

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-1029.01 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL 25-315

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Kirkmeyer, Amabile

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bird and Sirota, Taggart

Senate Committees

Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO REINVENT POSTSECONDARY AND**
102 **WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS.**

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.

For the 2025-26 budget year through the 2027-28 budget year, the

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.

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:

4 **PART 2**

1 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS FUNDING

2 **22-54-201. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
3 FINDS THAT:

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

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

10 (c) THE COLORADO EVALUATION AND ACTION LAB, HOUSED AT
11 THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER, FOUND THAT CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT IS
12 SHOWN TO BE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN INCREASING COLLEGE GRADUATION
13 FOR COLORADO STUDENTS ACROSS VARIOUS DEMOGRAPHICS. STUDENTS
14 WHO PARTICIPATE IN CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT ARE TWENTY-FIVE
15 PERCENT MORE LIKELY TO ATTEND COLLEGE, ARE EIGHT PERCENT MORE
16 LIKELY TO EARN A TWO-YEAR DEGREE ON TIME, ARE TEN PERCENT MORE
17 LIKELY TO EARN A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE ON TIME, AND EARN HIGHER WAGES
18 FIVE YEARS AFTER ENTERING THE WORKFORCE.

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

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

24 (II) EARNED TWELVE POSTSECONDARY CREDITS THAT COUNT
25 TOWARD A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL; OR

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

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

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

16 (g) STUDENT INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLANS PROVIDE
17 A PROCESS AND PORTFOLIO FOR STUDENTS TO EXPLORE THEIR INTERESTS
18 AND VARIOUS POSTSECONDARY CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL
19 OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE BIG THREE; AND

20 (h) IN ADDITION TO THE STUDENT INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND
21 ACADEMIC PLANS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(g) OF THIS SECTION,
22 EDUCATORS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN HELPING STUDENTS MEET STUDENTS'
23 POSTSECONDARY WORKFORCE AND READINESS GOALS AND ACHIEVING
24 SUCCESS IN THE BIG THREE.

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

26 (a) IT IS BENEFICIAL TO CONSOLIDATE CURRENT POSTSECONDARY
27 AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS THAT THE DEPARTMENT

1 ADMINISTERS INTO THREE FUNDING STREAMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
2 BUILDING CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT AND EXPAND ACCESS TO VALUABLE
3 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS;

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

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

13 **22-54-202. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 2, UNLESS THE
14 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

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

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

23 (3) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A
24 CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART
25 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY
26 THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE
27 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED

1 AND OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22 THAT
2 OPERATES ONE OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

3 (4) "POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS INNOVATION
4 GRANT PROGRAM" OR "INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE
5 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS INNOVATION GRANT
6 PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 22-54-204.

7 (5) "POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS START-UP
8 FUNDING" OR "START-UP FUNDING" MEANS FUNDING PURSUANT TO
9 SECTION 22-54-203.

10 (6) "POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS SUSTAIN
11 FUNDING" OR "SUSTAIN FUNDING" MEANS FUNDING PURSUANT TO SECTION
12 22-54-205.

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

23 (8) "WORK-BASED LEARNING" MEANS DEMONSTRATING LEARNING
24 THROUGH WORK OR AT WORK, CONSISTENT WITH THE WORK-BASED
25 LEARNING QUALITY EXPECTATIONS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION
26 8-83-602 (5). "WORK-BASED LEARNING" INCLUDES THE SAME MEANING AS
27 SET FORTH IN SECTION 8-83-601.

1 **22-54-203. Start-up funding - rules - repeal.** (1) FOR THE
2 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-28 BUDGET YEAR, THE
3 DEPARTMENT SHALL USE THIS SECTION TO DETERMINE EACH LOCAL
4 EDUCATION PROVIDER'S POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS
5 START-UP FUNDING.

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

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

19 (I) PARTICIPATION IN POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
20 READINESS OPPORTUNITIES;

21 (II) PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN GRADES
22 NINE THROUGH TWELVE AND ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE
23 LUNCH PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE FEDERAL "RICHARD B.
24 RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 1751 ET SEQ.;

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

27 (IV) HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE; AND

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

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

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

15 (e) THE FORMULA MAY APPLY A DIFFERENT WEIGHT TO EACH
16 FACTOR.

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

19 (3) (a) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL USE START-UP
20 FUNDING FOR ELIGIBLE EXPENSES THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH
21 DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
22 READINESS PROGRAM THAT ALIGNS WITH THE STATE'S WORKFORCE
23 DEMANDS OR PRIORITIES AND SUPPORTS STUDENTS IN SUCCESSFULLY
24 EARNING POSTSECONDARY CREDIT OR INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
25 CREDENTIALS, OR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING WORK-BASED LEARNING
26 REQUIREMENTS. CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES INCLUDE, BUT ARE
27 NOT LIMITED TO:

- 1 (I) PROGRAM PLANNING AND DESIGN;
- 2 (II) COURSE MATERIALS, TECHNOLOGY, AND EQUIPMENT;
- 3 (III) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATION,
- 4 AUTHORIZATION, OR LICENSURE;
- 5 (IV) CONTRACTING WITH AN ENTITY OR HIRING SCHOOL STAFF TO
- 6 SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A POSTSECONDARY
- 7 AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAM;
- 8 (V) INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN RESOURCES, AS
- 9 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-2-136, AND SUPPORTS, INCLUDING ACADEMIC
- 10 AND CAREER ADVISING AND EXPLORATION; AND
- 11 (VI) COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT.
- 12 (b) LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO
- 13 COLLABORATE WITH EACH OTHER TO MAXIMIZE ECONOMIES OF SCALE AND
- 14 EXPAND STUDENT ACCESS TO A POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
- 15 READINESS PROGRAM.
- 16 (4) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT RULES GOVERNING:
- 17 (a) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A LOCAL
- 18 EDUCATION PROVIDER TO RECEIVE START-UP FUNDING PURSUANT TO THIS
- 19 SECTION. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS MAY VARY BASED ON THE TYPE OF
- 20 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER.
- 21 (b) THE FORMULA DEVELOPED OR ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
- 22 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION;
- 23 (c) CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES
- 24 WITHIN THE CATEGORIES;
- 25 (d) ELIGIBILITY FOR, AND DISTRIBUTION OF, FUNDING FOR ELIGIBLE
- 26 EXPENSES WITHIN THE CATEGORIES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS
- 27 SECTION. ELIGIBILITY MAY REQUIRE SATISFACTION OF CERTAIN

1 CONDITIONS. ELIGIBILITY AND DISTRIBUTION RATES MAY BE CATEGORIZED
2 OR LIMITED BASED ON LOCAL-EDUCATION-PROVIDER-SPECIFIC FEATURES
3 OR OTHER FEATURES AS SPECIFIED BY STATE BOARD RULE.

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

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

8 (5) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT USE MORE THAN SEVEN PERCENT
9 OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF START-UP FUNDING IN THE 2025-26 BUDGET
10 YEAR TO OFFSET THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN
11 ADMINISTERING START-UP FUNDING. THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT USE
12 MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF START-UP FUNDING
13 IN THE 2026-27 BUDGET YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-28 BUDGET YEAR TO
14 OFFSET THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN ADMINISTERING
15 START-UP FUNDING.

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

17 **22-54-204. Postsecondary and workforce readiness innovation**
18 **grant program - creation - funding - rules.** (1) BEGINNING IN THE
19 2028-29 BUDGET YEAR, THE POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
20 READINESS INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM IS CREATED IN THE
21 DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS
22 THAT:

23 (a) ARE REQUIRED TO ADOPT A PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN OR
24 A TURNAROUND PLAN, OR AUTHORIZE SCHOOLS THAT ARE REQUIRED TO
25 ADOPT A PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN OR A TURNAROUND PLAN, FOR THE
26 CURRENT OR PRIOR SCHOOL YEAR; AND

27 (b) DEMONSTRATE, OR AUTHORIZE A SCHOOL THAT

1 DEMONSTRATES, A LOW LEVEL OF ATTAINMENT ON THE POSTSECONDARY
2 AND WORKFORCE READINESS INDICATOR FOR THE PRIOR SCHOOL YEAR.

3 (2) (a) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL USE INNOVATION
4 GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING FOR ELIGIBLE EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH
5 DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
6 READINESS PROGRAM THAT ALIGNS WITH THE STATE'S WORKFORCE
7 DEMANDS OR PRIORITIES AND SUPPORTS STUDENTS IN SUCCESSFULLY
8 EARNING POSTSECONDARY CREDIT OR INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
9 CREDENTIALS, OR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING WORK-BASED LEARNING
10 REQUIREMENTS. CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES INCLUDE:

11 (I) PROGRAM PLANNING AND DESIGN;

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

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

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

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

21 (VI) COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT.

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

26 (3) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE INNOVATION
27 GRANT PROGRAM, INCLUDING REVIEWING THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

1 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

2 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE GRANT AWARD
3 DETERMINATIONS.

4 (c) IN MAKING GRANT AWARD DETERMINATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT
5 SHALL CONSIDER:

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

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

13 (III) WHETHER THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER HAS BEEN
14 IDENTIFIED UNDER THE STATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM AS DECLINING IN
15 PERFORMANCE; AND

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

19 (d) IN MAKING GRANT AWARD DETERMINATIONS, THE
20 DEPARTMENT MAY CONSIDER AND PRIORITIZE GRANT AWARDS TO LOCAL
21 EDUCATION PROVIDERS THAT HAVE A HIGHER THAN AVERAGE
22 PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS AND
23 A HIGHER THAN AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED
24 IN GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE AND ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR
25 REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE FEDERAL
26 "RICHARD B. RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC.
27 1751 ET SEQ.

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

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

9 (a) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS;

10 (b) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITIZATION REQUIREMENTS
11 FOR A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER TO RECEIVE FUNDING PURSUANT TO
12 THIS SECTION;

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

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

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

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

23 (b) OF THE MONEY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED FOR THE
24 INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND AN
25 AMOUNT THAT IS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO ONE OR MORE CONTRACTS
26 WITH A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY TO PROVIDE THE USES DESCRIBED IN
27 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION TO MULTIPLE LOCAL EDUCATION

1 PROVIDERS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR AN INNOVATION GRANT. THE ENTITY
2 SHALL USE RESEARCH-BASED STRATEGIES AND HAVE A PROVEN RECORD
3 OF SUCCESS WORKING WITH SCHOOLS UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

4 **22-54-205. Sustain funding - rules - repeal.** (1) FOR THE
5 2026-27 BUDGET YEAR, AND EACH BUDGET YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
6 DEPARTMENT SHALL USE THIS SECTION TO DETERMINE EACH LOCAL
7 EDUCATION PROVIDER'S POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS
8 SUSTAIN FUNDING. EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL PROVIDE
9 DATA TO THE DEPARTMENT TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF EACH LOCAL
10 EDUCATION PROVIDER'S SUSTAIN FUNDING AMOUNT.

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

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

23 (A) TWENTY PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUSTAIN
24 FUNDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR POSTSECONDARY CREDIT
25 ATTAINMENT;

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

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

3 (D) FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUSTAIN FUNDING TO
4 OFFSET THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN ADMINISTERING
5 THE SUSTAIN FUNDING.

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

10 (III) THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
11 2028.

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

21 (II) IN DETERMINING THE PERCENTAGES OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF
22 SUSTAIN FUNDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT ASSIGNED TO EACH CATEGORY
23 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE BOARD
24 SHALL CONSIDER THE AVAILABILITY OF POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
25 READINESS OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS,
26 STUDENT PARTICIPATION, AND EVIDENCE OF STUDENT OUTCOMES.

27 (III) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (2)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION,

1 IF MONEY THAT IS ALLOCATED TO A CATEGORY IS NOT EXPENDED BECAUSE
2 OF INSUFFICIENT DEMAND, THE MONEY MAY BE REALLOCATED TO
3 ANOTHER CATEGORY TO SATISFY THAT CATEGORY'S DEMAND.

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

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

18 (I) PROGRAM PLANNING AND DESIGN;

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

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

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

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

1 (VI) COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT; AND
2 (VII) WAGES FOR EMPLOYED APPRENTICES PARTICIPATING IN
3 REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS.

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

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

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

16 (b) CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES, AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES
17 WITHIN THE CATEGORIES;

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

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

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

26 (5) (a) A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT AUTHORIZES A CHARTER SCHOOL
27 SHALL FORWARD TO THE DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL AN AMOUNT EQUAL

1 TO ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE SUSTAIN FUNDING AMOUNT THAT THE
2 SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES FOR A STUDENT WHO IS ENROLLED IN THE
3 DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL AND WHO SATISFIES THE CRITERIA THAT
4 CONSTITUTE THE STUDENT'S SUCCESSFUL SATISFACTION OF
5 POSTSECONDARY CREDIT, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL, OR
6 WORK-BASED LEARNING REQUIREMENTS.

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

15 **22-54-206. Qualified industry credentials.** (1) ON OR BEFORE
16 JANUARY 30, 2026, AND ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 30 EACH YEAR
17 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT
18 COUNCIL, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
19 EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, THE
20 COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, AND THE COLORADO OFFICE
21 OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHALL JOINTLY DEVELOP, AND PUBLISH ON
22 THE DEPARTMENT'S AND THE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S
23 WEBSITES, A LIST OF THE QUALIFIED INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS THAT MEET
24 THE QUALITY STANDARDS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-5-145.8
25 (2)(c) FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR. AT LEAST ANNUALLY, THE
26 DEPARTMENT AND THE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, IN
27 COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE

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

15 (2) (a) EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL REGULARLY
16 COMMUNICATE TO ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THE
17 STUDENTS' FAMILIES:

18 (I) THE AVAILABILITY OF CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS;
19 AND

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

24 (b) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, ALL COMMUNICATIONS ISSUED
25 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) MUST BE PROVIDED IN A LANGUAGE
26 THAT THE STUDENTS AND THE STUDENTS' FAMILIES UNDERSTAND. THE
27 GOAL OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MUST BE TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN,

1 AND COMPLETION OF, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS.

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

5 **22-54-208. Postsecondary and workforce readiness program**
6 **report.** (1) BEGINNING JANUARY 2027, AND EACH JANUARY THEREAFTER,
7 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL REPORT, AT A MINIMUM, FINDINGS
8 REGARDING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HAVING CONSOLIDATED THE
9 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAMS THAT THE
10 DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERED INTO THE FUNDING STREAMS CREATED IN
11 THIS PART 2 FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT AND
12 EXPAND ACCESS TO VALUABLE POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
13 READINESS PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF
14 THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR
15 COMMITTEES, AS PART OF THE "SMART ACT" PRESENTATION REQUIRED
16 PURSUANT TO PART 2 OF ARTICLE 7 OF TITLE 2.

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

27 (3) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 24-1-136

1 (11)(a)(I), THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT THE REPORT DESCRIBED IN
2 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

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

5 **22-35-108. Accelerating students through concurrent**
6 **enrollment program - objectives - non-tuition expenses - rules -**
7 **repeal.** (2) (c) For the 2025-26 state fiscal year, ~~and each state fiscal year~~
8 ~~thereafter~~, the local education provider shall not designate a total number
9 of ASCENT program participants that is greater than the total number of
10 ASCENT program participants that it designated in the 2024-25 state
11 fiscal year.

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

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

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

19 **22-35-108.5. Teacher recruitment education and preparation**
20 **(TREP) program - objectives - selection criteria - rules - definition -**
21 **repeal.** (2) (b) (II) ~~The general assembly shall annually fund each~~
22 ~~potential TREP program participant at the same per-pupil rate as~~
23 ~~determined by the ASCENT program as described in section 22-35-108.~~
24 ~~For the 2022-23 budget year, the general assembly shall appropriate~~
25 ~~funding for no more than two hundred TREP program participants.~~

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

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

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

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

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

27 (III) Each district charter school in a school district that is not a

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

11 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-30.5-513, **amend**
12 (4.5)(b) as follows:

13 **22-30.5-513. Institute charter schools - funding - at-risk**
14 **supplemental aid - legislative declaration - definitions.** (4.5) (b) The
15 institute charter school's at-risk supplemental aid is equal to one-half of
16 the difference between one hundred percent of the accounting district's
17 per pupil revenues and one hundred percent of the accounting district's
18 adjusted per pupil revenues for each pupil enrolled in the district charter
19 school, not including online pupils or pupils enrolled in the ~~ASCENT or~~
20 TREP program.

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

23 **22-35-102. Legislative declaration.** (3) ~~The general assembly~~
24 ~~further finds and declares its intention that the administrative costs~~
25 ~~incurred by the department of education in its implementation of the~~
26 ~~accelerating students through concurrent enrollment program created in~~
27 ~~section 22-35-108 shall be supported by federal funds available for~~

1 ~~government services pursuant to section 14002 of Title XIV of the federal~~
2 ~~"American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009", Public Law 111-5~~
3 ~~of the one hundred eleventh United States Congress.~~

4 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-103, **repeal**
5 (1.5) as follows:

6 **22-35-103. Definitions.** As used in this article 35, unless the
7 context otherwise requires:

8 (1.5) ~~"ASCENT program" means the accelerating students~~
9 ~~through concurrent enrollment program created in section 22-35-108.~~

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

12 **22-35-104. Enrollment in an institution of higher education -**
13 **cooperative agreement.** (1) (a) (III) Except as described in subsections
14 (1)(c) and (1)(d) of this section and ~~sections 22-35-108 and~~ SECTION
15 22-35-109, a local education provider shall not limit the number of
16 postsecondary courses, including academic courses and career and
17 technical education courses, ~~which~~ THAT may include ~~course work~~
18 COURSEWORK related to apprenticeship programs or internship programs,
19 in which a qualified student may concurrently enroll during the ninth,
20 tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade, except to the degree that the local
21 education provider is unable to provide access to the postsecondary
22 courses due to technological capacity.

23 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1)(a) of this
24 section, if a qualified student is not a participant in the ~~ASCENT or TREP~~
25 program and has not satisfied the minimum requirements for graduation
26 established by ~~his or her~~ THE QUALIFIED STUDENT'S local education
27 provider by the end of ~~his or her~~ THEIR twelfth-grade year and is therefore

1 retained by the local education provider for additional instruction, the
2 qualified student ~~shall~~ MUST not concurrently enroll in postsecondary
3 courses, including academic or career and technical education courses,
4 ~~which~~ THAT may include ~~course-work~~ COURSEWORK related to
5 apprenticeship programs or internship programs, that are worth more than
6 a total of nine credit hours, including gateway courses, as defined in
7 section 23-1-113 (11)(b.5), with additional supports through supplemental
8 academic instruction, as defined in section 23-1-113 (11)(e). Furthermore,
9 the qualified student ~~shall~~ MUST not concurrently enroll in more than:

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

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

21 **22-35-107. Concurrent enrollment advisory board - created -**
22 **membership - duties - reports - repeal.** (6) The board has the following
23 duties:

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

27 (d) ~~On or before December 1, 2022, considering and making~~

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

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

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

15 ~~(III) Is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch pursuant to the~~
16 ~~federal "Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act", 42 U.S.C. sec.~~
17 ~~1751 et seq.;~~

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

21 (7) On or before December 1, 2010, and on or before December
22 1 each year thereafter, the board shall prepare a report and submit it to the
23 state board and the commission. The report, at a minimum, ~~shall~~ MUST
24 include:

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

27 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-113, **amend**

1 (1)(a) as follows:

2 **22-35-113. Concurrent enrollment - website.** (1) By July 1,
3 2020, the department of education and the department of higher
4 education, with advice from the state board, shall make available to the
5 public a concurrent enrollment website to provide information to students,
6 parents, and legal guardians concerning concurrent enrollment options
7 and requirements. The departments must ensure that the website is clear,
8 easy to navigate, and generally user-friendly. In addition, the website
9 must, at a minimum:

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

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

17 **22-35-115. Postsecondary and workforce readiness programs**
18 **- financial study - funding - reports - legislative declaration -**
19 **definitions - repeal.** (8) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
20 2026.

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

23 **22-35-116. Teacher recruitment and preparation (TREP)**
24 **program and pathways in early technology early college high schools**
25 **(p-tech) working group - report - repeal.** (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
26 CONVENE A WORKING GROUP THAT INCLUDES EDUCATORS TO MAKE
27 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF

1 THE TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND PREPARATION PROGRAM, CREATED IN
2 SECTION 22-35-108.5, AND THE PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY EARLY
3 COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS, CREATED IN PART 1 OF ARTICLE 35.3 OF THIS
4 TITLE 22, AND ANY RELATED FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

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

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

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

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

22 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-103, **amend**
23 (5.2); and **repeal** (1.4) as follows:

24 **22-54-103. Definitions.** As used in this article 54, unless the
25 context otherwise requires:

26 (1.4) ~~"ASCENT program" means the accelerating students~~
27 ~~through concurrent enrollment program created in section 22-35-108.~~

1 (5.2) "District extended high school pupil enrollment" means the
2 number of pupils, on the pupil enrollment count day within the applicable
3 budget year, who are concurrently enrolled in a postsecondary course,
4 including an academic course or a career and technical education course,
5 as a participant in ~~the ASCENT program or~~ the TREP program and the
6 number of pupils, on the pupil enrollment count day within the applicable
7 budget year, who are enrolled in grade thirteen or fourteen in a p-tech
8 school. A pupil enrolled in a p-tech school pursuant to article 35.3 of this
9 title 22 must be included in the district extended high school pupil
10 enrollment as a full-time student. ~~An ASCENT program participant or A~~
11 TREP program participant who is enrolled in at least twelve credit hours
12 of postsecondary courses, including academic courses and career and
13 technical education courses, as of the pupil enrollment count day of the
14 applicable budget year must be included in the district extended high
15 school pupil enrollment as a full-time pupil. ~~An ASCENT program~~
16 ~~participant or~~ A TREP program participant who is enrolled in less than
17 twelve credit hours of postsecondary courses, including academic courses
18 and career and technical education courses, as of the pupil enrollment
19 count day of the applicable budget year must be included in the district
20 extended high school pupil enrollment as a part-time pupil.

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

23 **22-54-103.5. District total program - rules - legislative**
24 **declaration - repeal.** (8) **District extended high school funding.** (a) A
25 district's extended high school funding is:

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

1 section).

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

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

9 **SECTION 16.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-104, **amend**
10 (4.7)(a) and (4.7)(d); and **add** (4.7)(e) as follows:

11 **22-54-104. District total program - legislative declaration -**
12 **definitions - repeal.** (4.7) (a) For the ~~2024-25~~ 2025-26 budget year and
13 budget years thereafter, a district's extended high school funding ~~shall be~~
14 ~~determined in accordance with the following formula~~ IS:

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

18 (d) For the ~~2024-25~~ 2025-26 budget year, and each budget year
19 thereafter, the dollar amount set forth in subsection (4.7)(a) of this section
20 must be increased by the percentage by which the statewide base per pupil
21 funding for that budget year, as specified in subsection (5)(a) of this
22 section, is increased over the statewide base per pupil funding for the
23 2007-08 budget year, as specified in subsection (5)(a)(XIV) of this
24 section. ~~except that the dollar amount that is multiplied by the number of~~
25 ~~full-time equivalent students included in the district's extended high~~
26 ~~school pupil enrollment who are the district's ASCENT program~~
27 ~~participants must not increase or exceed the dollar amount during the~~

1 ~~2023-24 budget year. The amount must be rounded to the nearest dollar.~~

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

8 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (4.7)(e) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
9 2028.

10 **SECTION 17.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-138, **amend**
11 (2), (3)(a), (3.5)(a), (4)(b) introductory portion, (5)(a), (8) introductory
12 portion, and (9) as follows:

13 **22-54-138. Career development success program - created -**
14 **funding - report - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.**

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

1 qualified advanced placement course.

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

20 (3.5) (a) ~~Beginning in the~~ FOR THE 2022-23 school year ~~and for~~
21 ~~each school year thereafter~~ THROUGH THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR, the
22 department of education, in coordination with the department of labor and
23 employment, the department of higher education, the Colorado
24 community college system, and employers from in-demand industries,
25 shall identify the top ten industry-recognized credentials, each of which
26 must at a minimum meet the requirements specified in subsection (3.5)(b)
27 of this section. For each of the identified credentials, the department of

1 education shall identify the state content standards that align with the
2 courses required to obtain the credential and post on the department's
3 website an explanation of the standards and course alignments for each
4 credential.

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

14 (5) (a) ~~Beginning in the 2023-24 budget year and each budget year~~
15 ~~thereafter, the general assembly shall annually appropriate at least nine~~
16 ~~million five hundred thousand dollars to the department of education for~~
17 ~~the career development success program.~~ FOR THE 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR,
18 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION DOLLARS TO
19 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT
20 SUCCESS PROGRAM. The department shall distribute the money as
21 provided in this subsection (5).

22 (8) At the hearing with the joint education committee of the
23 general assembly held in accordance with section 2-7-203 in November
24 or December 2017, and at the hearing held each year thereafter THROUGH
25 2025, the department of education shall provide a report that describes the
26 outcomes achieved by the career development success program. At a
27 minimum, the report must include the following information:

1 (9) This section is repealed, effective ~~September 1, 2034~~ JULY 1,
2 2029.

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

5 **23-1-135. Department directive - undergraduate degree and**
6 **certificate programs - annual return on investment report - definition**
7 **- repeal.** (3) (b) The return on investment report must include
8 information concerning the undergraduate degree and certificate
9 programs offered at each institution including, at a minimum:

10 (I) The number of students enrolled in the undergraduate degree
11 or certificate program and the number of degrees and certificates awarded
12 annually for the program; specifically identifying the number of high
13 school students enrolled and the number of degrees and certificates
14 awarded; ~~through the career development success program created in~~
15 ~~section 22-54-138;~~

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

18 **23-5-145.6. Opportunities for credential attainment - fund -**
19 **report - definitions - repeal.** (3) By January 1, 2024, the department, in
20 consultation with the representatives described in section 23-5-145.5 (5),
21 shall facilitate the creation of stackable credential pathways for at least
22 three growing industries identified by the most recent Colorado talent
23 report. By January 1, 2025, the department, in consultation with the
24 representatives described in section 23-5-145.5 (5), shall facilitate the
25 creation of stackable credential pathways for at least two additional
26 growing industries identified by the most recent Colorado talent report.
27 The department shall facilitate the creation of at least two stackable

1 credential pathways for each industry. The stackable credential pathways
2 must include:

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

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

10 **23-5-145.8. Credential quality standards - report - definitions.**

11 (2) (c) Beginning January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
12 department, in collaboration with the Colorado work force development
13 council, the department of education, the department of labor and
14 employment, and the Colorado office of economic development, shall
15 evaluate nondegree credentials offered through state-recognized programs
16 to ensure the credentials meet the quality standards set forth in the quality
17 nondegree credentials framework. State-recognized programs that are
18 required to ensure nondegree credential offerings meet the quality
19 standards set forth in the quality nondegree credentials framework
20 include, but are not limited to,

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

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

25 **SECTION 21.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-18-202, **amend**
26 (5)(c)(III) as follows:

27 **23-18-202. College opportunity fund - appropriations -**

1 **payment of stipends - reimbursement - report - repeal.**

2 (5) (c) (III) For an eligible undergraduate student who has completed one
3 or more college courses while enrolled in high school pursuant to the
4 "Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act", article 35 of title 22, ~~or while~~
5 ~~designated as an ASCENT program participant pursuant to section~~
6 ~~22-35-108~~ or as a TREP program participant pursuant to section
7 22-35-108.5, or while enrolled in a pathways in technology early college
8 high school pursuant to article 35.3 of title 22, all college-level credit
9 hours earned by the student while so enrolled do not count against the
10 lifetime limitation described in subsection (5)(c)(I) of this section.

11 **SECTION 22.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-46.3-602,
12 **amend** (4) as follows:

13 **24-46.3-602. Definitions.** As used in this part 6 and part 7 of this
14 article 46.3, unless the context otherwise requires:

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

24 **SECTION 23.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-6-103, **amend**
25 (5) as follows:

26 **26.5-6-103. Pathways to the classroom and retention strategies**
27 **for early childhood educators - standards - alignment across agencies**

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

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

12 **SECTION 25. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
13 except that sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23
14 of this act take effect July 1, 2026.

15 **SECTION 26. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
16 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
18 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
19 institutions.