

CHAPTER 490

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SENATE BILL 21-058

BY SENATOR(S) Story and Coram, Bridges, Hansen, Hisey, Simpson, Sonnenberg, Zenzinger, Garcia;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Woodrow and Larson, Bacon, Bennett, Bird, Caraveo, Duran, Exum, Kipp, Lontine, McCluskie,
McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Ortiz, Young.

AN ACT

CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAMS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-102, **amend** (10) as follows:

22-60.5-102. Definitions. As used in this article 60.5, unless the context otherwise requires:

(10) "Designated agency" means a school district or districts, a board of cooperative services, an accepted institution of higher education, a nonprofit organization, a charter school, the institute, a nonpublic school, or any combination thereof, that is responsible for the organization, management, and operation of an approved alternative teacher program OR AN APPROVED ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-111, **amend** (14)(a), (14)(b) introductory portion, (14)(b)(I), (14)(d), and (14)(e)(II) as follows:

22-60.5-111. Authorization - types - applicants' qualifications - rules. (14) **Principal authorization.** (a) The department may issue a principal authorization to a person who does not hold a principal license but who holds an earned baccalaureate or higher degree from an accepted institution of higher education and who will be employed pursuant to the provisions of section 22-60.5-305.5 by a school district, charter school, or nonpublic school ~~under~~ WHILE COMPLETING an individualized alternative principal program ~~if the program is approved~~ OR AN ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM APPROVED PURSUANT TO

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 22-60.5-305.5. IF THE PERSON IS COMPLETING AN INDIVIDUALIZED ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM, THE PROGRAM MUST BE APPROVED by the state board of education as provided in this subsection (14). A school district may employ a person who holds a principal authorization to perform the duties of a principal or a vice-principal in a school, so long as the person who holds the authorization is under the supervision of a professional principal licensee.

(b) To receive a principal authorization, a person, in collaboration with a school district, charter school, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, OR the institute, ~~or nonpublic school~~, shall submit to the department of education documentation that includes:

(I) (A) IF THE PERSON IS COMPLETING AN INDIVIDUALIZED ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM, the course work, practicums, and other educational requirements, identified by the person and the collaborating school district, charter school, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, OR ~~the institute, or nonpublic school~~ that will comprise the person's individualized alternative principal program and that the person will complete while ~~he or she~~ THE PERSON IS EMPLOYED UNDER THE PRINCIPAL AUTHORIZATION; ~~and~~ OR

(B) IF THE PERSON IS COMPLETING AN ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM, EVIDENCE THAT THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM IN WHICH THE PERSON IS ENROLLED IS APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-305.5; AND

(d) If the state board of education determines ~~the~~ A PERSON HAS SUBMITTED THE DOCUMENTATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (14)(b) OF THIS SECTION AND THE PERSON'S individualized alternative principal program meets the requirements specified in ~~paragraph (c) of this subsection (14)~~ SUBSECTION (14)(c) OF THIS SECTION, the state board of education shall approve the individualized alternative principal program and the department of education shall issue the principal authorization to the ~~applicant~~ PERSON. IF THE DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS THAT A PERSON HAS SUBMITTED THE DOCUMENTATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (14)(b) OF THIS SECTION AND THE PERSON IS ENROLLED AND PARTICIPATING IN AN ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-305.5, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE THE PRINCIPAL AUTHORIZATION TO THE PERSON. A principal authorization ~~shall be~~ IS VALID FOR THREE YEARS AND MAY NOT BE RENEWED.

(e) (II) If a person who is employed under a principal authorization successfully completes an induction program and completes the individualized alternative principal program OR ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM while employed under the principal authorization, the department of education may issue a professional principal license to the person upon application.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-305.5, **amend** (1), (2), and (5); and **add** (6) as follows:

22-60.5-305.5. Alternative principal preparation programs - requirements - rules - legislative declaration. (1) (a) The general assembly finds that there is a shortage of persons in the state who are licensed as principals and are available for employment by school districts. The general assembly further finds that persons who have achieved success in careers outside of education and who are interested in employment as school principals may provide a new source of leadership talent

for school districts as they seek to hire school principals. Therefore, the general assembly concludes that it is in the interest of the state to authorize school districts to design and implement individualized alternative principal programs to enable persons from outside the education community to develop the skills and experiences necessary to successfully lead a public school and to qualify ultimately for licensure as principals.

(b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE TO ALLOW DESIGNATED AGENCIES TO CREATE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE THE PREPARATION NECESSARY TO ENABLE PRINCIPALS TO MEET THE QUALITY STANDARDS FOR PRINCIPALS AND QUALIFY FOR A PROFESSIONAL PRINCIPAL LICENSE.

(2) (a) A school district or charter school may employ as a principal or a vice-principal a person who holds a principal authorization issued pursuant to section 22-60.5-111 (14). A person who is employed by a school district under a principal authorization may perform the duties of a principal or a vice-principal in a school so long as the person is under the supervision of a professional principal licensee. A person who holds a principal authorization issued pursuant to section 22-60.5-111 (14) may participate in an individualized alternative principal program offered by a nonpublic school.

(b) IF A PERSON IS PURSUING AN INDIVIDUALIZED ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM, the school district, charter school, nonpublic school, or ~~the~~ institute shall collaborate with the person in designing ~~an~~ THE individualized alternative principal program, which the person ~~shall~~ MUST complete while employed under the authorization. The school district, charter school, nonpublic school, or ~~the~~ institute may work with a governmental, nonprofit, or for-profit entity in designing and implementing the individualized alternative principal program. The individualized alternative principal program is subject to approval by the state board of education as provided in section 22-60.5-111 (14) and in accordance with rules adopted by the state board of education.

(c) IF A PERSON IS ENROLLED IN AN ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM APPROVED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION, THE EMPLOYING SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL WORK WITH THE DESIGNATED AGENCY THAT PROVIDES THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM TO ENSURE THAT, WHILE THE PERSON HOLDS A PRINCIPAL AUTHORIZATION AND IS EMPLOYED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL, THE PERSON COMPLETES THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM.

(5) A school district may employ a person who holds a principal authorization for three years. After that time, the school district may employ the person as a principal only if ~~he or she~~ THE PERSON receives an initial or professional principal license pursuant to section 22-60.5-301. The school district OR CHARTER SCHOOL may choose to provide an induction program, as described in section 22-60.5-304, for the person while ~~he or she~~ is employed under a principal authorization. The induction program, if provided, ~~shall~~ MUST be in addition to the individualized alternative principal program ~~to be completed by~~ OR THE APPROVED ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM THAT the person COMPLETES while ~~he or she~~ is employed under a principal authorization.

(6) (a) A DESIGNATED AGENCY IS AUTHORIZED TO IMPLEMENT AN ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE STATE BOARD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)(b) OF THIS SECTION AND RULES ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD. AT A MINIMUM, AN ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM MUST:

(I) PROVIDE THE INFORMATION, EXPERIENCE, AND TRAINING TO ENABLE THE PERSON WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM TO DEVELOP SKILLS AND OBTAIN EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING THAT ARE COMPARABLE TO THOSE POSSESSED BY A PERSON WHO QUALIFIES FOR AN INITIAL PRINCIPAL LICENSE, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 22-60.5-301 (1)(a);

(II) PROVIDE INFORMATION AND TRAINING THAT INCLUDES AN OVERVIEW OF TITLE II OF THE FEDERAL "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; SECTION 504 OF THE FEDERAL "REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 701 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND CHILD FIND. THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM MUST ALSO TEACH EFFECTIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM PRACTICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

(III) REQUIRE A PERSON WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM TO SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES IN AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE, AS SPECIFIED BY RULE OF THE STATE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-303; AND

(IV) INCLUDE SUPERVISION BY MENTOR PRINCIPALS, PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS, AND A PROGRAM OF PLANNED INSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITIES THAT ARE DESIGNED TO ENABLE THE PERSON ENROLLED IN THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM TO MEET THE QUALITY STANDARDS FOR PRINCIPALS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-109 (6).

(b) A DESIGNATED AGENCY THAT SEEKS APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM MUST, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE BOARD RULES, SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT EVIDENCE THAT THE PROGRAM MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION AND ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED BY STATE BOARD RULE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW EACH REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM. IF THE DEPARTMENT FINDS THAT THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION AND THE RULES OF THE STATE BOARD, THE STATE BOARD SHALL APPROVE THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM. THE STATE BOARD, BY RULE, SHALL ESTABLISH A SCHEDULE PURSUANT TO WHICH A DESIGNATED AGENCY THAT OPERATES AN ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM MUST PERIODICALLY SEEK REAPPROVAL.

SECTION 4. Appropriation. For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, \$16,692 is appropriated to the department of education. This appropriation is from the educator licensure cash fund created in section 22-60.5-112 (1)(a), C.R.S., and is based on an assumption that the department will require an additional 0.2 FTE. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for the office of professional

services.

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

Approved: May 24, 2021

Note: This act follows chapter 174 chronologically.