

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 25-1029.01 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL 25-315

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Kirkmeyer, Amabile, Coleman, Exum, Mullica

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bird and Sirota, McCluskie, Taggart

Senate Committees

Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO REINVENT POSTSECONDARY AND**
102 **WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS, AND, IN CONNECTION**
103 **THEREWITH, MAKING AND REDUCING AN APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill creates a postsecondary and workforce readiness funding model that includes 3 types of funding: Start-up funding, innovation grant funding, and sustain funding. The state board of education (state board) is authorized to adopt rules concerning these funding sources.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 30, 2025

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 29, 2025

For the 2025-26 budget year through the 2027-28 budget year, the department of education (department) will determine each local education provider's start-up funding, which is used for eligible expenses that are associated with developing and implementing a postsecondary and workforce readiness program. Start-up funding gradually phases out and repeals after the 2027-28 budget year.

Beginning in the 2028-29 budget year, innovation grant funding is for eligible expenses that are associated with developing and implementing a postsecondary and workforce readiness program. Local education providers that are required to adopt a priority improvement plan or a turnaround plan, or authorize schools that are required to adopt a priority improvement plan or turnaround plan, for the current or prior budget year and demonstrate, or authorize a school that demonstrates, a low level of attainment on the postsecondary workforce readiness indicator for the prior school year are eligible for innovation grant funding.

Sustain funding is used to reimburse local education providers' expenses for students who, in the preceding budget year, successfully satisfied postsecondary credit, industry-recognized credential, or work-based learning requirements. For the 2026-27 budget year, of total sustain funding, a certain percentage is for reimbursing postsecondary credit attainment, reimbursing industry-recognized credentials, and reimbursing work-based learning. For the 2027-28 budget year, and budget years thereafter, the state board may adjust the percentages for these categories.

The bill repeals the accelerating students through concurrent enrollment program and career development success program after the 2025-26 budget year. Upon passage, the bill repeals the:

- Concurrent enrollment expansion and innovation grant program; and
- John W. Buckner automatic enrollment in advanced courses grant program.

The bill makes conforming amendments necessary to reflect these changes.

The bill requires the department to convene a working group that includes educators to report its findings and recommendations concerning the effectiveness of the teacher retention and preparation program and the pathways in technology early college high schools.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 2 to article
3 54 of title 22 as follows:

1 PART 2

2 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS FUNDING

3 **22-54-201. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
4 FINDS THAT:

5 (a) THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE
6 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS OPTIONS AND OUTCOMES
7 FOR STUDENTS ACROSS THE STATE;

8 (b) POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS OPPORTUNITIES
9 INCREASE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, DECREASE DROPOUT RATES, AND
10 IMPROVE STUDENTS' LONG-TERM WORKFORCE OUTCOMES;

11 (c) THE COLORADO EVALUATION AND ACTION LAB, HOUSED AT
12 THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER, FOUND THAT CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT IS
13 SHOWN TO BE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN INCREASING COLLEGE GRADUATION
14 FOR COLORADO STUDENTS ACROSS VARIOUS DEMOGRAPHICS. STUDENTS
15 WHO PARTICIPATE IN CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT ARE TWENTY-FIVE
16 PERCENT MORE LIKELY TO ATTEND COLLEGE, ARE EIGHT PERCENT MORE
17 LIKELY TO EARN A TWO-YEAR DEGREE ON TIME, ARE TEN PERCENT MORE
18 LIKELY TO EARN A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE ON TIME, AND EARN HIGHER WAGES
19 FIVE YEARS AFTER ENTERING THE WORKFORCE. THEREFORE, MAINTAINING
20 GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAYS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS
21 BETWEEN LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND COLLEGES IS BENEFICIAL TO
22 STUDENTS IN COLORADO AND TO THE STATE AS A WHOLE.

23 (d) IT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S GOAL THAT FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL
24 GRADUATING CLASS OF 2029, AND FOR EACH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING
25 CLASS THEREAFTER, ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
26 WILL HAVE ACHIEVED AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

27 (I) EARNED A QUALITY, IN-DEMAND NON-DEGREE CREDENTIAL;

1 (II) EARNED TWELVE POSTSECONDARY CREDITS THAT COUNT
2 TOWARD A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL; OR

3 (III) PARTICIPATED IN AT LEAST ONE HIGH-QUALITY WORK-BASED
4 LEARNING OPPORTUNITY;

5 (e) IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION
6 (1)(d) OF THIS SECTION, THE SECONDARY, POSTSECONDARY, AND
7 WORK-BASED LEARNING INTEGRATION TASK FORCE RECOMMENDED
8 STREAMLINING POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS
9 PROGRAMMING AND FUNDING TO INCREASE ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY
10 CREDIT, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS, AND WORK-BASED
11 LEARNING, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE "BIG THREE", BY MITIGATING
12 BARRIERS AND OFFERING PROGRAMMING THAT SUPPORTS ACHIEVEMENT
13 IN THE BIG THREE;

14 (f) THE POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS FINANCIAL
15 STUDY FOUND THAT STUDENT ACCESS TO EXISTING POSTSECONDARY AND
16 WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS IS INEQUITABLE, WITH ONLY
17 FIFTY-FOUR PERCENT OF THE STATE'S ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT
18 SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN THE FUNDED PROGRAMS INCLUDED
19 IN THE STUDY;

20 (g) STUDENT INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLANS PROVIDE
21 A PROCESS AND PORTFOLIO FOR STUDENTS TO EXPLORE THEIR INTERESTS
22 AND VARIOUS POSTSECONDARY CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL
23 OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE BIG THREE; AND

24 (h) IN ADDITION TO THE STUDENT INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND
25 ACADEMIC PLANS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(g) OF THIS SECTION,
26 EDUCATORS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN HELPING STUDENTS MEET STUDENTS'
27 POSTSECONDARY WORKFORCE AND READINESS GOALS AND ACHIEVING

1 SUCCESS IN THE BIG THREE.

2 (2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT:

3 (a) IT IS BENEFICIAL TO CONSOLIDATE CURRENT POSTSECONDARY
4 AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS THAT THE DEPARTMENT
5 ADMINISTERS INTO THREE FUNDING STREAMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
6 BUILDING CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT AND EXPAND ACCESS TO VALUABLE
7 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS;

8 (b) IT IS BENEFICIAL FOR LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO
9 RECEIVE FLEXIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO THEIR FUNDING TO ESTABLISH OR
10 INCREASE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN OPPORTUNITIES FOR
11 POSTSECONDARY CREDIT ATTAINMENT, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
12 CREDENTIALS, AND WORK-BASED LEARNING AND TO ENABLE SCALING
13 EFFECTIVE AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN THE BIG THREE; AND

14 (c) FUNDING RECIPIENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER WAYS IN
15 WHICH TO COLLABORATE AND LEVERAGE ECONOMIES OF SCALE ACROSS
16 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO EXPAND ACCESS FOR STUDENTS.

17 **22-54-202. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 2, UNLESS THE
18 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

19 (1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
20 CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-115.

21 (2) "INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL" MEANS AN INDUSTRY
22 CERTIFICATION AND A NONDEGREE CREDENTIAL, AS BOTH ARE DEFINED IN
23 SECTION 23-5-145.8, THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS DEVELOPED
24 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-5-145.6 (2) AND IDENTIFIED IN THE MOST
25 RECENT ANNUAL COLORADO TALENT PIPELINE REPORT PREPARED
26 PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46.3-103 (3).

27 (3) "JOHN W. BUCKNER POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE

1 READINESS INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM" OR "INNOVATION GRANT
2 PROGRAM" MEANS THE JOHN W. BUCKNER POSTSECONDARY AND
3 WORKFORCE READINESS INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN
4 SECTION 22-54-204.

5 (4) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A
6 CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART
7 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY
8 THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE
9 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED
10 AND OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22 THAT
11 OPERATES ONE OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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13 (5) "POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS START-UP
14 FUNDING" OR "START-UP FUNDING" MEANS FUNDING PURSUANT TO
15 SECTION 22-54-203.

16 (6) "POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS SUSTAIN
17 FUNDING" OR "SUSTAIN FUNDING" MEANS FUNDING PURSUANT TO SECTION
18 22-54-205.

19 (7) "POSTSECONDARY CREDIT ATTAINMENT" MEANS A
20 TRANSFERRABLE COLLEGE CREDIT THAT MAY BE ATTAINED WHILE A
21 STUDENT IS IN HIGH SCHOOL, IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE COLORADO
22 COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION ADMISSIONS STANDARDS SET FORTH
23 IN SECTION 23-1-113, WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION
24 OF A CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT COURSE AS DESCRIBED IN SECTIONS
25 22-35-103 AND 22-35-104 (5)(b), A SUFFICIENT SCORE AS DETERMINED BY
26 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON AN END-OF-COURSE ADVANCED
27 PLACEMENT EXAM, OR A SUFFICIENT SCORE IN AN INTERNATIONAL

1 BACCALAUREATE COURSE.

2 (8) "WORK-BASED LEARNING" MEANS DEMONSTRATING LEARNING
3 THROUGH WORK OR AT WORK, CONSISTENT WITH THE WORK-BASED
4 LEARNING QUALITY EXPECTATIONS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION
5 8-83-602 (5). "WORK-BASED LEARNING" INCLUDES THE SAME MEANING AS
6 SET FORTH IN SECTION 8-83-601.

7 **22-54-203. Start-up funding - rules - repeal.** (1) FOR THE
8 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-28 BUDGET YEAR, THE
9 DEPARTMENT SHALL USE THIS SECTION TO DETERMINE EACH LOCAL
10 EDUCATION PROVIDER'S POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS
11 START-UP FUNDING.

12 (2) (a) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S START-UP FUNDING IS
13 DETERMINED BY A FORMULA DEVELOPED OR ADOPTED BY THE STATE
14 BOARD.

15 (b) THE STATE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP OR ADOPT A FORMULA TO
16 DETERMINE A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S START-UP FUNDING. THE
17 PURPOSE OF THE FORMULA IS TO ENHANCE EQUITY IN ACCESS TO
18 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS BY ALLOCATING
19 FUNDS TO LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS WHOSE CHARACTERISTICS ARE
20 CONSIDERED BY THE FORMULA'S FACTORS AND DEMONSTRATE THE NEED
21 FOR RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE EQUITY THROUGH DEVELOPING AND
22 IMPLEMENTING POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS.
23 AT A MINIMUM, THE FORMULA MUST INCLUDE FACTORS THAT REFLECT THE
24 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S:

25 (I) PARTICIPATION IN POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
26 READINESS OPPORTUNITIES;

27 (II) PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN GRADES

1 NINE THROUGH TWELVE AND ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE
2 LUNCH PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE FEDERAL "RICHARD B.
3 RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 1751 ET SEQ.;

4 (III) CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM RATE OF STUDENTS WHO ARE
5 ENROLLED IN GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE;

6 (IV) HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE; AND

7 (V) DROPOUT RATE, EXCLUDING STUDENTS WHO ARE OR WERE
8 ENROLLED IN AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL.

9 (c) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH A MINIMUM NUMBER OF
10 STUDENTS AND A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS TO BE USED AS A PART
11 OF THE STUDENT COUNT IN DETERMINING START-UP FUNDING SO THAT,
12 NOTWITHSTANDING THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S ACTUAL STUDENT
13 COUNT USED FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING START-UP FUNDING, A LOCAL
14 EDUCATION PROVIDER'S STUDENT COUNT IS NOT LESS THAN THE MINIMUM
15 NUMBER OR MORE THAN THE MAXIMUM NUMBER. THE PURPOSE OF
16 ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND A MAXIMUM
17 NUMBER OF STUDENTS IS TO ENSURE THAT START-UP FUNDING IS NOT
18 DISPROPORTIONATELY DISTRIBUTED.

19 (d) THE DATA USED FOR EACH FACTOR OF THE FORMULA MUST BE
20 THE MOST RECENT DATA VALIDATED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

21 (e) THE FORMULA MAY APPLY A DIFFERENT WEIGHT TO EACH
22 FACTOR.

23 (f) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CALCULATE AND DISTRIBUTE THE
24 START-UP FUNDS DETERMINED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

25 (3) (a) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL USE START-UP
26 FUNDING FOR ELIGIBLE EXPENSES THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH
27 DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE

1 READINESS PROGRAM THAT ALIGNS WITH THE STATE'S WORKFORCE
2 DEMANDS OR PRIORITIES AND SUPPORTS STUDENTS IN SUCCESSFULLY
3 EARNING POSTSECONDARY CREDIT OR INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
4 CREDENTIALS, OR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING WORK-BASED LEARNING
5 REQUIREMENTS. CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES INCLUDE, BUT ARE
6 NOT LIMITED TO:

7 (I) PROGRAM PLANNING AND DESIGN;

8 (II) COURSE MATERIALS, TECHNOLOGY, AND EQUIPMENT;

9 (III) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATION,
10 AUTHORIZATION, OR LICENSURE;

11 (IV) CONTRACTING WITH AN ENTITY OR HIRING SCHOOL STAFF TO
12 SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A POSTSECONDARY
13 AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAM;

14 (V) INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN RESOURCES, AS
15 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-2-136, AND SUPPORTS, INCLUDING ACADEMIC
16 AND CAREER ADVISING AND EXPLORATION; AND

17 (VI) COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT.

18 (b) LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO
19 COLLABORATE WITH EACH OTHER TO MAXIMIZE ECONOMIES OF SCALE AND
20 EXPAND STUDENT ACCESS TO A POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
21 READINESS PROGRAM.

22 (4) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT RULES GOVERNING:

23 (a) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A LOCAL
24 EDUCATION PROVIDER TO RECEIVE START-UP FUNDING PURSUANT TO THIS
25 SECTION. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS MAY VARY BASED ON THE TYPE OF
26 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER.

27 (b) THE FORMULA DEVELOPED OR ADOPTED PURSUANT TO

1 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION;

2 (c) CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES
3 WITHIN THE CATEGORIES;

4 (d) ELIGIBILITY FOR, AND DISTRIBUTION OF, FUNDING FOR ELIGIBLE
5 EXPENSES WITHIN THE CATEGORIES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS
6 SECTION. ELIGIBILITY MAY REQUIRE SATISFACTION OF CERTAIN
7 CONDITIONS. ELIGIBILITY AND DISTRIBUTION RATES MAY BE CATEGORIZED
8 OR LIMITED BASED ON LOCAL-EDUCATION-PROVIDER-SPECIFIC FEATURES
9 OR OTHER FEATURES AS SPECIFIED BY STATE BOARD RULE.

10 (e) REQUIREMENTS OF LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS THAT
11 RECEIVE FUNDING PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION; AND

12 (f) ANY OTHER RULES DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE STATE BOARD
13 FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

14 (5) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT USE MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT OF
15 THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF START-UP FUNDING IN THE 2026-27 BUDGET YEAR
16 THROUGH THE 2027-28 BUDGET YEAR TO OFFSET THE DIRECT AND
17 INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN ADMINISTERING START-UP FUNDING.

18 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

19 **22-54-204. John W. Buckner postsecondary and workforce**
20 **readiness innovation grant program - creation - funding - rules.**

21 (1) BEGINNING IN THE 2028-29 BUDGET YEAR, THE JOHN W. BUCKNER
22 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS INNOVATION GRANT
23 PROGRAM IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO LOCAL
24 EDUCATION PROVIDERS THAT:

25 (a) ARE REQUIRED TO ADOPT A PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN OR
26 A TURNAROUND PLAN, OR AUTHORIZE SCHOOLS THAT ARE REQUIRED TO
27 ADOPT A PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN OR A TURNAROUND PLAN, FOR THE

1 CURRENT OR PRIOR SCHOOL YEAR; AND

2 (b) DEMONSTRATE, OR AUTHORIZE A SCHOOL THAT
3 DEMONSTRATES, A LOW LEVEL OF ATTAINMENT ON THE POSTSECONDARY
4 AND WORKFORCE READINESS INDICATOR FOR THE PRIOR SCHOOL YEAR.

5 (2) (a) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL USE INNOVATION
6 GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING FOR ELIGIBLE EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH
7 DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
8 READINESS PROGRAM THAT ALIGNS WITH THE STATE'S WORKFORCE
9 DEMANDS OR PRIORITIES AND SUPPORTS STUDENTS IN SUCCESSFULLY
10 EARNING POSTSECONDARY CREDIT OR INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
11 CREDENTIALS, OR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING WORK-BASED LEARNING
12 REQUIREMENTS. CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES INCLUDE, BUT ARE
13 NOT LIMITED TO:

14 (I) PROGRAM PLANNING AND DESIGN;

15 (II) COURSE MATERIALS, TECHNOLOGY, AND EQUIPMENT;

16 (III) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATION,
17 AUTHORIZATION, OR LICENSURE;

18 (IV) CONTRACTING WITH AN ENTITY OR HIRING SCHOOL STAFF TO
19 SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A POSTSECONDARY
20 AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAM;

21 (V) INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN RESOURCES, AS
22 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-2-136, AND SUPPORTS, INCLUDING ACADEMIC
23 AND CAREER ADVISING AND EXPLORATION; AND

24 (VI) COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT.

25 (b) LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO
26 COLLABORATE WITH EACH OTHER TO MAXIMIZE ECONOMIES OF SCALE AND
27 EXPAND STUDENT ACCESS TO A POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE

1 READINESS PROGRAM.

2 (3) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE INNOVATION
3 GRANT PROGRAM, INCLUDING REVIEWING THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
4 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

5 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE GRANT AWARD
6 DETERMINATIONS.

7 (c) IN MAKING GRANT AWARD DETERMINATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT
8 SHALL CONSIDER:

9 (I) WHETHER THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS REQUIRED TO
10 ADOPT A PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN OR A TURNAROUND PLAN FOR THE
11 CURRENT OR PRIOR SCHOOL YEAR;

12 (II) THE CONCENTRATION OF SCHOOLS OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR
13 THE CONCENTRATION OF INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOLS OF THE STATE
14 CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE, THAT MUST IMPLEMENT A PRIORITY
15 IMPROVEMENT PLAN OR A TURNAROUND PLAN;

16 (III) WHETHER THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER HAS BEEN
17 IDENTIFIED UNDER THE STATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM AS DECLINING IN
18 PERFORMANCE; AND

19 (IV) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S LEVEL OF ATTAINMENT
20 ON THE POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS INDICATOR, AS
21 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-11-204, IN THE PRIOR YEAR.

22 (d) IN MAKING GRANT AWARD DETERMINATIONS, THE
23 DEPARTMENT MAY CONSIDER AND PRIORITIZE GRANT AWARDS TO LOCAL
24 EDUCATION PROVIDERS THAT HAVE A HIGHER THAN AVERAGE
25 PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS AND
26 A HIGHER THAN AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED
27 IN GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE AND ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR

1 REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE FEDERAL
2 "RICHARD B. RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC.
3 1751 ET SEQ.

4 (e) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FUNDING BASED ON ANNUAL
5 APPROPRIATIONS, EACH GRANT AWARDED MAY CONTINUE FOR UP TO
6 THREE BUDGET YEARS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY REVIEW EACH
7 GRANT RECIPIENT'S USE OF THE GRANT AWARD AND MAY RESCIND
8 REMAINING GRANT FUNDS IF THE DEPARTMENT FINDS THAT THE GRANT
9 RECIPIENT IS NOT MAKING ADEQUATE PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING THE
10 GOALS OF THE INTENDED USE OF THE GRANT AWARD.

11 (4) THE STATE BOARD MAY ADOPT RULES GOVERNING:

12 (a) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS;

13 (b) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITIZATION REQUIREMENTS
14 FOR A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER TO RECEIVE FUNDING PURSUANT TO
15 THIS SECTION;

16 (c) ELIGIBLE EXPENSES WITHIN THE CATEGORIES DESCRIBED IN
17 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION;

18 (d) REQUIREMENTS OF LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS THAT
19 RECEIVE FUNDING PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION; AND

20 (e) ANY OTHER RULES DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE STATE BOARD
21 FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

22 (5) (a) THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE NOT MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT
23 OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING TO
24 OFFSET THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN ADMINISTERING
25 THE INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

26 (b) OF THE MONEY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED FOR THE
27 INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND AN

1 AMOUNT THAT IS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO ONE OR MORE CONTRACTS
2 WITH A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY TO PROVIDE THE USES DESCRIBED IN
3 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION TO MULTIPLE LOCAL EDUCATION
4 PROVIDERS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR AN INNOVATION GRANT. THE ENTITY
5 SHALL USE RESEARCH-BASED STRATEGIES AND HAVE A PROVEN RECORD
6 OF SUCCESS WORKING WITH SCHOOLS UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

7 **22-54-205. Sustain funding - rules - repeal.** (1) FOR THE
8 2026-27 BUDGET YEAR, AND EACH BUDGET YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
9 DEPARTMENT SHALL USE THIS SECTION TO DETERMINE EACH LOCAL
10 EDUCATION PROVIDER'S POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS
11 SUSTAIN FUNDING. EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL PROVIDE
12 DATA TO THE DEPARTMENT TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF EACH LOCAL
13 EDUCATION PROVIDER'S SUSTAIN FUNDING AMOUNT.

14 (2) (a) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE
15 REIMBURSEMENT FOR STUDENTS WHO, IN THE PRECEDING BUDGET YEAR,
16 SUCCESSFULLY SATISFIED POSTSECONDARY CREDIT, RECEIVED AN
17 INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL, OR SATISFIED WORK-BASED
18 LEARNING REQUIREMENTS AS SPECIFIED BY STATE BOARD RULE. A LOCAL
19 EDUCATION PROVIDER IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE MULTIPLE
20 REIMBURSEMENTS FOR ONE STUDENT. A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS
21 ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN A
22 P-TECH SCHOOL OR PARTICIPATING IN A TREP PROGRAM.

23 (b) (I) FOR THE 2026-27 BUDGET YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
24 DIVIDE THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUSTAIN FUNDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT
25 INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

26 (A) TWENTY PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUSTAIN
27 FUNDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR POSTSECONDARY CREDIT

1 ATTAINMENT;

2 (B) FORTY PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUSTAIN FUNDING
3 FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS EARNED;

4 (C) THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUSTAIN
5 FUNDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR WORK-BASED LEARNING; AND

6 (D) FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUSTAIN FUNDING TO
7 OFFSET THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN ADMINISTERING
8 THE SUSTAIN FUNDING.

9 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (2)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION, IF
10 MONEY THAT IS ALLOCATED TO A CATEGORY IS NOT EXPENDED BECAUSE
11 OF INSUFFICIENT DEMAND, THE MONEY MAY BE REALLOCATED TO
12 ANOTHER CATEGORY TO SATISFY THAT CATEGORY'S DEMAND.

13 (III) THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
14 2028.

15 (c) (I) FOR THE 2027-28 BUDGET YEAR, AND EACH BUDGET YEAR
16 THEREAFTER, THE STATE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE PERCENTAGES OF
17 THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUSTAIN FUNDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT ASSIGNED
18 TO THE POSTSECONDARY CREDIT ATTAINMENT, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
19 CREDENTIALS, AND WORK-BASED LEARNING CATEGORIES, EXCEPT THAT
20 THE FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUSTAIN FUNDING TO OFFSET
21 THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN ADMINISTERING THE
22 SUSTAIN FUNDING MUST NOT BE CHANGED. THE PERCENTAGES FOR EACH
23 CATEGORY ARE DETERMINED BY STATE BOARD RULE.

24 (II) IN DETERMINING THE PERCENTAGES OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF
25 SUSTAIN FUNDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT ASSIGNED TO EACH CATEGORY
26 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE BOARD
27 SHALL CONSIDER THE AVAILABILITY OF POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE

1 READINESS OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS,
2 STUDENT PARTICIPATION, AND EVIDENCE OF STUDENT OUTCOMES.

3 (III) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (2)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION,
4 IF MONEY THAT IS ALLOCATED TO A CATEGORY IS NOT EXPENDED BECAUSE
5 OF INSUFFICIENT DEMAND, THE MONEY MAY BE REALLOCATED TO
6 ANOTHER CATEGORY TO SATISFY THAT CATEGORY'S DEMAND.

7 (d) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY RECEIVE FUNDING FROM
8 ONE OR MULTIPLE CATEGORIES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2)(b)(I) OF
9 THIS SECTION IN EACH BUDGET YEAR; EXCEPT THAT IN A BUDGET YEAR
10 WHEN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT APPROPRIATE A SUFFICIENT
11 AMOUNT TO FULLY FUND THE DISTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS
12 SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF EACH
13 ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S DISTRIBUTION BY A
14 PROPORTIONATE PERCENTAGE OF THE AMOUNT REQUIRED TO FULLY FUND
15 THE DISTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

16 (3) (a) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL USE SUSTAIN
17 FUNDING FOR EXPENSES THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH MAINTAINING AND
18 EXPANDING ITS POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAM
19 THAT ALIGNS WITH THE STATE'S WORKFORCE DEMANDS OR PRIORITIES.
20 CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

21 (I) PROGRAM PLANNING AND DESIGN;

22 (II) COURSE MATERIALS, TECHNOLOGY, AND EQUIPMENT;

23 (III) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATION,
24 AUTHORIZATION, OR LICENSURE;

25 (IV) CONTRACTING WITH AN ENTITY OR HIRING SCHOOL STAFF TO
26 SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A POSTSECONDARY
27 AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAM;

1 (V) INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN RESOURCES, AS
2 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-2-136, AND SUPPORTS, INCLUDING ACADEMIC
3 AND CAREER ADVISING AND EXPLORATION;

4 (VI) COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT; AND

5 (VII) WAGES FOR EMPLOYED APPRENTICES PARTICIPATING IN
6 REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS.

7 (b) LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO
8 COLLABORATE WITH EACH OTHER TO MAXIMIZE ECONOMIES OF SCALE AND
9 EXPAND STUDENT ACCESS TO A POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
10 READINESS PROGRAM.

11 (4) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT RULES GOVERNING:

12 (a) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A LOCAL
13 EDUCATION PROVIDER TO RECEIVE FUNDING PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION,
14 INCLUDING CRITERIA THAT CONSTITUTE A STUDENT'S SUCCESSFUL
15 SATISFACTION OF POSTSECONDARY CREDIT, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
16 CREDENTIAL, OR WORK-BASED LEARNING REQUIREMENTS. ELIGIBILITY
17 REQUIREMENTS MAY VARY BASED ON THE TYPE OF LOCAL EDUCATION
18 PROVIDER.

19 (b) CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES, AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES
20 WITHIN THE CATEGORIES;

21 (c) REIMBURSEMENT ELIGIBILITY AND RATES, INCLUDING LIMITS
22 ON A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S ANNUAL TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT AND
23 ANNUAL REIMBURSEMENT FROM ONE OR MULTIPLE CATEGORIES, BASED ON
24 LOCAL-EDUCATION-PROVIDER-SPECIFIC FEATURES OR OTHER FEATURES;

25 (d) REQUIREMENTS OF A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER THAT
26 RECEIVES FUNDING PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION; AND

27 (e) ANY OTHER RULES DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE STATE BOARD

1 FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

2 (5) (a) A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT AUTHORIZES A CHARTER SCHOOL
3 SHALL FORWARD TO THE DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL AN AMOUNT EQUAL
4 TO ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE SUSTAIN FUNDING AMOUNT THAT THE
5 SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES FOR A STUDENT WHO IS ENROLLED IN THE
6 DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL AND WHO SATISFIES THE CRITERIA THAT
7 CONSTITUTE THE STUDENT'S SUCCESSFUL SATISFACTION OF
8 POSTSECONDARY CREDIT, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL, OR
9 WORK-BASED LEARNING REQUIREMENTS.

10 (b) THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE SHALL FORWARD TO
11 AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO ONE HUNDRED
12 PERCENT OF THE SUSTAIN FUNDING AMOUNT THAT THE STATE CHARTER
13 SCHOOL INSTITUTE RECEIVES FOR A STUDENT WHO IS ENROLLED IN THE
14 INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL AND WHO SATISFIES THE CRITERIA THAT
15 CONSTITUTE THE STUDENT'S SUCCESSFUL SATISFACTION OF
16 POSTSECONDARY CREDIT, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL, OR
17 WORK-BASED LEARNING REQUIREMENTS.

18 **22-54-206. Qualified industry credentials.** (1) ON OR BEFORE
19 JANUARY 30, 2026, AND ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 30 EACH YEAR
20 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT
21 COUNCIL, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
22 EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, THE
23 COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, AND THE COLORADO OFFICE
24 OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHALL JOINTLY DEVELOP, AND PUBLISH ON
25 THE DEPARTMENT'S AND THE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S
26 WEBSITES, A LIST OF THE QUALIFIED INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS THAT MEET
27 THE QUALITY STANDARDS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-5-145.8

1 (2)(c) FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR. AT LEAST ANNUALLY, THE
2 DEPARTMENT AND THE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, IN
3 COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE
4 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, THE COLORADO COMMUNITY
5 COLLEGE SYSTEM, AND THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
6 DEVELOPMENT SHALL IDENTIFY AND REVIEW THE QUALIFIED INDUSTRY
7 CREDENTIALS BY IDENTIFYING THE JOBS INCLUDED IN THE COLORADO
8 TALENT REPORT, PREPARED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46.3-103, WITH THE
9 GREATEST REGIONAL AND STATE DEMAND, INCLUDING HIGH-SKILL,
10 HIGH-WAGE JOBS IN IN-DEMAND INDUSTRIES, AND, AFTER CONSULTATION
11 WITH RELEVANT INDUSTRIES, IDENTIFYING THE QUALIFIED INDUSTRY
12 CREDENTIALS THAT HAVE LABOR MARKET VALUE AND ARE LIKELY TO
13 LEAD TO THE IDENTIFIED JOBS. ANY QUALIFIED INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL
14 THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
15 JOINTLY DETERMINE DO NOT DEMONSTRATE LABOR MARKET VALUE MAY
16 BE REMOVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S AND THE WORK FORCE
17 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S WEBSITES.

18 (2) (a) EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL REGULARLY
19 COMMUNICATE TO ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THE
20 STUDENTS' FAMILIES:

21 (I) THE AVAILABILITY OF CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS;
22 AND

23 (II) THE AVAILABILITY OF INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL AND
24 WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS AND THE BENEFITS A STUDENT
25 RECEIVES AS A RESULT OF SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING ONE OF THESE
26 PROGRAMS OR COURSES.

27 (b) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, ALL COMMUNICATIONS ISSUED

1 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) MUST BE PROVIDED IN A LANGUAGE
2 THAT THE STUDENTS AND THE STUDENTS' FAMILIES UNDERSTAND. THE
3 GOAL OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MUST BE TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN,
4 AND COMPLETION OF, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS.

5 **22-54-207. Gifts, grants, and donations.** THE DEPARTMENT MAY
6 SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE
7 OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 2.

8 **22-54-208. Postsecondary and workforce readiness program**
9 **report.** (1) BEGINNING JANUARY 2028, AND EACH JANUARY THEREAFTER,
10 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL REPORT, AT A MINIMUM, FINDINGS
11 REGARDING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HAVING CONSOLIDATED THE
12 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS THAT THE
13 DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERED INTO THE FUNDING STREAMS CREATED IN
14 THIS PART 2 FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT AND
15 EXPAND ACCESS TO VALUABLE POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
16 READINESS PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF
17 THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR
18 COMMITTEES, AS PART OF THE "SMART ACT" PRESENTATION REQUIRED
19 PURSUANT TO PART 2 OF ARTICLE 7 OF TITLE 2.

20 (2) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2029, THE DEPARTMENT OF
21 EDUCATION SHALL REPORT, AT A MINIMUM, FINDINGS REGARDING THE
22 EFFECTIVENESS OF HAVING CONSOLIDATED THE POSTSECONDARY AND
23 WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS THAT THE DEPARTMENT
24 ADMINISTERED INTO THE FUNDING STREAMS CREATED IN THIS PART 2 FOR
25 THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT AND EXPAND ACCESS
26 TO VALUABLE POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS
27 FOR STUDENTS. PRIOR TO CREATING THE REPORT, THE DEPARTMENT OF

1 EDUCATION SHALL CONSULT WITH JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE STAFF TO
2 DETERMINE THE REPORT'S CONTENT.

3 (3) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 24-1-136
4 (11)(a)(I), THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT THE REPORT DESCRIBED IN
5 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-108, **amend**
7 (2)(c); and **add** (8) and (9) as follows:

8 **22-35-108. Accelerating students through concurrent**
9 **enrollment program - objectives - non-tuition expenses - rules -**
10 **repeal.** (2) (c) For the 2025-26 state fiscal year, ~~and each state fiscal year~~
11 ~~thereafter~~, the local education provider shall not designate a total number
12 of ASCENT program participants that is greater than the total number of
13 ASCENT program participants that it designated in the 2024-25 state
14 fiscal year.

15 (8) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE LOCAL
16 EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL NOT DESIGNATE A QUALIFIED STUDENT AS AN
17 ASCENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT FOR THE 2026-27 STATE FISCAL YEAR OR
18 ANY STATE FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER.

19 (9) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

20 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-108.5, **repeal**
21 (2)(b)(II) as follows:

22 **22-35-108.5. Teacher recruitment education and preparation**
23 **(TREP) program - objectives - selection criteria - rules - definition -**
24 **repeal.** (2) (b) (II) ~~The general assembly shall annually fund each~~
25 ~~potential TREP program participant at the same per-pupil rate as~~
26 ~~determined by the ASCENT program as described in section 22-35-108.~~
27 ~~For the 2022-23 budget year, the general assembly shall appropriate~~

1 ~~funding for no more than two hundred TREP program participants.~~

2 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-30.5-112.2,
3 **amend** (2)(b); and **repeal** (1)(b) as follows:

4 **22-30.5-112.2. Charter schools - at-risk supplemental aid -**
5 **definitions - legislative declaration.** (1) As used in this section, unless
6 the context otherwise requires:

7 (b) ~~"ASCENT program" means the accelerating students through~~
8 ~~concurrent enrollment program created in section 22-35-108.~~

9 (2) (b) (I) Each qualifying school district must receive at-risk
10 supplemental aid if the percentage of at-risk pupils in a district charter
11 school authorized by the qualifying school district prior to July 1, 2004,
12 is less than the percentage of at-risk pupils in the qualifying school
13 district. The amount of the school district's at-risk supplemental aid is
14 equal to the difference between one hundred percent of district per pupil
15 revenues and one hundred percent of adjusted district per pupil revenues
16 for each pupil enrolled in the district charter school, not including online
17 pupils or pupils enrolled in the ~~ASCENT or~~ TREP program.

18 (II) Each district charter school in a qualifying school district that
19 was initially authorized prior to July 1, 2004, must receive at-risk
20 supplemental aid if the percentage of at-risk students in the district charter
21 school exceeds the percentage of at-risk pupils in the qualifying school
22 district. The amount of the district charter school's at-risk supplemental
23 aid is equal to the difference between one hundred percent of adjusted
24 district per pupil revenues and one hundred percent of district per pupil
25 revenues for each pupil enrolled in the district charter school, not
26 including online pupils or pupils enrolled in the ~~ASCENT or~~ TREP
27 program. A school district shall pass through one hundred percent of a

1 district charter school's at-risk supplemental aid to the district charter
2 school.

3 (III) Each district charter school in a school district that is not a
4 qualifying district and whose percentage of at-risk pupils exceeds the
5 percentage of at-risk pupils in the chartering school district must receive
6 at-risk supplemental aid. The amount of the district charter school's
7 at-risk supplemental aid is equal to the difference between one hundred
8 percent of adjusted district per pupil revenues and one hundred percent
9 of district per pupil revenues for each pupil enrolled in the district charter
10 school, not including online pupils or pupils enrolled in the ~~ASCENT or~~
11 TREP program. A school district shall pass through one hundred percent
12 of a district charter school's at-risk supplemental aid to the district charter
13 school.

14 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-30.5-513, **amend**
15 (4.5)(b) as follows:

16 **22-30.5-513. Institute charter schools - funding - at-risk**
17 **supplemental aid - legislative declaration - definitions.** (4.5) (b) The
18 institute charter school's at-risk supplemental aid is equal to one-half of
19 the difference between one hundred percent of the accounting district's
20 per pupil revenues and one hundred percent of the accounting district's
21 adjusted per pupil revenues for each pupil enrolled in the district charter
22 school, not including online pupils or pupils enrolled in the ~~ASCENT or~~
23 TREP program.

24 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-102, **repeal** (3)
25 as follows:

26 **22-35-102. Legislative declaration.** (3) ~~The general assembly~~
27 ~~further finds and declares its intention that the administrative costs~~

1 ~~incurred by the department of education in its implementation of the~~
2 ~~accelerating students through concurrent enrollment program created in~~
3 ~~section 22-35-108 shall be supported by federal funds available for~~
4 ~~government services pursuant to section 14002 of Title XIV of the federal~~
5 ~~"American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009", Public Law 111-5~~
6 ~~of the one hundred eleventh United States Congress.~~

7 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-103, **repeal**
8 (1.5) as follows:

9 **22-35-103. Definitions.** As used in this article 35, unless the
10 context otherwise requires:

11 (1.5) ~~"ASCENT program" means the accelerating students~~
12 ~~through concurrent enrollment program created in section 22-35-108.~~

13 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-104, **amend**
14 (1)(a)(III), (1)(d) introductory portion, and (1)(e) as follows:

15 **22-35-104. Enrollment in an institution of higher education -**
16 **cooperative agreement.** (1) (a) (III) Except as described in subsections
17 (1)(c) and (1)(d) of this section and ~~sections 22-35-108 and~~ SECTION
18 22-35-109, a local education provider shall not limit the number of
19 postsecondary courses, including academic courses and career and
20 technical education courses, ~~which~~ THAT may include ~~course work~~
21 COURSEWORK related to apprenticeship programs or internship programs,
22 in which a qualified student may concurrently enroll during the ninth,
23 tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade, except to the degree that the local
24 education provider is unable to provide access to the postsecondary
25 courses due to technological capacity.

26 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1)(a) of this
27 section, if a qualified student is not a participant in the ~~ASCENT or TREP~~

1 program and has not satisfied the minimum requirements for graduation
2 established by ~~his or her~~ THE QUALIFIED STUDENT'S local education
3 provider by the end of ~~his or her~~ THEIR twelfth-grade year and is therefore
4 retained by the local education provider for additional instruction, the
5 qualified student ~~shall~~ MUST not concurrently enroll in postsecondary
6 courses, including academic or career and technical education courses,
7 ~~which~~ THAT may include ~~course-work~~ COURSEWORK related to
8 apprenticeship programs or internship programs, that are worth more than
9 a total of nine credit hours, including gateway courses, as defined in
10 section 23-1-113 (11)(b.5), with additional supports through supplemental
11 academic instruction, as defined in section 23-1-113 (11)(e). Furthermore,
12 the qualified student ~~shall~~ MUST not concurrently enroll in more than:

13 (e) Except as described in ~~paragraphs (c) and (d) of this~~
14 ~~subsection (1)~~ SUBSECTIONS (1)(c) AND (1)(d) OF THIS SECTION and
15 ~~sections 22-35-108 and~~ SECTION 22-35-109, the state board by rule shall
16 not limit the number of postsecondary courses, including academic
17 courses and career and technical education courses, ~~which~~ THAT may
18 include ~~course-work~~ COURSEWORK related to apprenticeship programs or
19 internship programs, in which a qualified student may concurrently enroll
20 during the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade.

21 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-107, **amend**
22 (6)(a), (6)(e), and (7) introductory portion; and **repeal** (6)(d) and (7)(a)
23 as follows:

24 **22-35-107. Concurrent enrollment advisory board - created -**
25 **membership - duties - reports - repeal.** (6) The board has the following
26 duties:

27 (a) Establishing guidelines for the administration of ~~the ASCENT~~

1 ~~program pursuant to section 22-35-108 (4) and the TREP program~~
2 ~~pursuant to section 22-35-108.5 (4);~~

3 ~~(d) On or before December 1, 2022, considering and making~~
4 ~~recommendations to the state board and the education committees of the~~
5 ~~house of representatives and senate, or any successor committees,~~
6 ~~regarding the feasibility of a waiver process whereby a local education~~
7 ~~provider, on behalf of a qualified student, could apply to the department~~
8 ~~for a waiver of certain provisions of section 22-35-108, which waiver~~
9 ~~would allow the local education provider to designate the student as an~~
10 ~~ASCENT program participant in the second year following the year in~~
11 ~~which the qualified student was enrolled in the twelfth grade of the local~~
12 ~~education provider so long as the qualifying student:~~

13 ~~(I) Was so designated in the year directly following the year in~~
14 ~~which the qualified student was enrolled in the twelfth grade of the local~~
15 ~~education provider;~~

16 ~~(II) Requires fifteen or fewer credit hours of postsecondary course~~
17 ~~work to achieve a postsecondary credential; and~~

18 ~~(III) Is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch pursuant to the~~
19 ~~federal "Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act", 42 U.S.C. sec.~~
20 ~~1751 et seq.;~~

21 (e) Submitting to the state board for its approval or disapproval
22 recommendations made pursuant to ~~paragraphs (c) and (d) of this~~
23 ~~subsection (6)~~ SUBSECTION (6)(c) OF THIS SECTION;

24 (7) On or before December 1, 2010, and on or before December
25 1 each year thereafter, the board shall prepare a report and submit it to the
26 state board and the commission. The report, at a minimum, ~~shall~~ MUST
27 include:

1 (a) ~~Any guidelines that the board has established pursuant to~~
2 ~~paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of this section; and~~

3 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-113, **amend**
4 (1)(a) as follows:

5 **22-35-113. Concurrent enrollment - website.** (1) By July 1,
6 2020, the department of education and the department of higher
7 education, with advice from the state board, shall make available to the
8 public a concurrent enrollment website to provide information to students,
9 parents, and legal guardians concerning concurrent enrollment options
10 and requirements. The departments must ensure that the website is clear,
11 easy to navigate, and generally user-friendly. In addition, the website
12 must, at a minimum:

13 (a) Clearly explain, differentiate, compare, and contrast
14 concurrent enrollment; dual enrollment programs; early college; ~~the~~
15 ~~ASCENT program;~~ the TREP program; p-tech high schools, as defined
16 in section 22-35.3-102; international baccalaureate programs; and
17 advanced placement courses;

18 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-115, **add** (8)
19 as follows:

20 **22-35-115. Postsecondary and workforce readiness programs**
21 **- financial study - funding - reports - legislative declaration -**
22 **definitions - repeal.** (8) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
23 2026.

24 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-35-116 as
25 follows:

26 **22-35-116. Teacher recruitment and preparation (TREP)**
27 **program and pathways in early technology early college high schools**

1 **(p-tech) working group - report - repeal.** (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
2 CONVENE A WORKING GROUP THAT INCLUDES EDUCATORS TO MAKE
3 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
4 THE TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND PREPARATION PROGRAM, CREATED IN
5 SECTION 22-35-108.5, AND THE PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY EARLY
6 COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS, CREATED IN PART 1 OF ARTICLE 35.3 OF THIS
7 TITLE 22, AND ANY RELATED FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

8 (2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2025, THE WORKING GROUP
9 SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE JOINT
10 BUDGET COMMITTEE.

11 (3) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

12 **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35.3-103,
13 **amend** (4) as follows:

14 **22-35.3-103. Pathways in technology early college high schools**
15 **- design - requirements - approval.** (4) A p-tech school is subject to the
16 state assessment requirements specified in section 22-7-1006.3 and the
17 accountability requirements specified in article 11 of this title 22. In
18 addition, the commissioner and the executive director may establish
19 indicators for measuring the performance of each p-tech school, which
20 indicators may include the ability of students who graduate from a p-tech
21 school to obtain employment in the field or to pursue additional
22 postsecondary education in the field, as well as any relevant performance
23 indicators established for the concurrent enrollment ~~ASCENT~~, and TREP
24 programs.

25 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-103, **amend**
26 (5.2); and **repeal** (1.4) as follows:

27 **22-54-103. Definitions.** As used in this article 54, unless the

1 context otherwise requires:

2 (1.4) ~~"ASCENT program" means the accelerating students~~
3 ~~through concurrent enrollment program created in section 22-35-108.~~

4 (5.2) "District extended high school pupil enrollment" means the
5 number of pupils, on the pupil enrollment count day within the applicable
6 budget year, who are concurrently enrolled in a postsecondary course,
7 including an academic course or a career and technical education course,
8 as a participant in ~~the ASCENT program or~~ the TREP program and the
9 number of pupils, on the pupil enrollment count day within the applicable
10 budget year, who are enrolled in grade thirteen or fourteen in a p-tech
11 school. A pupil enrolled in a p-tech school pursuant to article 35.3 of this
12 title 22 must be included in the district extended high school pupil
13 enrollment as a full-time student. ~~An ASCENT program participant or A~~
14 ~~TREP program participant~~ who is enrolled in at least twelve credit hours
15 of postsecondary courses, including academic courses and career and
16 technical education courses, as of the pupil enrollment count day of the
17 applicable budget year must be included in the district extended high
18 school pupil enrollment as a full-time pupil. ~~An ASCENT program~~
19 ~~participant or A TREP program participant~~ who is enrolled in less than
20 twelve credit hours of postsecondary courses, including academic courses
21 and career and technical education courses, as of the pupil enrollment
22 count day of the applicable budget year must be included in the district
23 extended high school pupil enrollment as a part-time pupil.

24 **SECTION 15.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-103.5,
25 **amend** (8)(a); and **add** (8)(c) as follows:

26 **22-54-103.5. District total program - rules - legislative**
27 **declaration - repeal. (8) District extended high school funding. (a) A**

1 district's extended high school funding is:

2 (District extended high school pupil enrollment x ~~\$9,588~~ \$10,480,
3 or an amount determined pursuant subsection (8)(b) of this
4 section).

5 (c) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTIONS (8)(a) AND (8)(b) OF THIS
6 SECTION, FOR THE 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR, THE DOLLAR AMOUNT THAT IS
7 MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENTS
8 INCLUDED IN THE DISTRICT'S HIGH SCHOOL PUPIL ENROLLMENT WHO ARE
9 THE DISTRICT'S ASCENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IS SEVEN THOUSAND
10 ONE HUNDRED FOUR DOLLARS (\$7,104).

11 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (8)(c) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2028.

12 **SECTION 16.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-104, **amend**
13 (4.7)(a) and (4.7)(d); and **add** (4.7)(e) as follows:

14 **22-54-104. District total program - legislative declaration -**
15 **definitions - repeal.** (4.7) (a) For the ~~2024-25~~ 2025-26 budget year and
16 budget years thereafter, a district's extended high school funding ~~shall be~~
17 ~~determined in accordance with the following formula~~ IS:

18 (District extended high school pupil enrollment x ~~\$6,135~~ \$10,480,
19 or an amount determined pursuant to subsection (4)(d) of this
20 section).

21 (d) For the ~~2024-25~~ 2025-26 budget year, and each budget year
22 thereafter, the dollar amount set forth in subsection (4.7)(a) of this section
23 must be increased by the percentage by which the statewide base per pupil
24 funding for that budget year, as specified in subsection (5)(a) of this
25 section, is increased over the statewide base per pupil funding for the
26 2007-08 budget year, as specified in subsection (5)(a)(XIV) of this
27 section. ~~except that the dollar amount that is multiplied by the number of~~

1 ~~full-time equivalent students included in the district's extended high~~
2 ~~school pupil enrollment who are the district's ASCENT program~~
3 ~~participants must not increase or exceed the dollar amount during the~~
4 ~~2023-24 budget year. The amount must be rounded to the nearest dollar.~~

5 (e) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTIONS (4.7)(a) AND (4.7)(d) OF
6 THIS SECTION, FOR THE 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR, THE DOLLAR AMOUNT
7 THAT IS MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT
8 STUDENTS INCLUDED IN THE DISTRICT'S HIGH SCHOOL PUPIL ENROLLMENT
9 WHO ARE THE DISTRICT'S ASCENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IS SEVEN
10 THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FOUR DOLLARS (\$7,104).

11 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (4.7)(e) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
12 2028.

13 **SECTION 17.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-138, **amend**
14 (2), (3)(a), (3.5)(a), (4)(b) introductory portion, (5)(a), (8) introductory
15 portion, and (9) as follows:

16 **22-54-138. Career development success program - created -**
17 **funding - report - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.**

18 (2) There is created the career development success program in the
19 department of education to provide financial incentives for participating
20 districts, a participating board of cooperative services, and participating
21 charter schools to encourage pupils enrolled in grades nine through
22 twelve to enroll in and successfully complete qualified industry-credential
23 programs; qualified workplace training programs; and qualified advanced
24 placement courses. For the 2017-18 budget year ~~and each budget year~~
25 ~~thereafter~~ THROUGH THE 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR, each participating
26 district, each participating board of cooperative services, and each
27 participating charter school, as provided in subsection (5) of this section,

1 may receive up to one thousand dollars for each pupil who, in the
2 preceding budget year, successfully completes a qualified
3 industry-credential program; qualified workplace training program; or
4 qualified advanced placement course.

5 (3) (a) On or before August 15, 2016, and on or before July 1 each
6 year thereafter THROUGH JULY 1, 2025, the work force development
7 council, in collaboration with the department of higher education, the
8 department of education, the department of labor and employment, the
9 Colorado community college system, and the Colorado office of
10 economic development, shall publish on the council's website a list of the
11 qualified industry-credential programs and qualified workplace training
12 programs that meet the quality standards required pursuant to section
13 23-5-145.8 (2)(c) for that school year. At least annually, the council and
14 its partners shall identify and review the qualified industry-credential
15 programs and qualified workplace training programs by identifying the
16 jobs included in the Colorado talent report, prepared pursuant to section
17 24-46.3-103, with the greatest regional and state demand, including
18 high-skill, high-wage jobs in in-demand industries, and, after consultation
19 with relevant industries, identifying the programs that have labor market
20 value and are likely to lead to the identified jobs. Any programs that the
21 council determines do not demonstrate labor market value may be
22 removed from the council's website.

23 (3.5) (a) ~~Beginning in the~~ FOR THE 2022-23 school year ~~and for~~
24 ~~each school year thereafter~~ THROUGH THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR, the
25 department of education, in coordination with the department of labor and
26 employment, the department of higher education, the Colorado
27 community college system, and employers from in-demand industries,

1 shall identify the top ten industry-recognized credentials, each of which
2 must at a minimum meet the requirements specified in subsection (3.5)(b)
3 of this section. For each of the identified credentials, the department of
4 education shall identify the state content standards that align with the
5 courses required to obtain the credential and post on the department's
6 website an explanation of the standards and course alignments for each
7 credential.

8 (4) (b) By June 30, 2017, and by June 30 each year thereafter
9 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025, each participating district, each nonparticipating
10 district on behalf of its participating charter schools, each participating
11 board of cooperative services, and the institute on behalf of each
12 participating institute charter school shall report to the department of
13 education the total number of pupils enrolled in the participating district,
14 the participating charter schools of the nonparticipating district, the
15 participating board of cooperative services, or the participating institute
16 charter schools who, during the school year that ends on that June 30:

17 (5) (a) ~~Beginning in the 2023-24 budget year and each budget year~~
18 ~~thereafter, the general assembly shall annually appropriate at least nine~~
19 ~~million five hundred thousand dollars to the department of education for~~
20 ~~the career development success program.~~ FOR THE 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR,
21 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION DOLLARS TO
22 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT
23 SUCCESS PROGRAM. FOR THE 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR, OF THE FIVE MILLION
24 DOLLARS FOR THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS PROGRAM, THE
25 DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND AN AMOUNT THAT IS NECESSARY TO OFFSET
26 THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN ADMINISTERING
27 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS START-UP FUNDING

1 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-54-203. The department shall distribute the
2 money as provided in this subsection (5).

3 (8) At the hearing with the joint education committee of the
4 general assembly held in accordance with section 2-7-203 in November
5 or December 2017, and at the hearing held each year thereafter THROUGH
6 2025, the department of education shall provide a report that describes the
7 outcomes achieved by the career development success program. At a
8 minimum, the report must include the following information:

9 (9) This section is repealed, effective ~~September 1, 2034~~ JULY 1,
10 2029.

11 **SECTION 18.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-135, **amend**
12 (3)(b)(I) as follows:

13 **23-1-135. Department directive - undergraduate degree and**
14 **certificate programs - annual return on investment report - definition**
15 **- repeal.** (3) (b) The return on investment report must include
16 information concerning the undergraduate degree and certificate
17 programs offered at each institution including, at a minimum:

18 (I) The number of students enrolled in the undergraduate degree
19 or certificate program and the number of degrees and certificates awarded
20 annually for the program; specifically identifying the number of high
21 school students enrolled and the number of degrees and certificates
22 awarded; ~~through the career development success program created in~~
23 ~~section 22-54-138;~~

24 **SECTION 19.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-5-145.6, **amend**
25 (3)(b) as follows:

26 **23-5-145.6. Opportunities for credential attainment - fund -**
27 **report - definitions - repeal.** (3) By January 1, 2024, the department, in

1 consultation with the representatives described in section 23-5-145.5 (5),
2 shall facilitate the creation of stackable credential pathways for at least
3 three growing industries identified by the most recent Colorado talent
4 report. By January 1, 2025, the department, in consultation with the
5 representatives described in section 23-5-145.5 (5), shall facilitate the
6 creation of stackable credential pathways for at least two additional
7 growing industries identified by the most recent Colorado talent report.
8 The department shall facilitate the creation of at least two stackable
9 credential pathways for each industry. The stackable credential pathways
10 must include:

11 (b) An inventory of credentials that are a part of the pathway,
12 offered by accredited and nonaccredited providers, including training and
13 industry credential providers, high schools, ~~programs recognized by the~~
14 ~~career development success program pursuant to section 22-54-138,~~
15 ~~postsecondary institutions,~~ and nonprofit organizations;

16 **SECTION 20.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-5-145.8, **amend**
17 (2)(c) as follows:

18 **23-5-145.8. Credential quality standards - report - definitions.**

19 (2) (c) Beginning January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
20 department, in collaboration with the Colorado work force development
21 council, the department of education, the department of labor and
22 employment, and the Colorado office of economic development, shall
23 evaluate nondegree credentials offered through state-recognized programs
24 to ensure the credentials meet the quality standards set forth in the quality
25 nondegree credentials framework. State-recognized programs that are
26 required to ensure nondegree credential offerings meet the quality
27 standards set forth in the quality nondegree credentials framework

1 include, but are not limited to,

2 ~~(I) The career development success program created pursuant to~~
3 ~~section 22-54-138; and~~

4 ~~(H) the stackable credential pathways identified pursuant to~~
5 ~~section 23-5-145.6 (3).~~

6 == ==

7 **SECTION 21.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-46.3-602,
8 **amend** (4) as follows:

9 **24-46.3-602. Definitions.** As used in this part 6 and part 7 of this
10 article 46.3, unless the context otherwise requires:

11 (4) "Industry-recognized credential" means ~~a credential through~~
12 ~~a program or offering qualified under the career development success~~
13 ~~program pursuant to section 22-54-138~~ AN "INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION",
14 WHICH HAS THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-5-145.8, AND
15 A "NONDEGREE CREDENTIAL", WHICH HAS THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH
16 IN SECTION 23-5-145.8, THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS DEVELOPED
17 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-5-145.6 (2) AND ARE IDENTIFIED IN THE MOST
18 RECENT ANNUAL COLORADO TALENT PIPELINE REPORT PREPARED
19 PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46.3-103 (3).

20 **SECTION 22.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-6-103, **amend**
21 (5) as follows:

22 **26.5-6-103. Pathways to the classroom and retention strategies**
23 **for early childhood educators - standards - alignment across agencies**
24 **- report - rules.** (5) The department, the department of higher education,
25 and the department of education shall develop resources to support local
26 communities to increase concurrent enrollment opportunities for high
27 school students or other nontraditional students to earn higher education

1 credits and degrees that allow them to serve as early childhood educators
2 and shall support career pathways for high school students earning
3 college credits toward becoming early childhood educators, including
4 concurrent enrollment, career and technical education, ~~the ASCENT~~
5 ~~program~~, and other career pathways.

6 **SECTION 23. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-91-104, amend**
7 **(1), (4), and (5)(a) as follows:**

8 **22-91-104. School counselor corps grant program - application**
9 **- criteria - grant awards - rules.** (1) An education provider seeking a
10 grant from the program shall MUST submit an application to the school
11 counselor corps advisory board existing within the department in
12 accordance with the rules adopted by the state board. The school
13 counselor corps advisory board shall review each grant application
14 received and make recommendations to the department and state board
15 concerning whether a grant should be awarded to the education provider
16 and the recommended amount of the grant. If the school counselor corps
17 advisory board determines an application is missing any information
18 required by rule to be included with the application, the school counselor
19 corps advisory board may contact the education provider to obtain the
20 missing information.

21 (4) The department and the state board shall consult with experts
22 in the area of school counseling, including, but not limited to, school
23 counselors, persons who provide education and professional development
24 in the areas of school counseling and career counseling, and higher
25 education admissions officers, in establishing any additional criteria for
26 awarding grants and in reviewing applications and selecting grant
27 recipients.

1 (5) (a) Subject to available appropriations, the state board
2 DEPARTMENT shall award grants to applying education providers pursuant
3 to this section. The state board shall base the grant awards on the
4 department's recommendations. Each grant has a term of four years
5 beginning in the 2014-15 budget year. In making a grant award, the state
6 board DEPARTMENT shall specify the amount of each grant.

7 **SECTION 24.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 22-35-114
8 and part 2 of article 95.5 of title 22.

9 **SECTION 25. Appropriation - adjustments to 2025 long bill.**

10 (1) To implement this act, appropriations made in the annual general
11 appropriation act for the 2025-26 state fiscal year to the department of
12 education are adjusted as follows:

13 (a) The general fund appropriation for use by management and
14 administration for grants administration is reduced by \$3,999;

15 (b) The appropriation from the state education fund created in
16 section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of the state constitution for use by school
17 district operations for state share of districts' total program funding is
18 increased by \$2,257,275;

19 (c) The appropriation from the state education fund created in
20 section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of the state constitution for use by school
21 district operations for extended high school is decreased by \$6,703,048;

22 (d) The general fund appropriation for use by student pathways for
23 the career development success program is decreased by \$4,521,670, and
24 the related FTE is decreased by 0.6 FTE;

25 (e) The appropriation from the marijuana tax cash fund created in
26 Section 39-28.8-501 (1), C.R.S., for use by student pathways for the
27 concurrent enrollment expansion and innovation grant program is

1 decreased by \$1,476,948, and the related FTE for college and career
2 readiness is decreased by 0.3 FTE;

3 (f) The general fund appropriation for use by student pathways for
4 the John W. Buckner automatic enrollment in advanced courses grant
5 program is decreased by \$247,914, and the related FTE is decreased by
6 0.3 FTE.

7 (2) For the 2025-26 state fiscal year, \$5,018,715 is appropriated
8 to the department of education for use by student pathways. This
9 appropriation consists of \$4,773,583 from the general fund and \$245,132
10 from the state education fund created in section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of
11 the state constitution. To implement this act, the department may use this
12 appropriation as follows:

13 (a) \$482,217 from the general fund for postsecondary workforce
14 readiness administration, which amount is based on an assumption that
15 the department will require an additional 5.1 FTE; and

16 (b) \$4,291,366 from the general fund and \$245,132 from the state
17 education fund created in section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of the state
18 constitution for postsecondary workforce readiness start-up funding
19 distributions to local education providers.

20 **SECTION 26. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
21 except that sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 of
22 this act take effect July 1, 2026.

23 **SECTION 27. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
24 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
26 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
27 institutions.