

TRANSPARENCY & Government

A look at transparency in Douglas County School District

in honor of Sunshine Week held on March 10 - 16, 2013



Transparency is a requirement of open government



Comprehensive Financial Budget Unavailable

Complete Financial Plan and Budget Book for the 2012-13 school year is not published and is unavailable to the public.



Annual Reports Unavailable

Annual Reports and Quick Facts with key data have been discontinued without alternate sources of data being made available to the public.



Public Input Has Been Devalued

Parent Surveys, Public Engagement Forums, and Public Comment have all been devalued.



Administrator Salary Details Unavailable

Open Records Request for itemized administrators' salaries has gone unfulfilled, despite the same report being made available to the public in 2010.



Public Comment & Letters Unanswered

Public requests and formal letters to the Board of Education asking for greater transparency regarding current initiatives have gone unanswered.



Public School Board Meetings Closed to the Public

In 2012, 49% of public school board meeting time was closed to the public through closed-door executive sessions. Prior to 2009, only 8% of public school board meeting time was closed to the public.



Open government is good government

"A popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy, or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

~ James Madison, the father of our federal Constitution

Douglas County Students Deserve Strong Schools and Transparency



The Strong Schools Coalition is a non-profit organization of Douglas County citizens and does not support or endorse any political party, candidate for, or incumbent in elected office.

www.StrongSchoolsCoalition.org