

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

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 24-1153.01 Anna Petrini x5497

HOUSE BILL 24-1446

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McLachlan and Hartsook,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Buckner and Pelton B.,

House Committees

Education
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING IMPROVING RESOURCES FOR SCIENCE EDUCATORS, AND,**
102 **IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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>.)

The bill requires the department of education to develop and offer a free, optional professional development program (program) to enhance pedagogy around research-based Colorado academic standards in science. The program must include instruction on interventions for students who are below grade level or struggling in science, children with disabilities, and students who are English language learners. The program must create

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.

incentives for teacher participation by offering ongoing professional development credit toward licensure renewal. The program prioritizes professional development for eligible science teachers in rural school districts and small rural school districts.

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

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

4 (a) Access to high-quality, evidence-informed science instruction
5 means that students will develop an in-depth understanding of content,
6 develop key skills, and be prepared to fill the workforce needs of the
7 state;

8 (b) In 2018, the Colorado state board of education adopted the
9 Next Generation Science Standards, a set of research-based academic
10 standards designed to give local educators flexibility while holding
11 students to higher performance expectations in science;

12 (c) The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted Colorado public schools'
13 ability to measure student progress in science and implement supports for
14 the transition to the Next Generation Science Standards;

15 (d) State assessment results in 2023 showed low proficiency in
16 science among students in fifth, eighth, and eleventh grades;

17 (e) Educators are the most important in-school support for
18 improving student outcomes in science; and

19 (f) All teachers, regardless of their duration of time in the
20 classroom, deserve access to high-quality professional development
21 opportunities that align with the Next Generation Science Standards.

22 (2) The general assembly finds, therefore, that action is required
23 to better equip educators to deliver high-quality, evidence-informed

1 science instruction.

2 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-2-146.8** as
3 follows:

4 **22-2-146.8. Department of education - improving science**
5 **outcomes - teacher professional development - report - appropriation**
6 **- legislative declaration - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION,
7 UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

8 (a) "CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET
9 FORTH IN SECTION 22-20-103.

10 (b) "COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR SCIENCE" MEANS
11 EVIDENCE-INFORMED STANDARDS FOR STUDENT LEARNING IN SCIENCE AS
12 ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

13 (c) "ELIGIBLE TEACHER" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS LICENSED
14 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF THIS TITLE 22 OR IS AUTHORIZED PURSUANT
15 TO SECTION 22-60.5-111 TO TEACH AND WHO IS EMPLOYED BY A LOCAL
16 EDUCATION PROVIDER IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE SCIENCE INSTRUCTION.
17 "ELIGIBLE TEACHER" ALSO INCLUDES AN EDUCATOR WHO IS EMPLOYED BY
18 AN INDIAN TRIBE OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATION IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE
19 SCIENCE INSTRUCTION.

20 (d) "EVIDENCE-INFORMED" MEANS A PROGRAM OR PRACTICE IN
21 SCIENCE THAT RELIES ON PEER-REVIEWED EVIDENCE TO ESTABLISH A BASIS
22 FOR ACCELERATING LEARNING. "EVIDENCE-INFORMED" INCLUDES
23 EVIDENCE-INFORMED CURRICULA, INTERVENTIONS, ACCELERATION
24 STRATEGIES, AND ASSESSMENT OPTIONS.

25 (e) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A
26 CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART
27 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY

1 THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE
2 30.5 THIS TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND
3 OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES
4 MORE THAN ONE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

5 (f) "RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN
6 COLORADO THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES IS RURAL BASED ON THE
7 GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DISTANCE OF THE
8 SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM THE NEAREST LARGE, URBANIZED AREA.

9 (g) "SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT
10 IN COLORADO THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES IS RURAL BASED ON
11 THE GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DISTANCE OF THE
12 SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM THE NEAREST LARGE, URBANIZED AREA AND THAT
13 ENROLLS FEWER THAN ONE THOUSAND STUDENTS IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN
14 THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE.

15 (h) "STANDARD" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN
16 SECTION 22-7-1003.

17 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTRACT WITH A COLORADO
18 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
19 "PROCUREMENT CODE", ARTICLES 101 TO 112 OF TITLE 24, TO MAKE
20 AVAILABLE NO LATER THAN THE BEGINNING OF THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR
21 A FREE, OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM HOSTED ON A
22 REGIONAL BASIS AROUND THE STATE THAT INCLUDES AN OPPORTUNITY
23 FOR BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION AND THAT IS DESIGNED
24 TO ENHANCE PEDAGOGY AROUND THE COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS
25 FOR SCIENCE. THE COLORADO INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
26 SELECTED FOR THE CONTRACT MAY PARTNER WITH OTHER NON-PROFITS
27 OR THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS THAT OFFER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1 OPPORTUNITIES TO TEACHERS THAT ENHANCE PEDAGOGY AROUND THE
2 COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR SCIENCE. THE PROFESSIONAL
3 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MUST:

4 (a) BE DESIGNED TO ENHANCE STUDENT INSTRUCTION AROUND THE
5 COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR SCIENCE, INCLUDING COVERAGE
6 OF THE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES, DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS,
7 AND CROSS-CUTTING CONCEPTS PROVIDED BY THE STANDARDS;

8 (b) INCLUDE EVIDENCE-INFORMED INTERVENTIONS AND
9 STRATEGIES TO GROW AND ACCELERATE STUDENT PROFICIENCIES IN
10 SCIENCE TO HELP STUDENTS WHO ARE BELOW GRADE LEVEL OR
11 STRUGGLING IN SCIENCE, CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, GIFTED STUDENTS,
12 AND STUDENTS WHO ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS;

13 (c) INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, CONTENT ALIGNED
14 WITH COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR SCIENCE, WHICH INCLUDE
15 CULTIVATION OF SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY AND BEST PRACTICES;

16 (d) INCENTIVIZE ELIGIBLE TEACHER PARTICIPATION BY OFFERING
17 ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT TOWARD LICENSURE
18 RENEWAL PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF THIS TITLE 22;

19 (e) BE STRUCTURED TO GIVE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND
20 TEACHERS PLANNING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
21 SUFFICIENT TIME TO PURSUE ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
22 CREDIT TOWARD LICENSURE RENEWAL PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF THIS
23 TITLE 22; AND

24 (f) PRIORITIZE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ELIGIBLE
25 TEACHERS EMPLOYED AT LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS LOCATED IN
26 RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS IF
27 DEMAND EXCEEDS PROGRAM CAPACITY.

1 (3) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 30, 2027, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
2 REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES,
4 AND THE STATE BOARD ON THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE TEACHERS,
5 DISAGGREGATED BY LICENSE TYPE AND LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER,
6 WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
7 CREATED IN THIS SECTION.

8 (4) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT, FOR PURPOSES
9 OF SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, A
10 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO ENHANCE PEDAGOGY AROUND
11 THE COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR SCIENCE IS AN IMPORTANT
12 ELEMENT IN IMPLEMENTING ACCOUNTABLE PROGRAMS TO MEET STATE
13 ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND MAY THEREFORE RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE
14 STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN SECTION 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF
15 THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

16 (b) FOR THE 2024-25 BUDGET YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
17 SHALL APPROPRIATE THREE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE STATE
18 EDUCATION FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT. ANY MONEY APPROPRIATED
19 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION THAT IS NOT EXPENDED PRIOR TO JULY 1,
20 2025, REMAINS AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE FOR THE SAME PURPOSE IN
21 THE 2026-27 BUDGET YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION. AT THE
22 END OF THE 2026-27 BUDGET YEAR, THE MONEY THAT IS UNEXPENDED OR
23 UNENCUMBERED REVERTS TO THE STATE EDUCATION FUND.

24 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2024-25 state fiscal year,
25 \$3,000,000 is appropriated to the department of education for use by
26 student learning. This appropriation is from the state education fund
27 created in section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of the state constitution. To

1 implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for
2 professional development for science teachers.

3 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
4 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
5 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
6 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
7 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
8 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
9 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
10 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
11 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.