



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

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Bill Number

Senate Bill 16-079

Sponsors

Senator Todd
Representative Young

Short Title

***Align Secondary and
Postsecondary Career and
Technical Education Initiatives***

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill. The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House Education Committee on May 2, 2016.

Summary

This bill requires that school districts align a student's individual career and academic plan (ICAP) with the student's plan of study when the student is pursuing one of the career pathways established in current law. A career pathway is a series of connected education and training strategies and support services that enable students to secure industry-relevant skills and certification, where applicable, to obtain employment within an occupational area, and to advance to higher levels of future education and employment.

The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to ensure that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) aligns the department's postsecondary and workforce readiness with the model plans of study designed by the Colorado Community College System (CCCS). The CDE is required to collaborate with the CCCS to create and make available informational materials explaining the alignment of state academic standards, high school graduation guidelines, and postsecondary and workforce programs with the model plans of study.

Finally, the bill prohibits schools from releasing a student's ICAP or any personally identifiable data to a person who is not an employee of the school or school district, or an entity that is not part of the school or school district, without written consent from the parent or legal guardian. It also requires each school or district to provide assurances to CDE that it has prepared and is maintaining an ICAP for each student enrolled in grades nine through twelve. The assurances may not include any personally identifiable data.

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Background

Individual Career and Academic Plans. ICAPs are required for all students enrolled in public schools in the state. The ICAP is a tool for students, parents, and teachers to develop and maintain a personalized postsecondary career and educational plan. The ICAP assists a student and his or her parents to explore the postsecondary career and educational opportunities available, align course work and curriculum, apply to postsecondary education institutions, secure financial aid, and ultimately enter the workforce.

Career pathways. Current law requires that community colleges, state education departments, and government and industry stakeholders design various career pathways for students. For example, pursuant to House Bill 13-1165, a model plan was developed for students seeking employment in the manufacturing sector.

Senate Bill 14-205 required that the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) work with the state education departments and the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) to develop a talent pipeline infrastructure for use in creating career pathways for students.

House Bill 15-1274 required the design of integrated career pathways within identified growth industries, and where no clearly articulated career pathways are currently available. That bill required the design of at least one career pathway for implementation during the 2016-17 academic year, and the design of at least two additional career pathways ready for implementation at the beginning of each subsequent academic year.

Senate Action

Senate Education Committee (February 4 and February 11, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from the Colorado Association of Career and Technical Educators, the Colorado School Counselor Association, and Associated General Contractors of Colorado testified in support of the bill. The committee adopted amendment L.002 and referred the bill, as amended, to the Senate Committee of the Whole. Amendment L.002 clarified that schools are prohibited from releasing a student's ICAP or any personally identifiable data to a person who is not an employee of the school or school district, or an entity that is not part of the school or school district, without written consent from the parent or legal guardian. It also required each school or district to provide assurances to CDE that it has prepared and is maintaining an ICAP for each student enrolled in grades nine through twelve. The assurances may not include any personally identifiable data.

Senate second reading (February 19, 2016). The Senate adopted the Senate Education Committee report and passed the bill with no amendments.

Senate third reading (February 22, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

House Action

House Education Committee (May 2, 2016). The committee postponed the bill indefinitely.