

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Colorado Springs School District 11 is pro-teacher.

We believe teachers are the most essential force in public education, and our district strategy is built around that core tenet: the number one driver of student achievement is access to high-quality instruction.

Every major decision we've made over the past several years under the leadership of this Board has centered on supporting the classroom. We have protected teaching positions, proposed a double-digit raise for educators—while most surrounding districts could only offer 1–2%—and invested in direct classroom support through coaching and mentoring. We also launched a new partnership with Pikes Peak State College to create a Future Educator Pathway, expanding affordable access to the profession for local students.

We respect our educators and remain committed to supporting them.

The vote announced yesterday reflects a decision by the union—not a reflection of the direction we're heading or the progress we've made. Our focus has been clear: to make D11 a place where teachers are supported, valued, and set up for success. We know our teachers continue to show up every day with professionalism and care—and we'll keep showing up for them.

Students remain our focus. That's why we'll continue to invest in great instruction, support our educators, and deliver on our promise of excellence in every classroom.

“With students being our number one focus, we strongly oppose the union’s proposed plan to disrupt the learning environment of our students through a strike this fall,” said Board of Education President Parth Melpakam.

District 11 is an outstanding place to teach—and we're committed to making it even better.

By the Numbers: District 11's Investment in Compensation

- **\$40.3 million** in recurring and non-recurring new compensation was allocated between 2018–2019 and 2021–2022.
- **\$103.2 million** in recurring and non-recurring new compensation has been allocated between 2022–2023 and the proposed 2025–2026 budget.
- Over the last four years, the Board has allocated, on average, **260% of all new state funding** toward employee compensation.
- **85% of the total district budget** is spent on salaries and benefits.