



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB16-196

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-1167 **Date:** July 20, 2016
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Cooke; Cadman **Bill Status:** Signed into Law
 Rep. Landgraf; Young **Fiscal Analyst:** Anna Gerstle (303-866-4375)

BILL TOPIC: INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2015-2016 <i>(current year)</i>	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue	\$0	\$0	
State Transfer			
Cash Fund	(250,000)	(250,000)	
General Fund	250,000	250,000	
State Expenditures		\$250,000	\$250,000
General Fund		250,000	250,000
Appropriation Required: \$250,000 - Department of Higher Education (FY 2016-17).			
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing workload and expenditure impact through FY 2020-21.			

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates an inclusive higher education pilot program aimed at establishing higher education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The program will operate from FY 2016-17 through FY 2020-21 at three institutions: the University of Northern Colorado, the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, and Arapahoe Community College. Participating institutions must develop pilot programs, which may include:

- conducting an assessment to determine needs related to inclusive higher education;
- identifying state and institution regulations, policies, and practices that encourage or impede inclusive higher education;
- offering programming and support for students with disabilities to take at least two on-campus undergraduate courses each semester in their area of interest and one course per semester designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities;
- integrating students socially and academically into the institution;
- offering peer mentoring;
- coordinating with vocational rehabilitation programs offered by the Department of Labor and Employment;
- preparing students for gainful employment;
- offering admissions standards that do not require a nationwide college entrance exam;

- becoming a certified transition program to allow students to access federal financial aid, if the institution deems the pilot program sustainable; and
- developing a five-year plan that includes enrollment projections for an inclusive higher education program.

The bill specifies that the three participating institutions are not required to operate a pilot program if sufficient money is not appropriated by the General Assembly. Should an institution cease to operate the pilot program, DHE may request that the General Assembly reallocate funds among the participating institutions.

In years in which the selected sites offer a pilot program and sufficient money is appropriated by the General Assembly, JFK Partners must annually evaluate the program from the perspective of multiple stakeholders listed in the bill, and provide a written report to the Department of Higher Education (DHE). As part of their annual presentation, DHE must report on the pilot program to the education committees of the House and Senate and the Joint Budget Committee and include the report from JFK Partners in years in which a pilot program is operating.

The three participating institutions, JFK Partners, and Colorado Initiative for Higher Education (INI) are encouraged to participate in an annual statewide summit on inclusive higher education in order to share best practices and promote the development of inclusive higher education programs.

The bill transfers \$250,000 from the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services Cash Fund to the General Fund in both FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17 and appropriates \$250,000 for the program in FY 2016-17. The bill adds the pilot program as a purpose for which DHE can enter into fee-for-service contracts with participating institutions of higher education, and exempts the funding from provisions requiring that increases in higher education funding be matched by increases in funding to the College Opportunity Fund, or for financial aid.

Background

INI is a stakeholder organization that collaborates with local colleges and universities in Colorado to create the development of higher education opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. JFK Partners is a program at the University of Colorado School of Medicine designated as the university center of excellence in developmental disabilities, education, research, and service.

The federal Higher Education Opportunity Act establishes the criteria for becoming a designated comprehensive transition and post-secondary program for students with intellectual disabilities. There are currently 27 designated programs. It also establishes a national coordinating center for qualifying programs, which is currently Think College, a national organization that works to expand and improve inclusive higher education options for people with intellectual disabilities. Intellectually disabled students who attend qualifying programs and meet certain criteria are eligible for certain federal financial aid opportunities.

The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services Cash Fund contains unspent funds from waiver programs operated by the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

State Revenue

State transfers. The bill transfers \$250,000 from the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Cash Fund to the General Fund on June 30, 2016, and on June 30, 2017.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures from the General Fund by \$250,000 in FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18. The implementation of the program will be completed by the three participating institutions, in conjunction with IN! and JFK Partners. The bill specifies that DHE may distribute the funds to the participating institutions through fee-for-service contracts for the implementation of the pilot program in FY 2016-17 as follows:

- \$100,000 to the University of Colorado;
- \$75,000 to the University of Northern Colorado; and
- \$75,000 to the State Board of Community Colleges (Arapahoe Community College).

Department of Higher Education. The bill increases the workload of DHE to annually report on the program to the education committees of the General Assembly and Joint Budget Committee. The workload increase can be accommodated within existing appropriations.

Department of Labor and Employment. The bill increases the workload of the Department of Labor and Employment to coordinate available vocational rehabilitation supports with the participating institutions of higher education. The workload increase is minimal and can be accommodated within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on June 6, 2016.

State Appropriations

The bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$250,000 to the Department of Higher Education in FY 2016-17, to be distributed through fee-for-service contracts as follows:

- \$100,000 to the University of Colorado;
- \$75,000 to the University of Northern Colorado; and
- \$75,000 to the State Board of Community Colleges.

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education Labor