

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-09-01

A Resolution of the Board of Education of the
Steamboat Springs School District RE-2
in Support of Amendment 87, The Income Tax Fairness Act

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

WHEREAS, Colorado's school funding lags near 1989 levels after adjusting for inflation. Driven down by cumulative constitutional tax restrictions, districts continue to struggle to keep up with rising costs for staffing, student and staff health, technology, and student services; and

WHEREAS, Colorado educators face a 41% wage gap compared to peers in other college-educated professions—the largest penalty in the nation. Closing this gap is vital for attracting and retaining top talent and directly improves student success; and

WHEREAS, Colorado school districts face additional challenges, including higher student-to-teacher ratios and increased needs among special populations requiring greater resources to ensure equitable outcomes; and

WHEREAS, school districts face increasing expectations and costs to ensure student and staff have safe 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, 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, 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 special student populations, and adjustments for regional cost differences; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 87 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 County; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 87 is projected to provide meaningful new annual funding to Steamboat Springs School District RE-2, estimated at approximately \$2,060,000, supporting local priorities such as student services, staff compensation, student and staff safety and security, and class size; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 87 is projected to generate at least \$2 billion annually in new revenue for Colorado, including much needed 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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Steamboat Springs School District RE-2 formally endorses Amendment 87, the Income Tax Fairness Act; 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 and encourages community members to support Amendment 87.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Steamboat Springs School District RE-2

By: _____
President, Board of Education

Attest:

Secretary, Board of Education