

WEEKLY UPDATE FOR OCTOBER 14, 2013

# Strong Schools Coalition



The Strong Schools Coalition works to **inform** and **engage** the community to positively **impact** the public schools in Douglas County.

## DCSD NEWS FROM THE WEEK

[Retain innovation in Douglas County schools](#) — 10/14/13  
denverpost.com

Editorial: Despite their importance, school board elections in most districts are often contests between candidates with very similar views. The stakes are not large. But every now and then an exception like Douglas County appears.

[Colorado Amendment 66: Is it right for schools?](#) — 10/13/13  
denverpost.com

Mail-in ballots on their way to voters this week carry a question with far-reaching impact on the way Coloradans tax themselves and spend money on education.

[Open letter to future Douglas County boards of education](#) — 10/11/13  
ourcoloradonews.com

We, the undersigned, are former members of the Douglas County Board of Education (DCBOE), and we are concerned about current practices of the DCBOE. The reputation of the Douglas County School District as a premier district for students to learn, teachers to teach, staff to work, and for parental and community involvement has deteriorated significantly during the current Board's tenure. Further, the district has lost its Accreditation with Distinction which past boards worked hard to achieve.

[Former school officials draft suggested policies](#) — 10/11/13  
ourcoloradonews.com

Eight former Douglas County School Board members concerned about the current board's policies met Oct. 8 to draft recommended best practices for the group.

[DougCo School Board Election Gets National Attention](#) — 10/9/13  
cpr.org

One of the most-watched school board elections in the country, especially in conservative education circles, is right here in Colorado. The Douglas County race has attracted attention from news outlets like the Wall Street Journal and the National Review. The suburban Denver contest is also bringing hundreds of local parents into the streets.

[Government has guidelines for nonprofit activity](#) — 10/9/13  
ourcoloradonews.com

The Douglas County Educational Foundation, founded 23 years ago as the Douglas County School District's fundraising arm, is a nonprofit. Some parents — concerned about the foundation's payments to consultants and a speech by paid consultant Bill Bennett in the weeks preceding the school-board election — see the activity as a potential threat to its nonprofit status.

[School foundation's role in campaign questioned](#) — 10/9/13  
ourcoloradonews.com

A group of parents and a former Douglas County Educational Foundation chairman believe a veil of secrecy has fallen over the school district's nonprofit fundraising arm.



## Mark Your Calendar

**October 15, 2013**  
Board of Education Meeting

**CANCELED**

**October 16, 2013**

**Testing Parent Input Sessions**

**TIME:** 3:30-4:30 pm or 4:30-5:30 pm

**LOCATION:** Wilcox Building, 620

Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, CO 80104

*RSVP with the time that you will attend to [syna.morgan@dcsdk12.org](mailto:syna.morgan@dcsdk12.org)*

## 2013 Election

**Board of Education Candidate Forums**

**October 14, 2013**

**League of Women Voters-sponsored DCSD Candidate Forum**

**TIME:** 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Eastridge Community Center, 9568 S University Blvd., Highlands Ranch

**October 20, 2013**

**Coffee for Conservatives-sponsored DCSD Candidate Forum**

**TIME:** 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Franktown Fire Station, 1959 N State Highway 83, Franktown

**Website:** [StrongSchoolsCoalition.org](http://StrongSchoolsCoalition.org)

**Twitter:** [@StrongSchoolsCO](https://twitter.com/StrongSchoolsCO)

**Email:** [DCSDStrongSchoolsCoalition@gmail.com](mailto:DCSDStrongSchoolsCoalition@gmail.com)



**Strong Schools Coalition**  
inform • engage • impact