the Budget Stabilization Factor, and increasing cost pressures related to staffing, health care, technology, and student needs; and

WHEREAS, Colorado school districts face additional challenges, including higher student-to-teacher ratios and increased needs among at-risk students, English language learners, and students with disabilities, requiring greater resources to ensure equitable outcomes; and

WHEREAS, school districts face increasing expectations and costs to ensure safe and secure learning environments, including investments in facility security, mental health supports, emergency preparedness, and coordination with local law enforcement, all of which are essential to student well-being and the ability to learn; and

WHEREAS, recent adequacy studies by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and Augenblick, Palaich and Associates (APA) found that Colorado's school funding is inequitable and insufficient, estimating a need for approximately \$3.5 billion in additional funding and recommending increased base funding, expanded support for at-risk students, and adjustments for regional cost differences; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 195 would create a sustainable, voter-approved revenue stream by establishing a graduated income tax system that is projected to reduce taxes for approximately 98.6% of tax filers in Routt while asking the highest-income earners to contribute more; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 195 is projected to generate at least \$2 billion annually in new revenue, including significant new funding for K–12 public education, as well as investments in health care and early childhood education that support the whole-child needs of students; and

WHEREAS, these investments would support improved teacher compensation, smaller class sizes, expanded student support services, and more equitable educational opportunities for all Colorado students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Steamboat Springs RE-2 School District formally endorses Initiative 195, the “Protect Colorado’s Future” measure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board encourages community members to learn about and consider the benefits of Initiative 195; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent to share this resolution with stakeholders and the broader community to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable and adequate funding for public education.

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2026.

Steamboat Springs School District RE-2

By: _____
President, Board of Education

Attest:

Secretary to the Board of Education