



COLORADO
Department of
Higher Education

1560 Broadway, Suite 1600
Denver, CO 80202

John Hickenlooper
Governor

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed
Executive Director

SB18-177: Private School and Private Occupational School Bonds Talking Points

- This bill is about protecting our students without passing along additional cost to the great many private occupational and degree granting schools in Colorado.
- There has been an increased trend in private school and private occupational school closures resulting in the CDHE to hurriedly obtain student records and assist students who have loss tuition and valuable time in their post-secondary education.
- When a closure happens, it involves ample notification to the Department and students, collaborative work with the Department to protect enrolled students to complete their programs, and orderly transfer of all student records to the Department. The Department works with schools and we have had several instances where this process is smooth and collaborative. This bill addresses the scenario when this process isn't followed.
- Because of this, the Department proposes SB 18-177 to create a more efficient and transparent process in dealing with these closures through expanding permissible uses of school bonds and sureties by allowing the Department to make claims on surety bonds to provide refunds to students suffering loss of tuition and maintaining closed school's records electronically.
- The nature of an unexpected school closure drives up closure costs that are recovered by use of fees. The Department, we agree, should make sure that this cost is not passed on to other schools. This bill with both support schools and protect our students.