

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0740.01 Jane Ritter x4342

SENATE BILL 24-156

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Buckner and Coleman,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees
Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE "COLORADO COLLEGE**
102 **PREPARATION AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM".**

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 creates the "Colorado College Preparation and Enrichment Program" (program) in the department of higher education (department), to be administered by the office of educational equity (office). The purpose of the program is to create partnerships between local education providers (K-12 schools) and institutions of higher education (IHE). The goals of the program are to increase the number of students who graduate

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.

from high school, matriculate to an IHE, and ultimately graduate from an IHE.

The department shall appropriate \$500,000 annually to each IHE that participates in the program. An IHE may opt out of the program at any time.

Each participating IHE shall partner with eligible K-12 schools, beginning in eighth grade, to provide a number of services to encourage students to apply to an IHE, apply for financial aid, and ultimately be accepted at an IHE. Participating IHEs shall create guaranteed admissions pathways so participating students are provided with the exact steps necessary for admission.

Once enrolled in an IHE, participating students will be identified, organized, and monitored in cohorts at each IHE. A primary contact person will be appointed to communicate with and coordinate services for students from participating K-12 schools. As part of the allowable uses for program funding, each IHE may provide a number of services to students, including targeted academic and financial advising, community building, initiatives focused on retention and on-time completion, and recruitment and outreach and multi-language marketing.

Eligibility criteria are set forth for both the IHEs and K-12 schools.

The office shall submit an annual report to the department on the overview of the program and the program's return on investment. The department shall include this report in its annual "SMART Act" hearing.

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) The demand for qualified workers persists statewide, and
5 opportunities exist to equip Colorado workers and learners with the skills
6 they need to advance and meet the needs of businesses;

7 (b) Increasingly, the vast majority of top jobs in the state require
8 some type of postsecondary education. Although Colorado employers are
9 feeling the strain of labor shortages, they are simultaneously increasing
10 their reliance on postsecondary credentials and bachelor's degrees to fill
11 high-quality jobs.

12 (c) At the individual level, quality education is a path to greater

1 economic opportunity. Approximately one out of two of the children born
2 into poverty today will remain poor. With a college degree, that statistic
3 greatly improves to just one out of six.

4 (d) For African American males, the long-term impact of
5 credential completion is even starker: Among those who don't complete
6 high school, 68 percent will be incarcerated by the age of 34. With a high
7 school diploma, that rate falls to 21 percent; with a college degree, only
8 six percent of those men become incarcerated.

9 (2) The general assembly further finds that:

10 (a) Despite nearly 50 percent of high school student graduates
11 enrolling in postsecondary education in the fall semester after high school
12 graduation, the data suggests that equity gaps continue in higher
13 education for students of color, low-income students, and students from
14 rural communities;

15 (b) In addition, a January 2023 report published by the Center on
16 Children and Families at Brookings suggests college enrollment rates
17 vary greatly depending on the socioeconomic status of a student's family.
18 Approximately 89 percent of students from well-off families go to
19 college, compared to 64 percent of students from middle-class families
20 and 51 percent of students from low-income families.

21 (c) However, data shows that every \$1,000 in grants translates into
22 a 1.5 to 2 percentage point increase in degree completion, according to
23 the American Education Research Association; and

24 (d) The Hunt Institute states that effective wraparound services in
25 postsecondary education refer to holistic support to ensure a student's full
26 range of needs is addressed. This can include academic, health,
27 socioemotional, familial, financial, and logistical support.

1 (3) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is in the best
2 interests of the people of the state of Colorado to create partnerships
3 between school districts and other local education providers and
4 institutions of higher education to deliver resources and programming to
5 increase high school and postsecondary credential completion to improve
6 Coloradans' economic mobility and fuel the state economy.

7 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 82 to title
8 23 as follows:

9 **ARTICLE 82**

10 **Colorado College Preparation and Enrichment Program**

11 **23-82-101. Short title.** THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS ARTICLE 82 IS
12 THE "COLORADO COLLEGE PREPARATION AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM".

13 **23-82-102. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE 82, UNLESS THE
14 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

15 (1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
16 EDUCATION ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-1-114.

17 (2) "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" MEANS A TWO- OR
18 FOUR-YEAR STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN COLORADO.

19 (3) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS:

20 (a) A SCHOOL DISTRICT;

21 (b) A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT
22 PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22;

23 (c) A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER
24 SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22;

25 (d) THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE CREATED PURSUANT
26 TO SECTION 22-30.5-503;

27 (e) A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND OPERATING

1 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES ONE OR MORE
2 PUBLIC SCHOOLS;

3 (f) A FACILITY SCHOOL APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION
4 22-2-407; OR

5 (g) AN INDIAN TRIBE OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.

6 (4) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL EQUITY WITHIN
7 THE DEPARTMENT.

8 (5) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE COLORADO COLLEGE PREPARATION
9 AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION
10 23-82-103.

11 **23-82-103. Colorado college preparation and enrichment**
12 **program - established - purpose - goals - administration - services.**

13 (1) THE COLORADO COLLEGE PREPARATION AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
14 IS ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT, TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE
15 OF EDUCATIONAL EQUITY. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO CREATE
16 PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND INSTITUTIONS
17 OF HIGHER EDUCATION, WITH THE GOALS OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF
18 STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL, MATRICULATE TO AN
19 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND ULTIMATELY GRADUATE FROM
20 AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENT OF
21 THESE GOALS DRIVES ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND POSITIVE SOCIAL
22 OUTCOMES.

23 (2) THE DEPARTMENT, THROUGH THE OFFICE, SHALL APPROPRIATE
24 FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO EACH INSTITUTION OF
25 HIGHER EDUCATION THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO
26 SECTION 23-82-104. EACH PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
27 EDUCATION SHALL USE THE APPROPRIATION PURSUANT TO THIS

1 SUBSECTION (2) ONLY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.

2 (3) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL PARTNER WITH
3 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS BEGINNING WITH THE EIGHTH GRADE AND
4 THROUGH THE TWELFTH GRADE TO PROVIDE, AT A MINIMUM, THE
5 FOLLOWING:

6 (a) TOOLS TO FOSTER A COLLEGE-GOING CULTURE, INCLUDING
7 INTRODUCING MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO COURSE PLANNING FOR HIGH
8 SCHOOL;

9 (b) ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE
10 PATHWAYS, SUCH AS COURSE OFFERINGS, CORRESPONDING NON-ACADEMIC
11 SUPPORT, AND EXPLORATORY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS COLLEGE TOURS;

12 (c) AN INITIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT TO IDENTIFY EXISTING
13 RESOURCES, GAPS IN COLLEGE-GOING SUPPORTS, AND REGIONAL TRENDS
14 THAT IMPACT POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION;

15 (d) COUNSELORS FROM AND TRAINED BY THE INSTITUTIONS OF
16 HIGHER EDUCATION WHO ARE PRESENT AT PARTNER MIDDLE AND HIGH
17 SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE COLLEGE ADVISING, INCLUDING EXPLORATION,
18 APPLICATION, AND FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION SUPPORT; AND

19 (e) INTENSIVE, COHORT-BASED WRAPAROUND SERVICES FOR
20 STUDENTS WHEN THE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL PARTNER DOES NOT HAVE
21 SUCH A PERSON ON STAFF, SUCH AS PROGRAMMING AND GUIDANCE
22 COUNSELORS.

23 (4) PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT
24 RECEIVE AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE PROGRAM SHALL CREATE
25 GUARANTEED ADMISSIONS PATHWAYS SO PARTICIPATING STUDENTS ARE
26 PROVIDED WITH THE EXACT STEPS NECESSARY FOR ADMISSION.

27 (5) THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL IDENTIFY,

1 ORGANIZE, AND MONITOR EACH GROUP OF STUDENTS AS A COHORT. THE
2 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ADDITIONALLY APPOINT A
3 PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMUNICATING
4 WITH AND COORDINATING SERVICES FOR STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATING
5 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS AS THEY ENROLL AND PROGRESS THROUGH
6 THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
7 EDUCATION SHALL USE PROGRAM FUNDING TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING
8 SERVICES, AT A MINIMUM, TO STUDENTS WHO MATRICULATED TO A
9 COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY FROM A PARTNER LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER:

10 (a) SMALL FINANCIAL INCENTIVES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED
11 TO, BOOK SCHOLARSHIPS, TRANSPORTATION, AND EMERGENCY FUNDS;

12 (b) TARGETED ACADEMIC AND FINANCIAL ADVISING, COMMUNITY
13 BUILDING, AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING;

14 (c) OTHER INITIATIVES FOCUSED ON RETENTION AND ON-TIME
15 COMPLETION;

16 (d) ADVISING SUPPORT, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,
17 ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE, HOLISTIC STUDENT SUCCESS ADVISING, AND
18 COHORT DEVELOPMENT;

19 (e) PROGRAM ADVERTISING AND MARKETING; AND

20 (f) RECRUITMENT AND OUTREACH AND MULTI-LANGUAGE
21 MARKETING TO DRAW IN STUDENT PARTICIPANTS.

22 **23-82-104. Eligibility - program resources - institutions of**
23 **higher education.** (1) EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE
24 STATE IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AND PARTNER WITH
25 ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS, ALTHOUGH AN INSTITUTION OF
26 HIGHER EDUCATION MAY OPT OUT OF THE PROGRAM AT ANY TIME
27 THROUGH WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE OFFICE.

1 (2) A PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL
2 PROVIDE RESOURCES TO PARTNER LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS.
3 RESOURCES MAY INCLUDE AND MAY BE USED FOR, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED
4 TO, SUPPORT STAFFING, FINANCIAL AID EDUCATION, FINANCIAL LITERACY,
5 COLLEGE PREPARATION PROGRAMS WITH ACADEMIC SUPPORT, PEER
6 MENTORS, ACADEMIC COACHES, AND COLLEGE PLANNING.

7 **23-82-105. Eligibility - local education providers.** (1) TO BE
8 ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AND PARTNER WITH AN
9 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MUST
10 DEMONSTRATE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR EIGHTH THROUGH TWELFTH
11 GRADE STUDENTS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- 12 (a) LOW FAFSA COMPLETION RATES;
- 13 (b) HIGH PERCENTAGE OF FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS;
- 14 (c) HIGH PERCENTAGE OF FREE- AND REDUCED-LUNCH STUDENTS;
- 15 (d) INCOME METRICS SUCH AS TITLE I DESIGNATION;
- 16 (e) DEMONSTRATED COLLEGE APPLICATION OR MATRICULATION
17 GAPS, EITHER IN-SCHOOL COMPARED TO THE STATE AVERAGE OR WITHIN
18 DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS AT THE SCHOOL;
- 19 (f) LOW HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES;
- 20 (g) HIGH TRUANCY RATES;
- 21 (h) "TURNAROUND", "PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT", OR
22 "IMPROVEMENT" DESIGNATIONS ON THE DISTRICT PERFORMANCE
23 FRAMEWORK; OR
- 24 (i) RELATIVELY HIGH POPULATIONS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION OR
25 ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER STUDENTS.

26 **23-82-106. Reporting requirements.** (1) ON OR BEFORE
27 OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND EVERY OCTOBER 1 THEREAFTER, THE OFFICE

1 SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE REPORT MUST
2 PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM'S RETURN ON INVESTMENT AND
3 INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

4 (a) A LIST OF PARTICIPATING LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS BY
5 NAME AND LOCATION AND THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT EACH LOCAL
6 EDUCATION PROVIDER THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM FOR THAT
7 ACADEMIC YEAR;

8 (b) FOR PARTICIPATING HIGH SCHOOLS, THE GRADUATION RATE,
9 THE COLLEGE MATRICULATION RATE, AND, AS APPROPRIATE, THE NUMBER
10 OF STUDENTS WHO GRADUATED FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
11 EDUCATION;

12 (c) RECRUITMENT RATES AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
13 DISAGGREGATED BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUP, INCOME, GENDER, AND FIRST
14 GENERATION STUDENTS;

15 (d) MATRICULATION PIPELINE RATES BY LOCAL EDUCATION
16 PROVIDERS;

17 (e) RETENTION RATES PER ACADEMIC YEAR, PERSISTENCE, AND
18 CREDITS TO ON-TIME GRADUATION;

19 (f) PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING ADVISING
20 APPOINTMENTS, FAFSA COMPLETION ASSISTANCE, AND INTERNSHIPS;

21 (g) INCENTIVES TO DUAL COLLEGE CREDITS AND CREDENTIAL
22 COMPLETION; AND

23 (h) OVERALL STUDENT PERCEPTION OF ATTENDING AN INSTITUTION
24 OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

25 (2) BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2026, AND IN JANUARY EVERY YEAR
26 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE, AS PART OF ITS
27 PRESENTATION DURING ITS "SMART ACT" HEARING REQUIRED BY SECTION

1 2-7-203, INFORMATION CONCERNING PROGRAM OUTCOMES BASED ON THE
2 ANNUAL REPORTS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
3 SECTION. NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 24-1-136
4 (11)(a)(I), THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED IN THIS
5 SUBSECTION (2) CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

6 **23-82-107. Funding.** (1) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE
7 APPROPRIATIONS, FOR THE 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR, AND EACH STATE
8 FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, FUNDING FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE
9 82 MUST BE BASED ON THE ONGOING ADDITIONAL FUNDING COMPONENTS
10 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-18-303.5 (2) FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF THE
11 RETENTION OF UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY STUDENTS.

12 (2) IN DETERMINING THE FUNDING FOR SPECIALTY EDUCATION
13 PROGRAMS SPECIFIC TO LOCAL DISTRICT SCHOOLS AND AREA TECHNICAL
14 COLLEGES, THE FUNDING MUST BE AN AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OF
15 THE FUNDING RECEIVED BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
16 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ARTICLE 82 THROUGH ONGOING
17 ADDITIONAL FUNDING COMPONENTS AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION
18 23-18-303.5 (2).

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