

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0440.01 Jerry Barry x4341

HOUSE BILL 25-1167

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Valdez and Martinez,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES.**

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 alternative education campuses (AECs), the bill:

- Directs the department of education (department) when administering state education grants to allocate priority points to AECs;
- Authorizes AECs to include certain high-risk students in the AEC's pupil count who are 21 years of age or younger during the budget year;
- Requires the department to prepare and post a report on

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.

- enrollment trends, student demographics, and student mobility in AECs; and
- Exempts an AEC from losing its designation due to a fluctuation in enrollment for one school year.

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) Alternative education campuses (AECs) play a critical role in
5 Colorado's education system by serving students who face extraordinary
6 challenges;

7 (b) Despite serving some of Colorado's most impacted students,
8 AECs frequently operate with insufficient funding and resources.
9 Consequently, many AECs often struggle to meet the critical needs of the
10 students they are dedicated to serving and are reliant on additional
11 funding through gifts, grants, and donations.

12 (c) By prioritizing existing education grant programs, AECs will
13 be able to access more of the resources that they need to best address the
14 unique circumstances and challenges of the students they enroll;

15 (d) AECs often also see great variability in their enrollment
16 throughout the school year due to the transient nature and urgent needs of
17 many AEC students. As a result, the current funding system, which relies
18 on a single enrollment count date, does not accurately reflect the
19 fluctuating enrollment of AECs throughout the year.

20 (e) To assess the impact of an alternative funding system, such as
21 a dual enrollment count, the department of education should annually
22 monitor and report on AEC enrollment trends, student demographics, and
23 student mobility; and

1 (f) Despite the mission of helping students who are often
2 marginalized, current statute caps the age of parents and expectant
3 pregnant moms who can be served at AECs at twenty years of age. The
4 eligibility age for these students at AECs should be expanded to include
5 individuals up to twenty-one years of age.

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-604.5, **amend**
7 (1.5)(j); and **add** (1.2), (4), (5), and (6) as follows:

8 **22-7-604.5. Alternative education campuses - criteria -**
9 **application - rule-making - report - definition.**

10 (1.2) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SUBSECTION
11 (1)(a)(VI)(B) OF THIS SECTION, AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUS
12 THAT HAS A PUPIL ENROLLMENT OF LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY
13 STUDENTS SHALL NOT LOSE ITS DESIGNATION IF THE CAMPUS MET THE
14 NINETY PERCENT THRESHOLD DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR, DID NOT FALL
15 BELOW EIGHTY PERCENT DURING THE SUBSEQUENT SCHOOL YEAR, AND
16 AGAIN MET THE NINETY PERCENT THRESHOLD THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

17 (1.5) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires,
18 a "high-risk student" means a student enrolled in a public school who:

19 (j) Is a parent or pregnant woman ~~under the age of twenty~~ WHO IS
20 TWENTY-ONE years OF AGE OR YOUNGER;

21 (4) IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT EXISTING PURSUANT TO
22 THIS TITLE 22, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ALLOCATE
23 PRIORITY POINTS TO AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUS IF THE
24 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUS IS ELIGIBLE AND SATISFIES THE
25 GRANT'S REQUIREMENTS.

26 (5) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, AN
27 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUS MAY INCLUDE IN ITS PUPIL

1 ENROLLMENT A HIGH-RISK STUDENT, AS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION, WHO IS
2 TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER ON THE PUPIL ENROLLMENT
3 COUNT DAY IF THE HIGH-RISK STUDENT HAS SUFFICIENT CREDITS SO THAT
4 THE STUDENT WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A DIPLOMA BY THE END OF THE SAME
5 SCHOOL YEAR.

6 (6) BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 2025, AND EACH SEPTEMBER
7 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PREPARE AND POST
8 AN ANNUAL REPORT ON ENROLLMENT TRENDS, STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS,
9 AND STUDENT MOBILITY IN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES. THE
10 REPORT MUST INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO:

11 (a) YEAR-ROUND ENROLLMENT TRENDS, INCLUDING
12 FLUCTUATIONS BEYOND THE OFFICIAL OCTOBER COUNT DATE;

13 (b) A DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION
14 CAMPUS STUDENTS, INCLUDING FACTORS SUCH AS AGE, RACE AND
15 ETHNICITY, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, AND SPECIAL EDUCATION STATUS;
16 AND

17 (c) DATA ON STUDENT MOBILITY, INCLUDING TRANSFERS INTO AND
18 OUT OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL
19 YEAR.

20 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
21 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
23 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
24 institutions.