



Workforce and Skills Legislation at the Capitol

The following bills in the 2020 Colorado General Assembly focus on some issues related to skills training for Colorado workers.

SUPPORT

Senate Bill 20-009 Senators Rachel Zenzinger (D) & Bob Rankin (R) and Rep Barbara McLachlan (D) **Expand Adult Education Grant Program**

The Issue:

More than 300,000 of Coloradans do not have a High School Diploma. Approximately 336,000 of Coloradans do not speak or read English well. Colorado is among the states with the lowest state investment in adult education- less than \$2 million for two programs. Current funding is targeted to serve those closest to completing their high school equivalency diploma. Those not well served under the limited current funding are those struggling with basic literacy.

What would this proposal do?

To expand one of the existing Adult Education Grant Programs, establishing in 2014 to include not only the current partnerships with post-secondary institutions and job training and placement programs, but partnerships with K-12 schools, since many of these students are caregivers to children.

Fiscal Impact: None as amended.

Status: Amended. Signed into law.

House Bill 20-1002 Representative Barbara McLachlan (D) and Mark Baisley (R) and Senators Rachel Zenzinger (D) and Tammy Story (D)

College Credit for Work Experience

An existing Council of Colo Dept of Higher Ed would create, adopt and implement a plan to award postsecondary credit for work-related experience, and guarantee transfer of credit between institutions.

Fiscal Note: \$156,828

Status: Amended. Signed into law.

House Bill 20-1053 Representatives Emily Sirota (D) & Jim Wilson (R) and Senator Tammy Story (D)
Supports for Early Childhood Educator Workforce

The Issue:

Colorado has a significant shortage of Child Care Workers. Low pay, combined with required credentials and high responsibility, makes it difficult to attract and retain needed workers.

What would this proposal do?

It addresses the issue in many ways. Of most relevance to Skills2Compete, it recognizes prior experience, including outside Colorado as counting toward credentials. It allows workers in classrooms as they work to complete a credential.

Fiscal Impact: None

Status: Signed in law.

House Bill 20-1110 Representatives Barbara McLachlan(D) and Tony Exum (D)
Higher Education Student Emergency Assistance Grants

The Problem: Low Income College Students may have a small dollar financial emergency that must be addressed- e.g. sudden rent increase, broken cell phone, stolen laptop, car repair, etc. If they do not have savings or available credit, or family that can help them out, they may leave school to work more “to catch up”. If they leave BEFORE completing their credential, they lose out on potential increased earning that come from a credential.

What would this proposal do?

This bill would authorize dollars for a student emergency fund and institutions. Up to \$500 would be available to meet lower income students’ financial emergencies in their final year so that they can complete their credential without leaving school.

Fiscal note: \$500,000 yr

Status: KILLED

House Bill 20-1280 Representatives Catherine Kipp (D) and Colin Larson (R) and Senators Bridges (D) and Jim Smallwood (R)

CDHE Data for Student Return on Investment Metrics

The bill authorizes the department of higher education (department) to collect the data necessary to calculate return on investment metrics similar to the student cost and employment outcome information for certain higher education institutions not currently covered in the department's annual return on investment report.

Fiscal note: None

Status: Signed into Law

MONITOR

Senate Bill 20-006 Senator Rachel Zenzinger (D) and Tammy Story (D) and Representatives Cathy Kipp (D) and Mark Baisley (R)

Amend Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative

This bill allows more of the matching dollars to be received by local governments versus non-profits.

It changes allowable use from Tuition assistance to financial assistance. It removes the 10% cap on used of money for support services.

Fiscal Note: \$5 million total to over a two-year period.

Signed into Law.

Senate Bill 20-081 Senators Jessie Danielson (D) and Jeff Bridges (D) and Representatives Tom Sullivan (D) and Colin Larson (R)

School Information for Apprenticeship Directory

Directs CDLE to collaborate with Colo Department of Ed to include in the directory the name and contact information for a designated apprenticeship training program contact for every public high school and school district.

Fiscal Note: No fiscal note.

Signed into Law.

Senate Bill 20-120 Senator Jessie Danielson (D)

Apprentice Examinations and Professional Licenses

Requires that after 6 years as an apprentice, the apprentice must test periodically until they pass licensure.

Fiscal Note: None

Signed into law

House Bill 20-1275 Representative Bri Buentello (D) and Senator Dennis Hisey (R)

In-State Tuition at Community College for Military

The bill allows an active or honorably discharged member of the armed forces of the United States or a dependent of said member eligibility for in-state tuition status at a community college regardless of whether the person satisfies Colorado domicile or residency status.

Fiscal note: None

Signed into law

House Bill 20-1326 Representatives Shannon Byrd (D) and Kevin Van Winkle(R)

Create Occupational Credential Portability Program

This bill creates the Occupational Credential Portability Program in the Division of Professions and Occupations in the Department of Regulatory Agencies to centralize the credentialing of individuals licensed in another state.

Fiscal note: None

Signed into law.

House Bill 20-1366 Representatives Daneya Esgar (D) and Julie McCluskie (D)

Higher Education Funding Allocation Model

This bill creates a new higher education funding allocation model beginning in fiscal year 2021-22. This changes how the state appropriation is allocated among institutions but does not change to total state expenditure. Funding will be based on ongoing base funding, performance funding based on student performance and student demographics, and potential temporary additional funding.

Fiscal note: None

Signed into law.

House Bill 20-1395 Representative Julie McCluskie (D) and Kim Ransom (R)

Repeal Work Act; Transfer Money to General Fund

This budget balancing bill repeals the Work Act, which providing matching funds to do outreach and publicity for training opportunities.

Fiscal note: Returns \$3.3 million to the general fund.

Signed into law.

House Bill 20-1396 Representatives Daneya Esgar (D) and Julie McCluskie (D) **Workforce Development Council Online Career Platform**

This bill formalizes the authority behind the web platform *My Colorado Journey*, which superseded *College in Colorado* with more extensive information about education and training opportunities and career development. It repeals the Talent Pipeline Cash Fund. It also specifies that state council requirements related to career pathways are subject to available appropriation or money from other sources.

Signed into law.

KILLED

Senate Bill 20-004 Senator Fenberg (D) and Representatives Leslie Herod (D) and Julie McCluskie (D)

Post-Secondary Education Loan Repayment Assistance

The state would cover the entire first two years of income-based loan repayments for students who live and work in Colorado who graduate from public Colorado institutions with an AA or BA on or after January 25, 2021.

Fiscal Note: Approx \$6.6 million/ yr

Senate Bill 20-031 Senator Tammy Story (D) and Representative Cathy Kipp (D)

Improve Student Success Innovation Pilot

This bill encourages collaboration between institutions of higher education to meet and discuss and research what prevent students completing credentials. It would also authorize them to establish pilot programs to address identified issues to increase student completion of credentials.

Fiscal Note: \$1 million

Senate Bill 20-112 Senator Kevin Priola (R) and Representative Bri Buentello (D)

College Trust Scholarship for Early Graduation

For a student who graduated from high school early, the amount the state would have contributed to the student's high school education is made available for college costs, until age 21. Unused funds would go to reduce the K-12 Budget Stabilization Factor.

Senate Bill 20-131 Senators Mike Foote (D) and Chris Holbert (R)

Reimbursement to P-Tech School for College Costs

School districts can apply to Department of Ed for reimbursement of tuition and fees and books

Fiscal note: \$2 million/yr

KILLED

Senate Bill 20-143 Senator Tammy Story (D) and Representative Mary Young (D)

Funding Higher Ed Student Transition Programs

Grants to partnering 2- and 4-year institutions to coordinate student transitions between them.

Fiscal Note: \$1.5 million /year

KILLED

House Bill 20-1015 Representative Bri Buentello (D) and Jeff Bridges (D)

Future Educators Pathways Grant Program

Grants in Colorado Department of Education to local education providers, to create career future education pathways for those pursuing a career in education. Definition does include early childhood educators. Program includes concurrent enrollment, apprenticeships leading to college credit. 25% local match required. Must fund a mix of rural, urban and suburban. 20% must go to rural local education providers. 79% must go to apprenticeships.

Fiscal Note: \$555,000/yr

KILLED

House Bill 20-1240 Representative Julie McCluskie (D) and Perry Will (R)

Early College Program and P Tech School Expansion

The bill creates an advisory committee, expands a grant program, and makes other changes related to programs for high school students enrolling in postsecondary courses.

Fiscal Note: \$1.3 million/yr

Killed

House Bill 20-1276 Representative Tim Geitner (R)

Individualized Student Degree Programs

The bill creates a pilot program is designed to assist school districts and charter schools in providing individualized degree programs that enable a participating student to design and complete an educational program that is unique to the student and results in the simultaneous completion of a high school diploma and a baccalaureate degree during the 4 years in which the student is enrolled in high school.

Fiscal Note: Approximately \$250,000

House Bill 20-1346 Representatives Shannon Byrd (D), Lisa Cutter (D) and Senator Lee (R)

Extend Innovative Industries Workforce Development Program

Extends the repeal data for this program for 5 years until July 1, 2025.

Fiscal note: \$1,074,547/yr

Copies of the full bills are available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>

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