

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

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

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

Appropriations

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.

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
May 1, 2025

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 FORMULA MUST APPLY A HIGHER WEIGHT TO PREVIOUSLY
24 LOW PARTICIPATION IN POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS
25 OPPORTUNITIES.

26 (g) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CALCULATE AND DISTRIBUTE THE
27 START-UP FUNDS DETERMINED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

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

10 (I) PROGRAM PLANNING AND DESIGN;

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

12 (III) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATION,
13 AUTHORIZATION, OR LICENSURE;

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

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

20 (VI) COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT.

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

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

26 (a) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A LOCAL
27 EDUCATION PROVIDER TO RECEIVE START-UP FUNDING PURSUANT TO THIS

1 SECTION. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS MAY VARY BASED ON THE TYPE OF
2 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER.

3 (b) THE FORMULA DEVELOPED OR ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
4 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION;

5 (c) CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES
6 WITHIN THE CATEGORIES;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (a) ARE REQUIRED TO ADOPT A PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN OR
2 A TURNAROUND PLAN, OR AUTHORIZE SCHOOLS THAT ARE REQUIRED TO
3 ADOPT A PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN OR A TURNAROUND PLAN, FOR THE
4 CURRENT OR PRIOR SCHOOL YEAR; OR

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

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

17 (I) PROGRAM PLANNING AND DESIGN;

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

19 (III) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATION,
20 AUTHORIZATION, OR LICENSURE;

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

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

27 (VI) COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT.

1 (b) LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO
2 COLLABORATE WITH EACH OTHER TO MAXIMIZE ECONOMIES OF SCALE AND
3 EXPAND STUDENT ACCESS TO A POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
4 READINESS PROGRAM.

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

8 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE GRANT AWARD
9 DETERMINATIONS.

10 (c) IN MAKING GRANT AWARD DETERMINATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT
11 SHALL CONSIDER:

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

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

19 (III) WHETHER THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER HAS BEEN
20 IDENTIFIED UNDER THE STATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM AS DECLINING IN
21 PERFORMANCE; AND

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

25 (d) IN MAKING GRANT AWARD DETERMINATIONS, THE
26 DEPARTMENT MAY CONSIDER AND PRIORITIZE GRANT AWARDS TO LOCAL
27 EDUCATION PROVIDERS THAT HAVE A HIGHER THAN AVERAGE

1 PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS,
2 THAT HAVE A HIGHER THAN AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO
3 ARE ENROLLED IN GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE AND ARE ELIGIBLE FOR
4 FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE
5 FEDERAL "RICHARD B. RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT", 42
6 U.S.C. SEC. 1751 ET SEQ., THAT ARE A RURAL OR SMALL RURAL SCHOOL
7 DISTRICT, OR THAT HAVE A LIMITED CAPACITY TO OFFER POSTSECONDARY
8 WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS.

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

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

17 (a) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS;

18 (b) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITIZATION REQUIREMENTS
19 FOR A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER TO RECEIVE FUNDING PURSUANT TO
20 THIS SECTION;

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

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

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

27 (5) (a) THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE NOT MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT

1 OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING TO
2 OFFSET THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN ADMINISTERING
3 THE INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

4 (b) OF THE MONEY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED FOR THE
5 INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND AN
6 AMOUNT THAT IS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO ONE OR MORE CONTRACTS
7 WITH A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY TO PROVIDE THE USES DESCRIBED IN
8 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION TO MULTIPLE LOCAL EDUCATION
9 PROVIDERS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR AN INNOVATION GRANT. THE ENTITY
10 SHALL USE RESEARCH-BASED STRATEGIES AND HAVE A PROVEN RECORD
11 OF SUCCESS WORKING WITH SCHOOLS UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

12 **22-54-205. Sustain funding - rules - repeal.** (1) FOR THE
13 2026-27 BUDGET YEAR, AND EACH BUDGET YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
14 DEPARTMENT SHALL USE THIS SECTION TO DETERMINE EACH LOCAL
15 EDUCATION PROVIDER'S POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS
16 SUSTAIN FUNDING. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
17 USE EXISTING DATA AND EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL
18 PROVIDE DATA TO THE DEPARTMENT TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF
19 EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S SUSTAIN FUNDING AMOUNT.

20 (2) (a) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE
21 REIMBURSEMENT FOR STUDENTS WHO, IN THE PRECEDING BUDGET YEAR,
22 SUCCESSFULLY SATISFIED POSTSECONDARY CREDIT, RECEIVED AN
23 INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL, OR SATISFIED WORK-BASED
24 LEARNING REQUIREMENTS AS SPECIFIED BY STATE BOARD RULE. A LOCAL
25 EDUCATION PROVIDER IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE MULTIPLE
26 REIMBURSEMENTS FOR ONE STUDENT. A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS
27 ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN A

1 P-TECH SCHOOL OR PARTICIPATING IN A TREP PROGRAM.

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

5 (A) TWENTY PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUSTAIN
6 FUNDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR POSTSECONDARY CREDIT
7 ATTAINMENT;

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

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

12 (D) FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUSTAIN FUNDING TO
13 OFFSET THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN ADMINISTERING
14 THE SUSTAIN FUNDING.

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

19 (III) THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
20 2028.

21 (c) (I) FOR THE 2027-28 BUDGET YEAR, AND EACH BUDGET YEAR
22 THEREAFTER, THE STATE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE PERCENTAGES OF
23 THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUSTAIN FUNDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT ASSIGNED
24 TO THE POSTSECONDARY CREDIT ATTAINMENT, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
25 CREDENTIALS, AND WORK-BASED LEARNING CATEGORIES, EXCEPT THAT
26 THE FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUSTAIN FUNDING TO OFFSET
27 THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN ADMINISTERING THE

1 SUSTAIN FUNDING MUST NOT BE CHANGED. THE PERCENTAGES FOR EACH
2 CATEGORY ARE DETERMINED BY STATE BOARD RULE.

3 (II) IN DETERMINING THE PERCENTAGES OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF
4 SUSTAIN FUNDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT ASSIGNED TO EACH CATEGORY
5 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE BOARD
6 SHALL CONSIDER THE AVAILABILITY OF POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
7 READINESS OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS,
8 STUDENT PARTICIPATION, AND EVIDENCE OF STUDENT OUTCOMES.

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

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

27 (I) PROGRAM PLANNING AND DESIGN;

- 1 (II) COURSE MATERIALS, TECHNOLOGY, AND EQUIPMENT;
- 2 (III) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATION,
- 3 AUTHORIZATION, OR LICENSURE;
- 4 (IV) CONTRACTING WITH AN ENTITY OR HIRING SCHOOL STAFF TO
- 5 SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A POSTSECONDARY
- 6 AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAM;
- 7 (V) INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN RESOURCES, AS
- 8 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-2-136, AND SUPPORTS, INCLUDING ACADEMIC
- 9 AND CAREER ADVISING AND EXPLORATION;
- 10 (VI) COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT; AND
- 11 (VII) WAGES FOR EMPLOYED APPRENTICES PARTICIPATING IN
- 12 REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS.
- 13 (b) LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO
- 14 COLLABORATE WITH EACH OTHER TO MAXIMIZE ECONOMIES OF SCALE AND
- 15 EXPAND STUDENT ACCESS TO A POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
- 16 READINESS PROGRAM.
- 17 (4) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT RULES GOVERNING:
- 18 (a) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A LOCAL
- 19 EDUCATION PROVIDER TO RECEIVE FUNDING PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION,
- 20 INCLUDING CRITERIA THAT CONSTITUTE A STUDENT'S SUCCESSFUL
- 21 SATISFACTION OF POSTSECONDARY CREDIT, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
- 22 CREDENTIAL, OR WORK-BASED LEARNING REQUIREMENTS. ELIGIBILITY
- 23 REQUIREMENTS MAY VARY BASED ON THE TYPE OF LOCAL EDUCATION
- 24 PROVIDER.
- 25 (b) CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES, AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES
- 26 WITHIN THE CATEGORIES;
- 27 (c) REIMBURSEMENT ELIGIBILITY AND RATES, INCLUDING LIMITS

1 ON A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S ANNUAL TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT AND
2 ANNUAL REIMBURSEMENT FROM ONE OR MULTIPLE CATEGORIES, BASED ON
3 LOCAL-EDUCATION-PROVIDER-SPECIFIC FEATURES OR OTHER FEATURES;

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

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

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

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

24 **22-54-206. Qualified industry credentials.** (1) ON OR BEFORE
25 JANUARY 30, 2026, AND ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 30 EACH YEAR
26 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT
27 COUNCIL, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER

1 EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, THE
2 COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, AND THE COLORADO OFFICE
3 OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHALL JOINTLY DEVELOP, AND PUBLISH ON
4 THE DEPARTMENT'S AND THE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S
5 WEBSITES, A LIST OF THE QUALIFIED INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS THAT MEET
6 THE QUALITY STANDARDS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-5-145.8
7 (2)(c) FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR. AT LEAST ANNUALLY, THE
8 DEPARTMENT AND THE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, IN
9 COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE
10 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, THE COLORADO COMMUNITY
11 COLLEGE SYSTEM, AND THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
12 DEVELOPMENT SHALL IDENTIFY AND REVIEW THE QUALIFIED INDUSTRY
13 CREDENTIALS BY IDENTIFYING THE JOBS INCLUDED IN THE COLORADO
14 TALENT REPORT, PREPARED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46.3-103, WITH THE
15 GREATEST REGIONAL AND STATE DEMAND, INCLUDING HIGH-SKILL,
16 HIGH-WAGE JOBS IN IN-DEMAND INDUSTRIES, AND, AFTER CONSULTATION
17 WITH RELEVANT INDUSTRIES, IDENTIFYING THE QUALIFIED INDUSTRY
18 CREDENTIALS THAT HAVE LABOR MARKET VALUE AND ARE LIKELY TO
19 LEAD TO THE IDENTIFIED JOBS. ANY QUALIFIED INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL
20 THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
21 JOINTLY DETERMINE DO NOT DEMONSTRATE LABOR MARKET VALUE MAY
22 BE REMOVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S AND THE WORK FORCE
23 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S WEBSITES.

24 (2) (a) EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL REGULARLY
25 COMMUNICATE TO ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THE
26 STUDENTS' FAMILIES:

27 (I) THE AVAILABILITY OF CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS;

1 AND

2 (II) THE AVAILABILITY OF INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL AND
3 WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS AND THE BENEFITS A STUDENT
4 RECEIVES AS A RESULT OF SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING ONE OF THESE
5 PROGRAMS OR COURSES.

6 (b) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, ALL COMMUNICATIONS ISSUED
7 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) MUST BE PROVIDED IN A LANGUAGE
8 THAT THE STUDENTS AND THE STUDENTS' FAMILIES UNDERSTAND. THE
9 GOAL OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MUST BE TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN,
10 AND COMPLETION OF, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS.

11 **22-54-207. Gifts, grants, and donations.** THE DEPARTMENT MAY
12 SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE
13 OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 2.

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

26 (2) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2029, THE DEPARTMENT OF
27 EDUCATION SHALL REPORT, AT A MINIMUM, FINDINGS REGARDING THE

1 EFFECTIVENESS OF HAVING CONSOLIDATED THE POSTSECONDARY AND
2 WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS THAT THE DEPARTMENT
3 ADMINISTERED INTO THE FUNDING STREAMS CREATED IN THIS PART 2 FOR
4 THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT AND EXPAND ACCESS
5 TO VALUABLE POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS
6 FOR STUDENTS. PRIOR TO CREATING THE REPORT, THE DEPARTMENT OF
7 EDUCATION SHALL CONSULT WITH JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE STAFF TO
8 DETERMINE THE REPORT'S CONTENT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 **22-35-108.5. Teacher recruitment education and preparation**
2 **(TREP) program - objectives - selection criteria - rules - definition -**
3 **repeal.** (2) (b) (II) ~~The general assembly shall annually fund each~~
4 ~~potential TREP program participant at the same per-pupil rate as~~
5 ~~determined by the ASCENT program as described in section 22-35-108.~~
6 ~~For the 2022-23 budget year, the general assembly shall appropriate~~
7 ~~funding for no more than two hundred TREP program participants.~~

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

10 **22-30.5-112.2. Charter schools - at-risk supplemental aid -**
11 **definitions - legislative declaration.** (1) As used in this section, unless
12 the context otherwise requires:

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

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

24 (II) Each district charter school in a qualifying school district that
25 was initially authorized prior to July 1, 2004, must receive at-risk
26 supplemental aid if the percentage of at-risk students in the district charter
27 school exceeds the percentage of at-risk pupils in the qualifying school

1 district. The amount of the district charter school's at-risk supplemental
2 aid is equal to the difference between one hundred percent of adjusted
3 district per pupil revenues and one hundred percent of district per pupil
4 revenues for each pupil enrolled in the district charter school, not
5 including online pupils or pupils enrolled in the ~~ASCENT~~ or TREP
6 program. A school district shall pass through one hundred percent of a
7 district charter school's at-risk supplemental aid to the district charter
8 school.

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

20 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-30.5-513, **amend**
21 (4.5)(b) as follows:

22 **22-30.5-513. Institute charter schools - funding - at-risk**
23 **supplemental aid - legislative declaration - definitions.** (4.5) (b) The
24 institute charter school's at-risk supplemental aid is equal to one-half of
25 the difference between one hundred percent of the accounting district's
26 per pupil revenues and one hundred percent of the accounting district's
27 adjusted per pupil revenues for each pupil enrolled in the district charter

1 school, not including online pupils or pupils enrolled in the ASCENT or
2 TREP program.

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

5 **22-35-102. Legislative declaration.** (3) ~~The general assembly~~
6 ~~further finds and declares its intention that the administrative costs~~
7 ~~incurred by the department of education in its implementation of the~~
8 ~~accelerating students through concurrent enrollment program created in~~
9 ~~section 22-35-108 shall be supported by federal funds available for~~
10 ~~government services pursuant to section 14002 of Title XIV of the federal~~
11 ~~"American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009", Public Law 111-5~~
12 ~~of the one hundred eleventh United States Congress.~~

13 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-103, **repeal**
14 (1.5) as follows:

15 **22-35-103. Definitions.** As used in this article 35, unless the
16 context otherwise requires:

17 (1.5) ~~"ASCENT program" means the accelerating students~~
18 ~~through concurrent enrollment program created in section 22-35-108.~~

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

21 **22-35-104. Enrollment in an institution of higher education -**
22 **cooperative agreement.** (1) (a) (III) Except as described in subsections
23 (1)(c) and (1)(d) of this section and ~~sections 22-35-108 and~~ SECTION
24 22-35-109, a local education provider shall not limit the number of
25 postsecondary courses, including academic courses and career and
26 technical education courses, ~~which~~ THAT may include ~~course work~~
27 COURSEWORK related to apprenticeship programs or internship programs,

1 in which a qualified student may concurrently enroll during the ninth,
2 tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade, except to the degree that the local
3 education provider is unable to provide access to the postsecondary
4 courses due to technological capacity.

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

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

27 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-107, **amend**

1 (6)(a), (6)(e), and (7) introductory portion; and **repeal** (6)(d) and (7)(a)
2 as follows:

3 **22-35-107. Concurrent enrollment advisory board - created -**
4 **membership - duties - reports - repeal.** (6) The board has the following
5 duties:

6 (a) Establishing guidelines for the administration of ~~the ASCENT~~
7 ~~program pursuant to section 22-35-108 (4) and the TREP program~~
8 ~~pursuant to section 22-35-108.5 (4);~~

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

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

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

24 (III) ~~Is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch pursuant to the~~
25 ~~federal "Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act", 42 U.S.C. sec.~~
26 ~~1751 et seq.;~~

27 (e) Submitting to the state board for its approval or disapproval

1 recommendations made pursuant to ~~paragraphs (c) and (d) of this~~
2 ~~subsection (6)~~ SUBSECTION (6)(c) OF THIS SECTION;

3 (7) On or before December 1, 2010, and on or before December
4 1 each year thereafter, the board shall prepare a report and submit it to the
5 state board and the commission. The report, at a minimum, ~~shall~~ MUST
6 include:

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

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

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

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

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

26 **22-35-115. Postsecondary and workforce readiness programs**
27 **- financial study - funding - reports - legislative declaration -**

1 **definitions - repeal.** (8) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
2 2026.

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

5 **22-35-116. Teacher recruitment and preparation (TREP)**
6 **program and pathways in early technology early college high schools**
7 **(p-tech) working group - report - repeal.** (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
8 CONVENE A WORKING GROUP THAT INCLUDES EDUCATORS TO MAKE
9 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
10 THE TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND PREPARATION PROGRAM, CREATED IN
11 SECTION 22-35-108.5, AND THE PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY EARLY
12 COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS, CREATED IN PART 1 OF ARTICLE 35.3 OF THIS
13 TITLE 22, AND ANY RELATED FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

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

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

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

20 **22-35.3-103. Pathways in technology early college high schools**
21 **- design - requirements - approval.** (4) A p-tech school is subject to the
22 state assessment requirements specified in section 22-7-1006.3 and the
23 accountability requirements specified in article 11 of this title 22. In
24 addition, the commissioner and the executive director may establish
25 indicators for measuring the performance of each p-tech school, which
26 indicators may include the ability of students who graduate from a p-tech
27 school to obtain employment in the field or to pursue additional

1 postsecondary education in the field, as well as any relevant performance
2 indicators established for the concurrent enrollment ~~ASCENT~~, and TREP
3 programs.

4 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-103, **amend**
5 (5.2); and **repeal** (1.4) as follows:

6 **22-54-103. Definitions.** As used in this article 54, unless the
7 context otherwise requires:

8 (1.4) ~~"ASCENT program" means the accelerating students~~
9 ~~through concurrent enrollment program created in section 22-35-108.~~

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

1 count day of the applicable budget year must be included in the district
2 extended high school pupil enrollment as a part-time pupil.

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

5 **22-54-103.5. District total program - rules - legislative**
6 **declaration - repeal. (8) District extended high school funding.** (a) A
7 district's extended high school funding is:

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

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

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

18 **SECTION 16.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-104, **amend**
19 (4.7)(a) and (4.7)(d); and **add** (4.7)(e) as follows:

20 **22-54-104. District total program - legislative declaration -**
21 **definitions - repeal.** (4.7) (a) For the ~~2024-25~~ 2025-26 budget year and
22 budget years thereafter, a district's extended high school funding ~~shall be~~
23 ~~determined in accordance with the following formula~~ IS:

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

27 (d) For the ~~2024-25~~ 2025-26 budget year, and each budget year

1 thereafter, the dollar amount set forth in subsection (4.7)(a) of this section
2 must be increased by the percentage by which the statewide base per pupil
3 funding for that budget year, as specified in subsection (5)(a) of this
4 section, is increased over the statewide base per pupil funding for the
5 2007-08 budget year, as specified in subsection (5)(a)(XIV) of this
6 section. ~~except that the dollar amount that is multiplied by the number of~~
7 ~~full-time equivalent students included in the district's extended high~~
8 ~~school pupil enrollment who are the district's ASCENT program~~
9 ~~participants must not increase or exceed the dollar amount during the~~
10 ~~2023-24 budget year. The amount must be rounded to the nearest dollar.~~

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

17 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (4.7)(e) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
18 2028.

19 **SECTION 17.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-138, **amend**
20 (2), (3)(a), (3.5)(a), (4)(b) introductory portion, (5)(a), (8) introductory
21 portion, and (9) as follows:

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

24 (2) There is created the career development success program in the
25 department of education to provide financial incentives for participating
26 districts, a participating board of cooperative services, and participating
27 charter schools to encourage pupils enrolled in grades nine through

1 twelve to enroll in and successfully complete qualified industry-credential
2 programs; qualified workplace training programs; and qualified advanced
3 placement courses. For the 2017-18 budget year ~~and each budget year~~
4 ~~thereafter~~ THROUGH THE 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR, each participating
5 district, each participating board of cooperative services, and each
6 participating charter school, as provided in subsection (5) of this section,
7 may receive up to one thousand dollars for each pupil who, in the
8 preceding budget year, successfully completes a qualified
9 industry-credential program; qualified workplace training program; or
10 qualified advanced placement course.

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

1 removed from the council's website.

2 (3.5) (a) ~~Beginning in the~~ FOR THE 2022-23 school year ~~and for~~
3 ~~each school year thereafter~~ THROUGH THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR, the
4 department of education, in coordination with the department of labor and
5 employment, the department of higher education, the Colorado
6 community college system, and employers from in-demand industries,
7 shall identify the top ten industry-recognized credentials, each of which
8 must at a minimum meet the requirements specified in subsection (3.5)(b)
9 of this section. For each of the identified credentials, the department of
10 education shall identify the state content standards that align with the
11 courses required to obtain the credential and post on the department's
12 website an explanation of the standards and course alignments for each
13 credential.

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

23 (5) (a) ~~Beginning in the 2023-24 budget year and each budget year~~
24 ~~thereafter, the general assembly shall annually appropriate at least nine~~
25 ~~million five hundred thousand dollars to the department of education for~~
26 ~~the career development success program.~~ FOR THE 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR,
27 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION DOLLARS TO

1 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT
2 SUCCESS PROGRAM. FOR THE 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR, OF THE FIVE MILLION
3 DOLLARS FOR THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS PROGRAM, THE
4 DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND AN AMOUNT THAT IS NECESSARY TO OFFSET
5 THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN ADMINISTERING
6 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS START-UP FUNDING
7 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-54-203. The department shall distribute the
8 money as provided in this subsection (5).

9 (8) At the hearing with the joint education committee of the
10 general assembly held in accordance with section 2-7-203 in November
11 or December 2017, and at the hearing held each year thereafter THROUGH
12 2025, the department of education shall provide a report that describes the
13 outcomes achieved by the career development success program. At a
14 minimum, the report must include the following information:

15 (9) This section is repealed, effective ~~September 1, 2034~~ JULY 1,
16 2029.

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

19 **23-1-135. Department directive - undergraduate degree and**
20 **certificate programs - annual return on investment report - definition**
21 **- repeal.** (3) (b) The return on investment report must include
22 information concerning the undergraduate degree and certificate
23 programs offered at each institution including, at a minimum:

24 (I) The number of students enrolled in the undergraduate degree
25 or certificate program and the number of degrees and certificates awarded
26 annually for the program; specifically identifying the number of high
27 school students enrolled and the number of degrees and certificates

1 awarded; ~~through the career development success program created in~~
2 ~~section 22-54-138;~~

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

5 **23-5-145.6. Opportunities for credential attainment - fund -**
6 **report - definitions - repeal.** (3) By January 1, 2024, the department, in
7 consultation with the representatives described in section 23-5-145.5 (5),
8 shall facilitate the creation of stackable credential pathways for at least
9 three growing industries identified by the most recent Colorado talent
10 report. By January 1, 2025, the department, in consultation with the
11 representatives described in section 23-5-145.5 (5), shall facilitate the
12 creation of stackable credential pathways for at least two additional
13 growing industries identified by the most recent Colorado talent report.
14 The department shall facilitate the creation of at least two stackable
15 credential pathways for each industry. The stackable credential pathways
16 must include:

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

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

24 **23-5-145.8. Credential quality standards - report - definitions.**
25 (2) (c) Beginning January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
26 department, in collaboration with the Colorado work force development
27 council, the department of education, the department of labor and

1 employment, and the Colorado office of economic development, shall
2 evaluate nondegree credentials offered through state-recognized programs
3 to ensure the credentials meet the quality standards set forth in the quality
4 nondegree credentials framework. State-recognized programs that are
5 required to ensure nondegree credential offerings meet the quality
6 standards set forth in the quality nondegree credentials framework
7 include, but are not limited to,

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

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

12 == ==

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

15 **24-46.3-602. Definitions.** As used in this part 6 and part 7 of this
16 article 46.3, unless the context otherwise requires:

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

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

1 **26.5-6-103. Pathways to the classroom and retention strategies**
2 **for early childhood educators - standards - alignment across agencies**
3 **- report - rules.** (5) The department, the department of higher education,
4 and the department of education shall develop resources to support local
5 communities to increase concurrent enrollment opportunities for high
6 school students or other nontraditional students to earn higher education
7 credits and degrees that allow them to serve as early childhood educators
8 and shall support career pathways for high school students earning
9 college credits toward becoming early childhood educators, including
10 concurrent enrollment, career and technical education, ~~the ASCENT~~
11 ~~program~~, and other career pathways.

12 **SECTION 23. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-91-104, amend**
13 **(1), (4), and (5)(a) as follows:**

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

27 (4) The department and the state board shall consult with experts

1 in the area of school counseling, including, but not limited to, school
2 counselors, persons who provide education and professional development
3 in the areas of school counseling and career counseling, and higher
4 education admissions officers, in establishing any additional criteria for
5 awarding grants and in reviewing applications and selecting grant
6 recipients.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 (e) The appropriation from the marijuana tax cash fund created in
5 Section 39-28.8-501 (1), C.R.S., for use by student pathways for the
6 concurrent enrollment expansion and innovation grant program is
7 decreased by \$1,476,948, and the related FTE for college and career
8 readiness is decreased by 0.3 FTE;

9 (f) The general fund appropriation for use by student pathways for
10 the John W. Buckner automatic enrollment in advanced courses grant
11 program is decreased by \$247,914, and the related FTE is decreased by
12 0.3 FTE.

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

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

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

26 (3) For the 2025-26 state fiscal year, \$160,073 is appropriated to
27 the department of education for use by school quality and support. This

1 appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an assumption that
2 the division will require an additional 1.0 FTE. To implement this act, the
3 division may use this appropriation for accountability and improvement
4 planning. Any money appropriated in this subsection not expended prior
5 to July 1, 2026, is further appropriated to the division for the 2026-27
6 state fiscal year for the same purpose.

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

10 **SECTION 27. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
11 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
13 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
14 institutions.