



Lawmaker's funding plan lets schools have a say

By Holly Yettick, Rocky Mountain News
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Each child would have a price on his or her head and school districts would decide what it would be under a bill that Colorado House Majority Leader Keith King plans to introduce in the next legislative session.

The bill would fundamentally change the way Colorado funds education by giving 95 percent of state funds to individual schools and 5 percent to central office administration. The proposal is based on a theory by UCLA management professor William Ouchi. Ouchi and King will speak at a luncheon today at the Daniels Fund in Denver.

Under King's proposal, each of Colorado's 178 school districts would come up with a formula that assigns a certain amount of state money to each child, based on educational needs. A severely disabled special education student, for example, might get \$18,000, while a nondisabled child might get \$4,000.

When a child enrolls, the school would get the entire dollar amount.

Under Colorado's current school finance law, the state gives districts a specified amount of money for each pupil, based partially on students' educational needs. But the additional money districts get for special education students, for instance, can be spent as the district chooses.