

Second 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. 26-0817.01 Conrad Imel x2313

HOUSE BILL 26-1175

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Brown and Sirota, Taggart, Clifford, Duran, Gonzalez R., Lieder, McCluskie, Nguyen, Slaugh, Stewart K., Weinberg, Winter T.

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Kirkmeyer, Amabile

House Committees

Appropriations

Senate Committees

Appropriations

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**CONCERNING SPENDING FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND FOR
SPECIFIED EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, AND, IN CONNECTION
THEREWITH, PERMITTING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE STATE
EDUCATION FUND FOR THE COLORADO TEACHER OF THE YEAR
PROGRAM AND REQUIRING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE STATE
EDUCATION FUND FOR SPECIFIED PURPOSES IN SUPPORT OF THE
"COLORADO READ ACT", DISCONTINUING ANNUAL TRANSFERS
TO CASH FUNDS FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND FOR THE
SAME, AND REPEALING THE CASH FUNDS.**

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
February 19, 2026

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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

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
February 12, 2026

HOUSE
2nd Reading Unamended
February 11, 2026

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.

applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Joint Budget Committee. Under existing law, money is annually transferred from the state education fund to the Colorado teacher of the year fund for the Colorado teacher of the year program and to the early literacy fund to fund specified purposes in support of the "Colorado READ Act".

The bill discontinues the annual transfers and instead permits the general assembly to appropriate money from the state education fund for the Colorado teacher of the year program and requires the general assembly to appropriate at least \$34 million from the state education fund for the same specified purposes in support of the "Colorado READ Act". The bill repeals the Colorado teacher of the year fund and the early literacy fund, effective September 1, 2027.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-61.5-105, **amend**
3 (1)(a.5); and **add** (5) and (6) as follows:

4 **22-61.5-105. Colorado teacher of the year fund - created -**
5 **legislative declaration - repeal.**

6 (1) (a.5) In addition to any ~~moneys~~ MONEY credited to the fund
7 pursuant to ~~paragraph (a) of this subsection~~ (1) SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS
8 SECTION, beginning in the 2014-15 budget year and in each budget year
9 thereafter THROUGH THE 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR, the state treasurer shall
10 annually transfer from the state education fund created in section 17 (4)
11 of article IX of the state constitution to the fund twenty-four thousand
12 eight hundred dollars.

13 (5) (a) ON JULY 1, 2026, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER
14 ALL UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND THAT DOES
15 NOT ORIGINATE FROM GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS CREDITED TO THE
16 FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION TO THE STATE
17 EDUCATION FUND.

4 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027.

5 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-61.5-104, **add** (4)
6 as follows:

7 **22-61.5-104. Colorado teacher of the year program - created**
8 **- administration - funding - legislative declaration - rules.**

12 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT, FOR PURPOSES OF
13 SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, THE COLORADO
14 TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN
15 PROVIDING PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES FOR TEACHERS AND MAY
16 THEREFORE RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND
17 CREATED IN SECTION 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

18 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1210, **amend**
19 (1) introductory portion and (1)(d)(I); and **add** (8) and (9) as follows:

20 **22-7-1210. Early literacy fund - created - legislative**
21 **declaration - repeal.**

22 (1) The early literacy fund is hereby created in the state treasury
23 and is referred to in this section as the "fund". The fund shall consist
24 CONSISTS of:

25 (d) (I) For the 2013-14 budget year, an amount equal to sixteen
26 million dollars from the state education fund, and for the 2014-15 budget
27 year, and each budget year thereafter THROUGH THE 2025-26 BUDGET

1 YEAR, an amount equal to thirty-four million dollars from the state
2 education fund. On July 1, 2013, and on July 1 each year thereafter
3 THROUGH JULY 1, 2025, the state treasurer shall transfer the appropriate
4 amount from the state education fund to the early literacy fund.

5 (8) (a) ON JULY 1, 2026, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER
6 ALL UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND TO THE
7 STATE EDUCATION FUND; EXCEPT THAT THE STATE TREASURER SHALL NOT
8 TRANSFER THE MONEY IN THE FUND THAT REMAINS AVAILABLE FOR
9 EXPENDITURE THROUGH THE 2026-27 STATE FISCAL YEAR FOR THE
10 DEPARTMENT'S "COLORADO READ ACT" TARGETED TRAINING INITIATIVE
11 THAT PROVIDES LITERACY EDUCATION TRAINING FOR TEACHERS, READING
12 INTERVENTIONISTS, PRINCIPALS, AND ADMINISTRATORS.

13 (b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ALL UNEXPENDED
14 AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND ON AUGUST 31, 2027, TO THE
15 STATE EDUCATION FUND.

16 (9) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027.

17 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-7-1215** as
18 follows:

19 **22-7-1215. Funding for part - state education fund - legislative
20 declaration.**

21 (1) BEGINNING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27, THE GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY SHALL ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE AT LEAST THIRTY-FOUR
23 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN
24 SECTION 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION FOR THE
25 FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

26 (a) TO IMPLEMENT THE PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN TO
27 PROMOTE READING DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-7-1209 (7);

4 (c) TO IMPLEMENT THE EARLY LITERACY GRANT PROGRAM
5 CREATED IN SECTION 22-7-1211;

6 (d) TO ALLOCATE PER-PUPIL INTERVENTION MONEY TO LOCAL
7 EDUCATION PROVIDERS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 22-7-1210.5; AND

1 TO THE FOURTH-GRADE CURRICULUM, WHICH IS A PROGRAM FOR
2 ACCOUNTABLE EDUCATION REFORM, AND MAY THEREFORE RECEIVE
3 FUNDING FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN SECTION 17 (4)
4 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

5 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1211, **amend**
6 (3) introductory portion as follows:

7 **22-7-1211. Early literacy grant program - created -**
8 **definitions.**

9 (3) Based on the recommendations of the department, the state
10 board shall award grants to applying local education providers or groups
11 of local education providers, which grants are paid from money in the
12 early literacy fund created in section 22-7-1210 OR FROM MONEY
13 APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1215 FOR THE EARLY
14 LITERACY GRANT PROGRAM. Of the money allocated OR APPROPRIATED
15 for the early literacy grant program, ~~pursuant to section 22-7-1210 (4)~~, the
16 state board shall annually:

17 **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
18 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
20 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
21 institutions.