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**Education Policy Center Newsletter**

**From The Independence Institute**

**December 8, 2011**

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**TV Alert: DeGrow Reminds Union Members of Dec. 15 Deadline**

We invite you to tune in to [*The Devil’s Advocate with Jon Caldara*](http://cpt12.org/tv_schedule/program_details.cfm?series_id=35206794), on Colorado Public Television (Channel 12 in Denver), tomorrow evening, **Friday, December 9, at 8:30 PM**,or this coming **Monday, December 12, at 1:30 PM**.One-half of the show will feature a discussion with our senior policy analyst Ben DeGrow about the upcoming December 15 deadline for members of the Colorado Education Association (CEA) to request a refund of Every Member Option (EMO) political money.

Every full-time CEA member has $39 deducted to fund EMO political activities. Members of many CEA locals have as much as $24 taken out for another EMO that requires a separate refund request. Please pass on the message and links to any Colorado teachers you know. [Watch our clever 45-second video on the EMO](http://www.youtube.com/independentteachers#p/a/u/0/cWidDnXtVYU), or [go directly to the important information on our Independent Teachers website](http://www.independentteachers.org/political-contributions/political-refunds/).

**Center Presses Forward to Help Update Digital Learning Policies**

Less than eight weeks away from [the nation’s first-ever Digital Learning Day](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/11/plan-early-for-important-digital-learning-day-february-1-2012-is-coming/) on February 1, and we continue to [help Colorado look to the future](http://education.i2i.org/2011/10/balancing-innovation-accountability-in-cyberschools/) in crafting policies that support student choice and customized learning opportunities through technology. Look for more publications to be released soon by the Education Policy Center. In the meantime, [please watch this exceptional five-minute video](http://vimeopro.com/edelements/blendedlearning) by Education Elements that explains what the new phenomenon of blended learning is about.

More from Ed Is Watching:
[Critics Ought to Stop Bashing Straw-Constructed Online Education Facsimiles](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/11/critics-ought-to-stop-bashing-straw-constructed-online-education-facsimiles/)

[Wall St. Journal, Larry Sand Shine Light on Digital Learning’s Growth & Potential](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/11/wall-st-journal-larry-sand-shine-light-on-digital-learnings-growth-potential/)

**DeGrow Helps Coloradans Follow the Money in K-12 Education**

Have you ever wondered how all the tax money is collected, distributed and used to fund K-12 education in Colorado? On November 14, Ben DeGrow accepted an invitation to speak to the new grassroots group [Parent Led Reform](http://www.parentledreform.org/) about the very topic. The result is [a 20-minute recorded podcast and PowerPoint presentation that’s available for you to watch and share.](http://education.i2i.org/2011/12/colorado-k-12-funding-follow-the-money/) The presentation is drawn entirely from Colorado Department of Education data. On a related note, our recent report on school district financial transparency [continues to draw attention from Colorado media outlets](http://education.i2i.org/2011/11/ed-news-colorado-highlights-i-i-report-on-state-of-local-k-12-financial-transparency/).

More from Ed Is Watching:

[Independence Institute Report Helps Build K-12 Financial Transparency Momentum](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/11/independence-institute-report-helps-build-k-12-financial-transparency-momentum/)

**Open Enrollment Season, School Choice Week around the Corner**

Many of us are busy with the holidays approaching, but it’s important to remember what lies just beyond in 2012. For many Colorado school districts January brings the main opportunity to open enroll into a school outside of your neighborhood. [Check out our **School Choice for Kids** website](http://www.schoolchoiceforkids.org) for important information! Also, mark your calendars for January 22-28, the second annual [National School Choice Week celebration](http://www.schoolchoiceweek.com/).

More from Ed Is Watching:

[Colorado Families, ‘Tis Almost the Season for Public School Open Enrollment](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/11/colorado-families-tis-almost-the-season-for-public-school-open-enrollment/)

[How Would Colorado’s Largest School Districts Fare on Brookings’ Choice Index?](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/11/how-would-colorados-largest-school-districts-fare-on-brookings-choice-index/)

**Eddie Gives Thanks about Colorado Education**

Once again, our education reform blogging prodigy Eddie has kept his eye on some key developments in Colorado and around the nation. Here are a few of the best:

[Seven Things Eddie Can Be Thankful For, 2011 Colorado Education Edition](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/11/seven-things-eddie-can-be-thankful-for-2011-colorado-education-edition/)

[Talking Teacher Pay without Breaking Up a Party or Getting Soap in the Mouth](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/11/talking-teacher-pay-without-breaking-up-a-party-or-getting-soap-in-the-mouth/)

[Take Heart as Arizona Goes to Court Once More in Defense of Educational Freedom](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/12/take-heart-as-arizona-goes-to-court-once-more-in-defense-of-educational-freedom/)

[Tell Hoover Institution Your Best and Worst Education Events of 2011 (Vote #1)](http://www.ediswatching.org/2011/12/tell-hoover-institutiong-your-best-and-worst-education-events-of-2011-vote-1/)

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