

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

**ENGROSSED**

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

LLS NO. 21-0264.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**HOUSE BILL 21-1059**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Geitner and Bradfield,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lundeen,**

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**House Committees**  
Education

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN**  
102 **ONLINE INSTRUCTION.**

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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>.)*

If a school district, board of cooperative services, or charter school (local education provider) provides educational programming via online instruction to a student (online student), the bill prohibits the local education provider from:

- Prohibiting the online student's parent from being present while the student participates in online instruction;

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  
April 20, 2021

- Recording the online student without prior written approval from the student's parent;
- Imposing requirements concerning the online student's physical environment except to directly assist the student in focusing on instruction; and
- Suspending or expelling an online student based on an item observed in the student's physical environment or the student's behavior while participating in online instruction, unless the behavior constitutes repeated interference with the local education provider's ability to provide online instruction to other students.

The bill specifies that the limitation on suspending or expelling an online student applies to suspensions and expulsions that occur on or after March 23, 2020.

The bill specifies that the premises, facilities, and buildings of an educational institution do not include the private residence of an online student for purposes of the crime of interference with staff, faculty, or students of educational institutions.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-1-131 as  
3 follows:

4 **22-1-131. Online instruction - student protections - definitions.**

5 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
6 REQUIRES:

7 (a) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT  
8 CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 30 OF THIS TITLE 22, A BOARD OF  
9 COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE  
10 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO  
11 PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, OR AN INSTITUTE CHARTER  
12 SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE  
13 PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22.

14 (b) "ONLINE INSTRUCTION" MEANS THE DELIVERY OF  
15 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING VIA AN INTERNET FORMAT BY A LOCAL

1 EDUCATION PROVIDER TO A STUDENT WHO IS ENROLLED IN THE LOCAL  
2 EDUCATION PROVIDER AND IS RECEIVING THE EDUCATIONAL  
3 PROGRAMMING AT A LOCATION THAT IS REMOTE FROM A SCHOOL. "ONLINE  
4 INSTRUCTION" INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, EDUCATIONAL  
5 PROGRAMMING DELIVERED THROUGH AN ONLINE PROGRAM, AS DEFINED  
6 IN SECTION 22-30.7-102 (9); AN ONLINE SCHOOL, AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
7 22-30.7-102 (9.5); AND A SUPPLEMENTAL ONLINE EDUCATION COURSE, AS  
8 DEFINED IN SECTION 22-2-130 (2)(f).

9 (c) "PARENT" MEANS A BIOLOGICAL PARENT, ADOPTIVE PARENT,  
10 LEGAL GUARDIAN, OR ANY OTHER PERSON HAVING LEGAL CUSTODY OF A  
11 CHILD.

12 (2) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER THAT DELIVERS EDUCATIONAL  
13 PROGRAMMING TO A STUDENT USING ONLINE INSTRUCTION SHALL NOT:

14 (a) PROHIBIT OR ATTEMPT TO PROHIBIT THE STUDENT'S PARENT  
15 FROM BEING IN THE SAME ROOM AS THE STUDENT WHILE THE STUDENT  
16 PARTICIPATES IN ONLINE INSTRUCTION OR OTHERWISE SUGGEST THAT THE  
17 PARENT SHOULD NOT BE IN THE SAME ROOM WHILE THE STUDENT  
18 PARTICIPATES IN ONLINE INSTRUCTION; EXCEPT THAT THE PERSON  
19 LEADING THE ONLINE INSTRUCTION MAY REQUIRE A STUDENT'S PARENT TO  
20 LEAVE THE AREA IF THE PARENT CONTINUES TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN  
21 BEHAVIOR THAT DISRUPTS THE STUDENT OR THE CLASS AFTER THE PERSON  
22 LEADING THE ONLINE INSTRUCTION ASKS THE PARENT TO DISCONTINUE  
23 THE BEHAVIOR;

24 [REDACTED]

25 (b) REQUIRE A STUDENT TO USE A CAMERA TO PROVIDE A LIVE  
26 DIGITAL IMAGE OF THE STUDENT WHILE THE STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN  
27 ONLINE INSTRUCTION IF THE STUDENT'S TECHNOLOGY DOES NOT ALLOW

1 FOR SUCH USE OF A CAMERA.

2 (3) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL NOT SUSPEND OR EXPEL  
3 A STUDENT BASED ON THE PRESENCE OF AN ITEM THAT AN EMPLOYEE OF  
4 THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER OBSERVES WITHIN THE STUDENT'S  
5 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT WHILE THE STUDENT IS PARTICIPATING IN ONLINE  
6 INSTRUCTION OR BASED ON THE STUDENT'S BEHAVIOR WHILE  
7 PARTICIPATING IN ONLINE INSTRUCTION; EXCEPT THAT A LOCAL  
8 EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY SUSPEND A STUDENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
9 SECTIONS 22-33-105 AND 22-33-106.

10 SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-33-106, **add** (5)  
11 as follows:

12 **22-33-106. Grounds for suspension, expulsion, and denial of**  
13 **admission.** (5) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION TO  
14 THE CONTRARY, A STUDENT WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN ONLINE  
15 INSTRUCTION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-1-131 (1), MAY BE SUSPENDED  
16 ONLY ON THE GROUNDS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 22-1-131 (3). IF A STUDENT  
17 WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN ONLINE INSTRUCTION IS SUSPENDED OR  
18 EXPELLED ON OR AFTER MARCH 23, 2020, ON GROUNDS OTHER THAN  
19 THOSE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 22-1-131 (3), THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR  
20 PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT SUSPENDS OR EXPELS THE STUDENT SHALL REVOKE  
21 THE SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION AND EXPUNGE THE SUSPENSION OR  
22 EXPULSION FROM THE STUDENT'S RECORD.

23 SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-9-109, **add** (7) as  
24 follows:

25 **18-9-109. Interference with staff, faculty, or students of**  
26 **educational institutions.** (7) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE  
27 PREMISES, FACILITIES, AND BUILDINGS OF AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

1 DO NOT INCLUDE THE PRIVATE RESIDENCE OF A STUDENT WHO IS  
2 PARTICIPATING IN ONLINE INSTRUCTION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-1-131  
3 (1).

4 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.