

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**ENGROSSED**

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

LLS NO. 20-0591.01 Brita Darling x2241

**HOUSE BILL 20-1128**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Buentello and Wilson**, Young

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Zenzinger and Priola**,

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**House Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATORS TO**  
102 **INCREASE AWARENESS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ISSUES.**

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

For renewal of an educator license, the bill requires teachers, special services providers, principals, and administrators to complete 10 clock hours of professional development during the term of the license relating to increasing awareness of laws and practices relating to the education of students with disabilities in the classroom, including but not limited to child find and inclusive learning environments.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
February 20, 2020

The bill also requires each educator preparation program, alternative teacher program, and alternative principal preparation program to include course work that provides educator candidates or alternative teacher or principals with an overview of federal laws relating to the education of students with disabilities, individualized education programs, and child find and that teaches educators effective special education classroom practices, including but not limited to inclusive learning environments.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 hereby finds that:

4 (a) Every student needing special education services in  
5 kindergarten through twelfth grade is covered by the "Individuals with  
6 Disabilities Education Act", 20 U.S.C. sec. 1400 et seq., as amended, and  
7 its implementing regulations, 34 CFR 300. This federal law states that  
8 every child with a disability is entitled to a free and appropriate education,  
9 with special education services delivered in the least restrictive  
10 environment possible, and must be provided with specially designed  
11 instruction according to the student's individualized education program  
12 (IEP).

13 (b) Inclusive classroom environments where students with special  
14 needs are included in general education classrooms benefit students both  
15 with and without disabilities;

16 (c) Despite federal and state guidelines making sure special  
17 education students get a proper education, many students with disabilities  
18 and their families are being left behind in Colorado;

19 (d) In 2018, less than ten percent of students who had an IEP were  
20 meeting grade level expectations in grades three through eight, and less  
21 than sixty percent of students identified with a disability graduate high

1 school in four years;

2 (e) Moreover, thirty-three percent of all students who have been  
3 suspended in kindergarten through second grade had an IEP; and

4 (f) Educator preparation programs in Colorado are not required to  
5 prepare teacher and administrator candidates on special education laws  
6 and regulations, creating great variability among educators on the  
7 knowledge of federal and state laws regarding special education and best  
8 practices for inclusive classrooms.

9 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that teachers, special  
10 services providers, principals, and administrators should be aware of  
11 special education laws and requirements and effective special education  
12 practices, including but not limited to inclusive learning environments, as  
13 part of the professional development requirements for renewal of  
14 educator licenses, and that the teaching of special education laws and  
15 effective special education practices should be required for all students  
16 in Colorado's educator preparation programs.

17 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-110, **amend**  
18 (3)(b) introductory portion, (3)(b)(I), (3)(b.5), (3)(c)(X), and (3)(c)(XI);  
19 and **add** (3)(b.7), (3)(b.8), and (3)(c)(XII) as follows:

20 **22-60.5-110. Renewal of licenses.** (3) (b) A professional licensee  
21 shall complete such ongoing professional development within the period  
22 of time for which such professional license is valid. Such professional  
23 development may include, but need not be limited to, in-service education  
24 programs, including programs concerning juvenile mental health issues  
25 and the awareness and prevention of youth suicide; ~~and~~ training in  
26 preventing, identifying, and responding to child sexual abuse and assault;  
27 AND LAWS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

1 WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
2 CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS; college or  
3 university credit from an accepted institution of higher education or a  
4 community, technical, or local district college; educational travel that  
5 meets the requirements specified in subsection (3)(d) of this section;  
6 involvement in school reform; service as a mentor teacher for teacher  
7 candidates participating in clinical practice, as defined in section  
8 23-78-103; internships; and ongoing professional development training  
9 and experiences. The state board of education, by rule, may establish  
10 minimum criteria for professional development; except that such criteria  
11 shall not:

12 (b) (I) Specify any particular type of professional development  
13 activity as a requirement or partial requirement for license renewal,  
14 EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b.7) OF THIS SECTION;

15 (b.5) In adopting minimum criteria for professional development  
16 activities, the state board, by rule, may require all or a portion of the  
17 professional development activities to be related to increasing the license  
18 holder's competence in his or her existing or potential endorsement area;  
19 ~~or to~~ increasing the professional licensee's skills and competence in  
20 delivery of instruction in his or her existing or potential endorsement area;  
21 ~~or in~~ the teaching of literacy; OR INCREASING AWARENESS OF LAWS AND  
22 PRACTICES RELATING TO EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE  
23 CLASSROOM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE  
24 LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

25 (b.7) (I) IN ADOPTING MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR PROFESSIONAL  
26 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, THE STATE BOARD, BY RULE, SHALL REQUIRE  
27 AT LEAST TEN CLOCK HOURS OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1 REQUIRED DURING THE TERM OF ANY PROFESSIONAL LICENSE TO RELATE  
2 TO INCREASING AWARENESS OF LAWS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO  
3 EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM, INCLUDING  
4 EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIORAL CONCERNS OR BEHAVIORAL  
5 DISABILITIES, WHICH LAWS AND PRACTICES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED  
6 TO CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

7 (II) A LICENSEE WHO HAS LESS THAN THREE YEARS LEFT IN THE  
8 LICENSE RENEWAL PERIOD ON JUNE 30, 2020, HAS UNTIL THE END OF THE  
9 NEXT APPLICABLE RENEWAL PERIOD TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS  
10 ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b.7)(I) OF THIS SECTION AND MAY  
11 SUBMIT CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES COMPLETED WITHIN FIVE YEARS PRIOR  
12 TO JUNE 30, 2020, TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION  
13 (3)(b.7)(I) OF THIS SECTION.

14 (b.8) NOTHING IN SUBSECTION (3)(b.7)(I) OF THIS SECTION  
15 PROHIBITS A LICENSEE FROM APPLYING A SINGLE PROFESSIONAL  
16 DEVELOPMENT COURSE OR ABILITY TO ONE OR MORE CONTENT OR HOURLY  
17 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION OR BY RULE OF  
18 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

19 (c) In selecting professional development activities for the  
20 renewal of a professional license pursuant to this section, each licensee  
21 shall choose those activities that will aid the licensee in meeting the  
22 standards for a professional educator, including but not limited to the  
23 following goals:

24 (X) Effective organization and management of human and  
25 financial resources to create a safe and effective working and learning  
26 environment; and

27 (XI) Awareness of warning signs of dangerous behavior in youth

1 and situations that present a threat to the health and safety of students and  
2 knowledge of the community resources available to enhance the health  
3 and safety of students and the school community; AND

4 (XII) AWARENESS OF LAWS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO  
5 EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM, INCLUDING  
6 BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING  
7 ENVIRONMENTS, AND RELATING TO STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIORAL  
8 CONCERNS OR BEHAVIORAL DISABILITIES.

9 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-111, **amend**  
10 (14)(c)(II) and (14)(c)(III); and **add** (14)(c)(IV) as follows:

11 **22-60.5-111. Authorization - types - applicants' qualifications**  
12 **- rules. (14) Principal authorization. (c)** At a minimum, a person's  
13 individualized alternative principal program shall ensure that:

14 (II) The person receives coaching and mentoring from one or  
15 more licensed principals and administrators and continuing  
16 performance-based assessment of the person's skills development; except  
17 that, if the person participates in an individualized alternative principal  
18 program offered by a nonpublic school, the person must receive coaching  
19 and mentoring from one or more principals and administrators who have  
20 three or more years of experience in a nonpublic school; ~~and~~

21 (III) The person demonstrates professional competencies in  
22 subject matter areas as specified by rule of the state board of education  
23 pursuant to section 22-60.5-303; AND

24 (IV) THE PERSON RECEIVES EDUCATION AND TRAINING THAT  
25 PROVIDES THE PERSON WITH AN OVERVIEW OF TITLE II OF THE FEDERAL  
26 "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET  
27 SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; SECTION 504

1 OF THE FEDERAL "REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 701 ET  
2 SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; THE  
3 "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400  
4 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS;  
5 INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND CHILD FIND AND THAT  
6 TEACHES EFFECTIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM PRACTICES,  
7 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

8 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-205, **add**  
9 (2)(i) as follows:

10 **22-60.5-205. One-year and two-year alternative teacher**  
11 **programs - legislative declaration - standards and evaluation - duties**  
12 **of department - duties of the state board of education - fees.**

13 (2) Designated agencies are hereby authorized to implement one-year  
14 alternative teacher programs or two-year alternative teacher programs,  
15 which two-year programs were formerly known as teacher in residence  
16 programs, as follows:

17 (i) AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE COURSE  
18 WORK THAT PROVIDES ALTERNATIVE TEACHERS WITH AN OVERVIEW OF  
19 TITLE II OF THE FEDERAL "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990",  
20 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING  
21 REGULATIONS; SECTION 504 OF THE FEDERAL "REHABILITATION ACT OF  
22 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 701 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING  
23 REGULATIONS; THE "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT",  
24 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING  
25 REGULATIONS; INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND CHILD FIND  
26 AND THAT TEACHES EFFECTIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM  
27 PRACTICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO INCLUSIVE LEARNING

1 ENVIRONMENTS.

2           **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-305.5, **add**  
3 (3)(a.5) as follows:

4           **22-60.5-305.5. Alternative principal preparation program -**  
5 **legislative declaration.** (3) In designing an individualized alternative  
6 principal program, the school district, charter school, or nonpublic school  
7 shall, at a minimum, ensure that:

8           (a.5) THE PROGRAM PROVIDES INFORMATION AND TRAINING THAT  
9 INCLUDES AN OVERVIEW OF TITLE II OF THE FEDERAL "AMERICANS WITH  
10 DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED,  
11 AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; SECTION 504 OF THE FEDERAL  
12 "REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 701 ET SEQ., AS  
13 AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; THE "INDIVIDUALS WITH  
14 DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ., AS  
15 AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; INDIVIDUALIZED  
16 EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND CHILD FIND AND THAT TEACHES EFFECTIVE  
17 SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM PRACTICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED  
18 TO INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

19           **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-121, **add**  
20 (2)(c.7) as follows:

21           **23-1-121. Commission directive - approval of educator**  
22 **preparation programs - review.** (2) The commission shall adopt  
23 policies establishing the requirements for educator preparation programs  
24 offered by institutions of higher education. The department shall work in  
25 cooperation with the state board of education in developing the  
26 requirements for educator preparation programs. At a minimum, the  
27 requirements must ensure that each educator preparation program



1 complies with section 23-1-125, is designed on a performance-based  
2 model, and includes:

3 (c.7) COURSE WORK THAT PROVIDES EDUCATOR CANDIDATES WITH  
4 AN OVERVIEW OF TITLE II OF THE FEDERAL "AMERICANS WITH  
5 DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED,  
6 AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; SECTION 504 OF THE FEDERAL  
7 "REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 701 ET SEQ., AS  
8 AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; THE "INDIVIDUALS WITH  
9 DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ., AS  
10 AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; INDIVIDUALIZED  
11 EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND CHILD FIND AND THAT TEACHES EDUCATORS  
12 EFFECTIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM PRACTICES, INCLUDING BUT  
13 NOT LIMITED TO INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS;

14 **SECTION 7. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
15 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
16 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.