

INDEPENDENCE INSTITUTE ISSUE BACKGROUNDER

AMENDMENT 66: MORE SPENDING DOESN'T BUY HIGHER STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

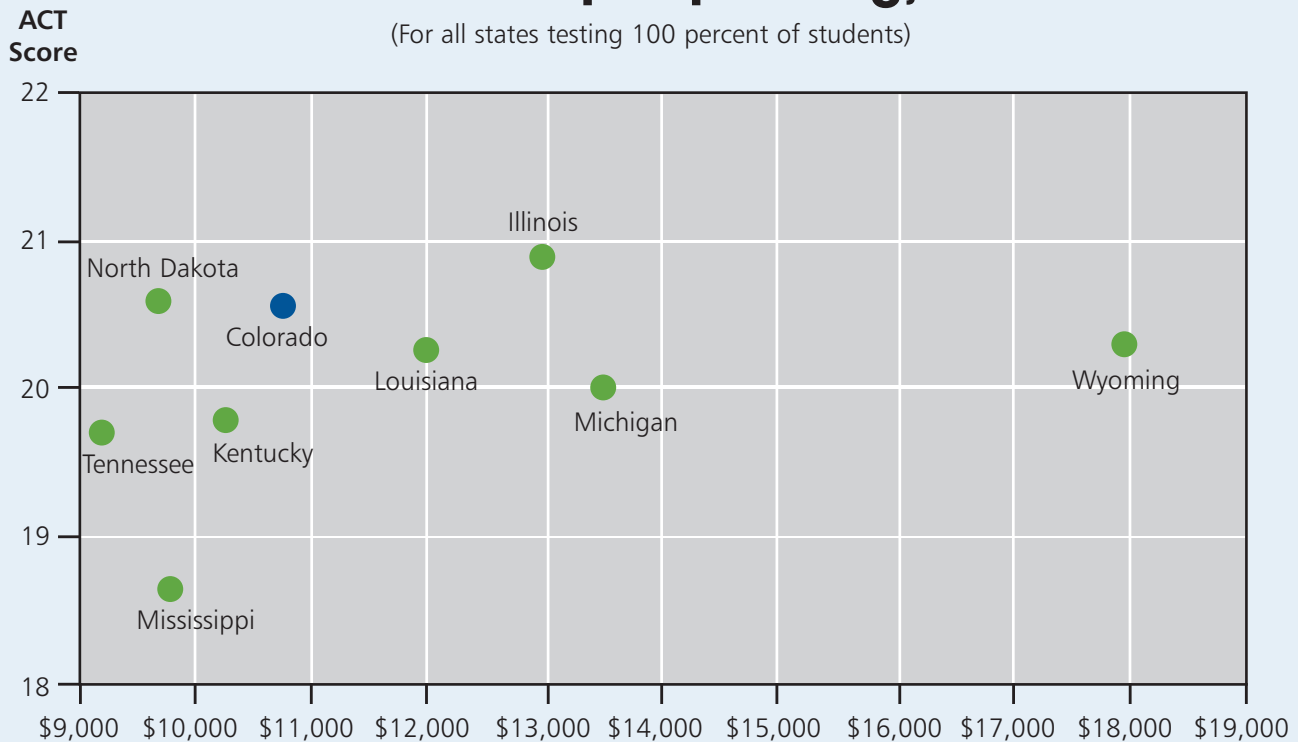
BY LINDA GORMAN • IB-I-2013 • OCTOBER 2013

Parents spend their money to benefit their children. School bureaucrats spend other people's money to benefit the schools and those who run them. Amendment 66 raises taxes to take money from working Coloradans. It gives the broken public school bureaucracy more to spend and leaves parents with less. Taking money from parents harms children.

In 2012, 9 states gave the ACT to all of their high school juniors. The ACT is a test that shows readiness to do college-level work. As the graph shows, spending has little to do with achievement. North Dakota spends less per pupil than Colorado and has slightly higher ACT scores. Illinois spends considerably more per pupil and has slightly higher ACT scores. Wyoming spends much more than either North Dakota or Illinois and has lower ACT scores.

ACT Average Composite Versus Per-Pupil Spending, 2012

(For all states testing 100 percent of students)



Per-Pupil Spending, National Education Association, 2011-12