

# UNCOMPAHGRE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES (UNBOCS)

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*Serving Norwood, Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride and West End Schools*

**Information to Share Newsletter**  
Volume 9, Issue #2

## A Note From the Editor

We're trying to save a few trees: the UnBOCS newsletters will be posted online at the UNBOCS website: [www.unbocs.org](http://www.unbocs.org).

**However, if you'd still like to receive a print copy of this newsletter, please call Wendy at the UnBOCS office at 626-2977 and we'll add you to our mailing list. If you'd like to receive an email notification when each new issue of the newsletter is available on the website, please send your email address to [wbolane@ridgway.k12.co.us](mailto:wbolane@ridgway.k12.co.us) and I'll add you to our parent email list.**

Sincerely, Wendy Bolane, UnBOCS program coordinator

## UnBOCS Executive Director Retiring

It is with much sadness in our hearts that we announce the retirement of Sharon Davarn, Uncompahgre BOCS Executive Director and Special Education Director. Sharon has led our BOCS for the past 10 years. The BOCS has grown and changed in many ways under her leadership. Her leadership and mentorship will be sorely missed. However, we wish her and husband Pat well as they head back to their home state of Michigan to be closer to their family including (most importantly) their first grandson, Harrison.

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 22 from Noon - ???** For a retirement party in honor of Sharon. For more details please contact Shannon Miller, UnBOCS Administrative Assistant at 626-2977. We'd love to see many parents attend this farewell party in honor of Sharon.

## Upcoming UnBOCS Child Find Dates for 2009-2010

West End	Friday	3/12/10	Naturita Elementary
Norwood	Friday	4/9/10	Norwood School (date change!)

## Upcoming Webinar for Parents

Peak Parent Center is hosting a free Webinar on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 6:30 PM. Sign up on their website: [www.peakparent.org](http://www.peakparent.org). The webinar will explore interpersonal and conflict resolution skills to create positive working relationships with your child's team. Space is limited so please register online and you will receive a confirmation email with directions for the webinar.

## Thought For The Day

*Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations.  
I may not reach them but I can look up and see their beauty, believe  
in them and try to follow them.*  
*Louisa May Alcott*

**2009/2010**

### UnBOCS Office Staff

\*Sharon Davarn, Director  
\*Shannon Miller, Assistant  
\*Julie Derbes, Fiscal  
\*Wendy Bolane, Program Coordinator  
\*Carole Pandorff, Program Coordinator

### UnBOCS Board Members

\*Andrya Brantingham, Norwood  
\*Don Mort, Ouray  
\*Steve Larivee, Ridgway  
\*Cheryl Miller, Telluride  
\*Melissa Lampshire, West End

### UnBOCS Providers

\*Kelly King, Cecil Beech and Sarah Cowley, Speech Therapists

\*Jill O'Dell, Lindsay Hepp and Annie Clark, OT

\*Melissa Turner, PT and Patty McIntosh PTA

\*Kristine Ash and Janae Biard Audiologists

\*Virginia Kile, Ann Kochara, Megan Wade and Virginia Stevenson, Early Childhood Specialists

\*Sharon Sirotek, Jessica Burress, and Lisa McClun Psychologists

\*Ursula Cristol, Cultural Mediator

\*Dee Williams and Kristi Gabriel SWAP

\*Tracey Mosbarger, Vision Specialist

\*Sharon Brennan, Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

### **UnBOCS Executive Director Candidate Posting**

The Uncompahgre BOCS is announcing the candidates for the Executive Director/Special Education Director position; interviews will be held on March 12, 2010.

Debra Layland - Denver, CO  
Lyndell Copeland - Farmington, NM  
Sandie Jungers - Watertown, SD  
Aileen Toler - Montrose, CO

### **State Gifted and Talented Audit Completed**

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has just completed an audit of the Gifted and Talented programs in all 5 UnBOCS districts. The final report from CDE should be in our hands within a month. The report will be available for viewing at the BOCS office. Please contact Wendy Bolane for further information.

A big thank you to all district personnel, BOCS personnel, and parents of GT students that helped make the audit such a success!

### **Early Access to Preschool/Kindergarten Process to Begin**

The Uncompahgre Board of Cooperative Services (UnBOCS) and its member districts of Norwood, Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride and the West End, will be accepting applications from parents who believe their child would meet the requirements for early entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade.

Contact your district elementary principal for the application packet. All applications must be completed and turned in to your elementary school office no later than April 1, 2010.

You may contact the Uncompahgre Board of Cooperative Services (UnBOCS) at 970-626-2977 with any questions about how to obtain this application.

### **Children with Special Needs - Internet Guide for Parents and Professionals**

This information was produced to help parents and professionals seeking information about children with special needs gain access to the various web sites that may address needs or questions you may have. This guide serves as a resource only, not as an endorsement or validation for the information provided by the site. Information provided by the sites should not be construed as medical advice. Please consult your health care professional before making any decisions regarding your child's health care needs.

**[Www.hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org)** - site to support gifted students and their unique needs.

**[Www.sengifted.org](http://www.sengifted.org)** - site to support the social and emotional needs of gifted students.

**[Www.focusas.com](http://www.focusas.com)** - referral service and helpline for adolescents and their families.

**[Www.parent.net](http://www.parent.net)** - provides facts, articles, movies, resources and books for parents.

**[Www.collegeincolorado.com](http://www.collegeincolorado.com)** - help for HS students and their parents getting ready for college, training or the workforce.

## **Raising an Avid Reader: Learn how to Encourage, Teach and Educate Your Children About Reading**

Reading and literacy is the singular most important skill a child can learn and yet there are so many that either simply do not enjoy recreational reading or will only do the bare minimum required by their teachers. Raising an avid reader is not an easy task, but it is indeed quite possible to do so - with just a bit of savvy. At times parents tend to make the job too hard when with a few simple tips and tricks the pressure may be taken off and reading may actually become a thoroughly enjoyable activity for the child.

### **Make Sure Kids Have Plenty of Access to Books & Reading Material**

The biggest mistake many parents make is not the lack of reading materials they offer to their children, but instead an insistence of reading materials that are exclusively at or above the child's reading level. This is a crucial error in that it does little to entice the child to pick up a book she can devour quickly. Granted, teachers are quite adamant to hone a child's skill with books at reading level, but for fun and recreational reading, parents should go ahead and offer books that are just for fun. The same may be said for age appropriate magazines that parents might want to keep where their child sits and relaxes to eat snacks.

### **Choose Learning Materials that Match a Child's Interests**

These recreational books should cover any number of topics the child is interested in, and may even include comic books. Parents may leave them sitting out in a little book nook where the child may pick them up - or not - as she desires. Giving a child the power of choice goes a long way to nagging her to pick up a book and practice her reading.

### **Sign Your Kids up for a Library Card**

Another step to raising an avid reader revolves around a library card. Each child should have a library card in her own name as soon as they are in Kindergarten. Introduce her to the books at the library, explain where books for her age group are found, and encourage her to take a book off the shelf and sit down with it. Older kids need to be taught how to use the library computer to find books they might only know the title of or the name of the author. Parents sometimes make the mistake of visiting the library when they are in a time crunch; this is usually a recipe for disaster, as the child will never really get into the books and make her decisions.

### **If You Must.....Try Interactive Reading Games to Spark Learning**

If the reluctant reader is a video game aficionado, foster a love for reading by providing games that require plenty of reading. Bed time reading is also a good way of encouraging the budding book lover. While she thinks she is getting away with sleep delay tactics, she is actually turning into an avid reader! Reading to the child is also a good idea. There are times when a child will refuse to read on her own simply because she is upset that with her newfound reading skills the parents no longer make the time to sit down and read to her. Kids as old as teens still enjoy being read to. If all else fails, the child's eyes need to be checked. In a minority of cases the aversion to reading had little to do with the books but everything to do with an inability to actually see the pages.

**From: [www.parent.net](http://www.parent.net)**

## **Education Funding: What's Happening? By: Sharon Davarn**

All school districts in the state of Colorado are facing large budget cuts beginning with the 2010 budget in July. The reasons behind this are often confusing. I recently went to a meeting and received information that I hope you will find helpful.

### **Why this is happening?**

The State of Colorado's revenues are expected to decline by at least \$2 billion, which is more than 25% of the state's operating budget. Cities, counties and local school districts will suffer similar losses as well. Colorado never recovered from the 2001-03 recession when funding was slashed and the state's Education Fund was drained to provide funding for programs.

### **School Finance Basics**

Colorado invests in K-12 public schools through a combination of local property taxes state revenues and aid from the federal government. Because of laws in our Constitution, the legislature has little ability to maintain adequate funding for Colorado's public services, including education. The following are legislative components.

**Gallagher Amendment:** Passed in 1982 and designed to limit residential property tax increases by maintaining a constant ratio between property tax revenues coming from residential and business properties. The effect of Gallagher has been to shift much of the burden of property taxes from residential to commercial. This makes it difficult for businesses to support school mill levies.

**Amendment 23:** Passed in 2000, Amendment 23 requires the state's investment in K-12 education to increase by the rate of inflation plus 1% through 2011 and then by the rate of inflation after that.

**TABOR:** The Taxpayer Bill of Rights, passed in 1992, prohibits any tax increase without a vote. TABOR also prohibits the state, county, city or a school district from keeping revenues from all sources in any year that are more than revenues received the previous year – plus the rates of inflation and growth. Any revenue collected in excess of TABOR's limits must be refunded to taxpayers, unless those restrictions have been lifted by voter approval.

**Referendum C:** A five-year timeout from TABOR's annual state revenue collection. During this five-year timeout, the state is allowed to keep all of the revenue it brings in and allows the state to meet the minimum increase to K-12 education as required by Amendment 23. TABOR limits will be in effect again in 2011.

**TABOR and Gallagher:** These two provisions have shifted the majority of funding for schools from local property taxes to the state's General Fund. The state now provides more than 60% of funding to local districts, whereas the state used to fund less than 40%.

**Federal Funding:** School districts receive funding from several federal programs and are required to follow specific regulations as a condition of receiving those funds. School districts must also contribute significant local funds in order to qualify for most federal programs. The largest federal programs are the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

### **What could be cut in Colorado's schools?**

Each of Colorado's 178 school districts will respond to anticipated cuts by the state based on local needs and circumstances, but cuts being considered by districts across Colorado include:

- \* Cutting the number of teachers and increasing class size;
- \* Reducing or eliminating programs, student support services and student activities;
- \* Reducing or curtailing transportation services;
- \* Cutting teacher and staff salary, benefits and professional development; and
- \* Charging more and higher student fees.

### **Other facts:**

- \* Colorado has the fastest demographic growth of children living in poverty;
- \* Colorado is now \$1,900 below the national average in spending per student.

**What could be the solution?**

- \* The Colorado legislature and the Department of Education could repeal, or relax, unfunded mandates and take steps to ensure that no new unfunded mandates are imposed on local school districts.
- \* The voters in Colorado could approve a permanent or temporary measure to restore the income and sales tax cuts made by the legislature in 1999-2000.
- \* Colorado could reform its constitutional tax code of Gallagher, TABOR and Amendment 23 to ensure that the state has the resources necessary to support Colorado's public services, including education, and the flexibility to respond to a changing economy.

It is important that you as a parent understand what effects the current state economic situation will have on your schools and your children. Get involved, ask questions and think about this ... without adequate funding to our schools, districts will not be able to provide the level of services they have in the past. We cannot continue to expect we will get something for nothing.

Spring is just around the corner.....Happy Spring!

The next (and last for this school year) issue of the UnBOCS newsletter will be posted to our website in May 2010.  
Check our website at [www.unbocs.org](http://www.unbocs.org)