

First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 17-0896.02 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**HOUSE BILL 17-1201**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Coleman, Lundeen**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Zenzinger and Priola, Todd**

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**House Committees**  
Education

**Senate Committees**  
Education

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION FOR GRANTING A HIGH SCHOOL**  
102 **DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT IN THE COMBINED DISCIPLINES OF**  
103 **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS.**

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**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 authorizes a school district, board of cooperative services, or institute charter high school (local education provider) to grant a high school diploma endorsement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to students who demonstrate mastery in STEM. To obtain the endorsement, a student must complete the high school

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 21, 2017

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 20, 2017

graduation requirements at a high level of proficiency, complete 12 credit hours in STEM courses, achieve a minimum score specified in the bill on one of several specified mathematics assessments, and successfully complete a final capstone project. To successfully complete the capstone project, the student must achieve a high proficiency level of mastery, as set by the local education provider, for each of the competencies specified in the bill. The local education provider is required to work with STEM-related business and industrial leaders and institutions of higher education in setting the high proficiency levels of mastery. The local education provider must annually notify students and their parents beginning in sixth grade of the requirements for obtaining a STEM diploma endorsement.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-7-1009.5 as  
3 follows:

4           **22-7-1009.5. Diploma endorsement - science, technology,**  
5 **engineering, and mathematics - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS  
6 SECTION UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7           (a) "GRANTING LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A LOCAL  
8 SCHOOL BOARD, BOCES, DISTRICT CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL, OR INSTITUTE  
9 CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL THAT CHOOSES TO GRANT A STEM DIPLOMA  
10 ENDORSEMENT TO A STUDENT WHO DEMONSTRATES MASTERY IN THE  
11 STEM DISCIPLINES AS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

12           (b) "STEM" MEANS THE COMBINATION OF THE DISCIPLINES OF  
13 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS.

14           (2) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY GRANT A DIPLOMA  
15 ENDORSEMENT IN STEM TO A GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO  
16 DEMONSTRATES MASTERY IN THE STEM DISCIPLINES. TO OBTAIN AN  
17 ENDORSEMENT IN STEM, A GRADUATING STUDENT MUST:

18           (a) MEET THE MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
19 REQUIREMENTS AT A HIGH LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY AS SPECIFIED BY THE

1 GRANTING LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER;  
2 (b) SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE WITH A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF  
3 AT LEAST 3.5 ON A 4.0 SCALE OR THE EQUIVALENT FOR A HIGHER SCALE A  
4 COHERENT SEQUENCE OF AT LEAST FOUR COURSES IN THE AREAS OF  
5 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS AS  
6 DETERMINED BY THE GRANTING LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER, WHICH  
7 COURSES ARE IN ADDITION TO THE MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS  
8 IN THESE AREAS;

9 (c) DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY IN MATHEMATICS BY:

10 (I) ACHIEVING A SCORE OF TWENTY-EIGHT OR HIGHER ON THE  
11 MATHEMATICS PORTION OF THE ACT COLLEGE READINESS ASSESSMENT;

12 (II) ACHIEVING A SCORE OF SIX HUNDRED OR HIGHER ON THE  
13 MATHEMATICS PORTION OF THE COLLEGE READINESS ASSESSMENT  
14 PROVIDED BY THE COLLEGE BOARD, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE SAT;

15 (III) ACHIEVING A SCORE OF FIVE OR HIGHER ON THE  
16 MATHEMATICS PORTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE TEST;

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18 (IV) ACHIEVING A SCORE OF FOUR OR HIGHER ON THE ADVANCED  
19 PLACEMENT MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENT; ==

20 (V) ACHIEVING A SCORE OF ONE HUNDRED OR HIGHER ON THE  
21 SUITE OF TESTS THAT ASSESSES READING, WRITING, MATHEMATICS, AND  
22 COMPUTER SKILLS PROVIDED BY THE COLLEGE BOARD FOR COLLEGE  
23 PLACEMENT PURPOSES, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ACCUPLACER; OR

24 (VI) ACHIEVING A SCORE OF EIGHTY-FIVE OR HIGHER ON THE  
25 ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY TEST USED FOR  
26 MILITARY ENLISTMENT; AND

27 (d) SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A FINAL CAPSTONE PROJECT, WHICH

1 IS A CULMINATING EXHIBITION OF THE STUDENT'S PROJECT OR EXPERIENCE  
2 THAT DEMONSTRATES ACADEMIC AND INTELLECTUAL LEARNING. TO  
3 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A FINAL CAPSTONE PROJECT, THE STUDENT  
4 MUST ACHIEVE A HIGH PROFICIENCY LEVEL OF MASTERY, AS SET BY THE  
5 GRANTING LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER, FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING  
6 COMPETENCIES:

7 (I) INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING, WHICH IS DEMONSTRATED  
8 THROUGH THE CAPSTONE PROJECT BY ASKING QUESTIONS AND DEFINING  
9 PROBLEMS;

10 (II) CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING, WHICH IS DEMONSTRATED  
11 THROUGH THE CAPSTONE PROJECT BY DEVELOPING AND APPLYING  
12 SCIENTIFIC AND MATHEMATICAL MODELS TO EXPLAIN COMPLEX IDEAS AND  
13 SOLUTIONS;

14 (III) EXPERIMENTATION, WHICH IS DEMONSTRATED THROUGH THE  
15 CAPSTONE PROJECT BY PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT INVESTIGATIONS;

16 (IV) CRITICAL THINKING, WHICH IS DEMONSTRATED THROUGH THE  
17 CAPSTONE PROJECT BY ANALYZING AND INTERPRETING DATA AND  
18 COMMUNICATING CONCLUSIONS;

19 (V) DEDUCTIVE AND INDUCTIVE REASONING, WHICH IS  
20 DEMONSTRATED THROUGH THE CAPSTONE PROJECT BY USING  
21 MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTATIONAL THINKING;

22 (VI) UNDERSTANDING OF ENGINEERING PRINCIPLES, WHICH IS  
23 DEMONSTRATED THROUGH THE CAPSTONE PROJECT BY CONSTRUCTING  
24 EXPLANATIONS AND DESIGNING SOLUTIONS; AND

25 (VII) EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS, WHICH ARE  
26 DEMONSTRATED THROUGH THE CAPSTONE PROJECT BY ENGAGING IN  
27 ARGUMENT FROM EVIDENCE.

1           (3) EACH GRANTING LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL WORK  
2 WITH STEM-RELATED BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL LEADERS IDENTIFIED BY  
3 THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER WITHIN THE SURROUNDING  
4 COMMUNITIES AND WITH APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
5 EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH THE HIGH PROFICIENCY LEVELS OF MASTERY  
6 THAT A STUDENT MUST DEMONSTRATE IN EACH OF THE COMPETENCIES  
7 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2)(d) OF THIS SECTION.

8           (4) EACH GRANTING LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL  
9 ANNUALLY PROVIDE TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GRADES SIX THROUGH  
10 TWELVE AND THEIR PARENTS INFORMATION CONCERNING THE  
11 REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING THE STEM DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT.

12           **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
13 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
14 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.