



AUGENBLICK,
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ASSOCIATES

“Providing analysis for over 30 years on the cost and impact of education policy change.”

Denver-based Augenblick, Palaich and Associates (APA) has more than 30 years of experience analyzing education systems and policies. APA has worked with hundreds of clients—including legislatures, education agencies, boards of education, state and county leaders, business leaders, and foundations—to provide in-depth, policy-oriented analyses to help improve our country’s education systems.

What does APA do?

- **Provide education research, dissemination, and technical support as part of the federal Regional Education Laboratory (REL) Central** – APA, partnered with Marzano Research and RMC Research Corporation, provides education research, dissemination, and technical support services to educators and policy-makers in Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. REL Central’s key priority areas are educator effectiveness, closing the achievement gap, and postsecondary and workforce readiness.
- **Assist states in evaluating and designing school finance formulas** – APA has assisted many states with studies of their finance formula mechanisms. APA is currently assisting Maryland and Alabama in such studies, and recently worked with Nevada, North Carolina, and New Jersey. A number of these studies resulted in significant changes to state school funding systems, including in Pennsylvania and Maryland.
- **Determine the implementation costs and potential savings of recent education legislation and programs** – APA has worked with a number of clients to determine the cost impacts of education legislation and of certain programs. In Colorado, APA has conducted cost studies of Colorado’s Achievement Plan for Kids for the Department of Education. APA has also conducted cost studies of educator effectiveness legislation (SB191) for the State Council on Educator Effectiveness. Additionally, APA contracted with the Irvine Foundation to conduct a study of the resources needed to implement the Linked Learning model in California school districts. APA has also worked with Jobs for the Future to understand the potential costs and savings related to implementing Early College High Schools.
- **Create interactive cost models** – APA has created a number of web-based, interactive cost models to help policy-makers analyze early childhood education (ECE) systems and programs. Clients have included the U.S. Office of Child Care, the Early Childhood Leadership Commission in Colorado, and the New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council. Outside of ECE, APA has worked with the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE) to construct a model estimating the costs associated with the *Tough Choices or Tough Times* policy recommendations. Part of that cost model included the costs involved in moving from a traditional teacher salary schedule to a teacher career ladder system, similar to systems advocated by the Teacher Advancement Program.

- **Evaluate programs** – Since 2007, APA has been the evaluator for the Denver Preschool Program (DPP). APA has helped the DPP Board and other interested policy-makers understand the extent to which DPP has affected student participation in preschool, the quality of Denver preschools, and the experiences of both families and preschools that work with DPP. APA is also the long-term evaluator for three local programs in Colorado: Providers Advancing School Outcomes (PASO), Reading Partners, and Summer Advantage. These programs are piloting initiatives to improve early childhood literacy as part of Mile High United Way’s Social Innovation Fund program.
- **Assist school districts** – APA has the ability to help school districts in a number of arenas, including school-based budgeting, salary scheduling, compensation modeling, facilities usage, and declining enrollment. APA has worked with multiple constituencies in some of these districts, including Littleton Public Schools, Jefferson County Public Schools, Poudre School District, and Aurora Public Schools.
- **Facilitate the creation of teacher compensation systems** – APA works with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to help guide and facilitate the development of performance-based compensation systems in Richmond, Virginia, and in five rural districts in Maine (funded by the Teacher Incentive Fund). In Texas’ Austin Independent School District, APA worked over several years to develop the district’s performance-based teacher compensation pilot program. In this capacity, APA counseled district leaders and acted as lead facilitator for compensation task forces comprised of key representatives and stakeholders from local classrooms and communities.
- **Inventory current district and school assessment practices** – APA has worked with the Colorado Education Initiative and Colorado Department of Education over a number of years to conduct research around the issue of standards and assessments in Colorado. Most recently, in 2014, APA conducted a study for the Colorado Standards and Assessments Task Force, collecting data on the time teachers and students spent on assessment activities during the school year.
- **Facilitate the engagement of teachers in education reform** – APA works with the Southwest Teacher Union Reform Network (SW TURN) to facilitate conversations to engage education association leaders in education reform efforts. The network brings together union leaders in states such as Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Texas to identify common reform priorities. APA supports such efforts by providing facilitation, technical assistance, and research reviews.
- **Identify means for providing extended learning opportunities** – APA worked with the National Center on Time and Learning to develop an online School Time Assessment Tool and a Classroom Time Assessment Tool to help school leaders and teachers analyze how time is spent in their building or classroom. These tools can be used to analyze the current time profile for a school or classroom and to model the impact of changes on student instructional time. APA also worked with the National Center on Time and Learning to develop a set of high-quality, cost-effective expanded learning time cost models for Colorado schools.