



LIBERTY COMMON SCHOOLS (K-12)

ANNUAL REPORT 2013–2014

Mission Statement

The mission of the School is to provide excellence and fairness in education for school children through a common foundation by successfully teaching a contextual body of organized knowledge, the skills of learning including the Thinking Framework, and the values of a democratic society. The School recognizes the value of inclusiveness, or providing access to a broad cross-section of the community, so that students from all backgrounds can benefit from the School's educational offering.

The School acknowledges the leadership of teachers in the classroom, and recognizes the responsibility of each student for his/her academic effort.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

As a parent led charter school focused on continuous improvement, we demonstrate that great results and fiscal prudence are achievable. Our teachers, administration, and staff achieve the top results in Colorado, while operating under constrained funding levels. Core Knowledge (K-8) and Classical Liberal College Preparatory (9-12) curricula taught by professional content experts is an unbeatable combination.

I invite you to visit libertycommon.org, where you will find an audited financial statement, and I encourage you to stay informed through quarterly newsletters.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Werst III".

BILL WERST
Chairman, Board of Directors



MANAGING OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES

2013-2014 YEAR IN REVIEW



Liberty Common Schools Board of Directors

Bill Werst
Chairman

John Rohrbaugh
Vice-Chairman

Denise Benz
Secretary

Joel Goeltl
Treasurer

Jeff Webb

Paulette Hansen

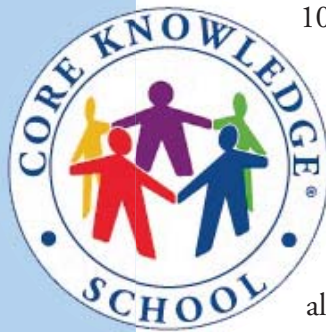
Sarj Gill

Liberty Common Schools Administration

Keith Churchill
Elementary School Principal

Bob Schaffer
High School Principal

Tim Ricketts
Business Manager



Welcome to the new school year! As we move into the 2014-2015 school year, the Liberty Common Schools (K-12) Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) would like to provide the Liberty Community with a summarized status of our financial picture and the key objectives going forward. The FAC is tasked with ensuring the financial stewardship is aligned with the school charter by being efficient and prudent with every dollar spent.

The past year was busy trying to balance day to day operations while managing the Liberty Common High School (LCHS) building expansion. The expansion put up-front pressure on our financials, though we were able to take on such a large project due to the school's sound financial position and diligence in prioritizing key needs of the organization.

Our finances support an enrollment of over 1,050 students and 100 instructors across two campuses.

As Bob Schaffer, our LCHS Principal and a founding parent has stated before, the parents actually own Liberty Common Schools. Your financial contributions have contributed immensely to the success of our mission. The FAC is incredibly focused on the funding of operational activities while also looking to the future opportunities for a second gymnasium, theatre, additional athletic fields, expanded lunch room space and better equipped engineering and science labs. We will need your continued help and financial support to get there faster. Please mark your calendar for the Spring Gala on April 10, 2015.



LIBERTY COMMON SCHOOLS (K-12) FUNDING IN ACTION

*Thank you
Donors and
Volunteers!*

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Liberty Common Schools (K-12) in 2013–2014. Each year Liberty continues to advance in its mission and your commitment is instrumental.

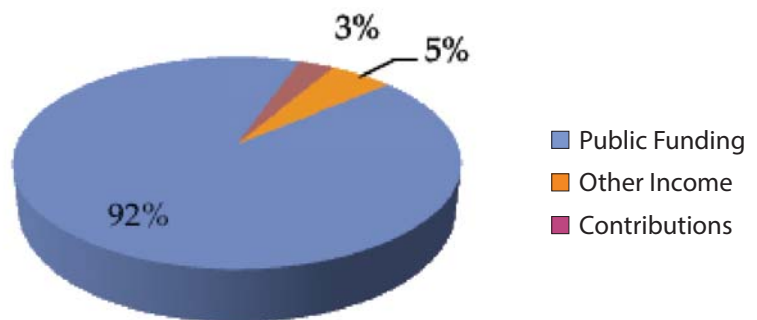
Liberty Common School receives 85% of the public funding provided to Poudre School District (PSD) “neighborhood” schools. The discrepancy in funding is mitigated through larger class sizes, careful fiscal management, and other income including activity fees, and grants. Donations make up 3% of our funding and are critical to Liberty’s budget.

Liberty’s primary funding source is the Per Pupil Revenue (PPR) allocated annually by the Colorado legislature to each school district in the state. In accordance with Liberty’s charter contract, PSD forwards the PPR to Liberty for each student enrolled. This public funding mechanism is essentially the same for PSD’s “neighborhood” schools. In addition to PPR, Liberty receives a small amount of public funding from some of PSD’s “mill levy overrides” on local property taxes.

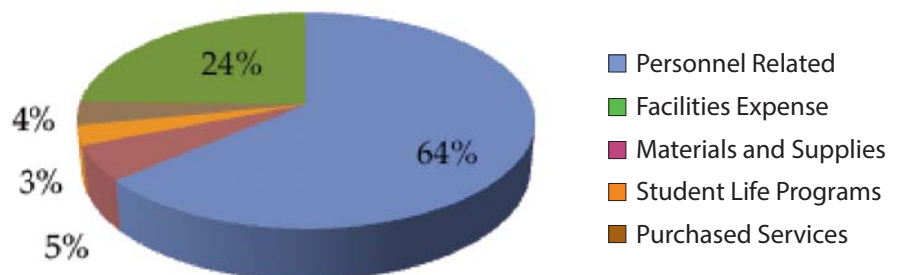
The key difference in Liberty’s funding when compared to “neighborhood” schools is that neighborhood school facilities (buildings, land and furnishings) are paid for by bond revenues financed by local property taxes. PSD does not provide charter schools access to these bond revenues. Therefore, unlike neighborhood schools, Liberty must pay the cost of its facilities (15% of annual expenses) from PPR. Liberty leases its facilities from a private, non-profit building corporation, established by Liberty’s founders.



INCOME



EXPENSES



ACHIEVEMENTS AT SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM KEITH CHURCHILL LIBERTY COMMON SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Liberty Common Elementary School enrollment consists of 610 students from grades K-6. We continue to be ranked above our peers and are the current recipient of the John Irwin School of Excellence Award. In the 2012–2013 school year, Liberty Common was also the first in the nation to achieve the Core Knowledge Analysis of Curriculum and Practices, making us the standard to which other schools are measured against. Our school was awarded Core Knowledge School of Distinction in Professional Learning Communities. This is due in large part to the support of committed parents and a diligent staff. In order for Liberty to maintain our continued level of academic rigor, we need to attract the best educators and keep them trained through professional development. Continuing education is an investment to maintain and retain the top quality staff we have.

MESSAGE FROM BOB SCHAFFER LIBERTY COMMON HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Liberty Common High School (LCHS) consists currently of 480 students, grades 7–12. A tuition-free, public, parent-run charter high school, LCHS continues to lead Colorado in academic achievement. With an average composite score of 28.6, this year marks the third year running that LCHS posted the highest average ACT composite score among high schools statewide. I believe this achievement to be a reflection of a solid classical, college-preparatory curriculum.

School leaders attribute such success to the educational foundation Liberty students build during their formative years, including curricula such as Core Knowledge and Singapore math in grades K-8.

