

## CHAPTER 56

---

**EDUCATION - POSTSECONDARY**


---

**HOUSE BILL 23-1001**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Kipp and McLachlan, Amabile, Bacon, Bird, Boesenecker, Brown, deGruy Kennedy, Dickson, Duran, English, Epps, Froelich, Garcia, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hamrick, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, McCormick, Michaelson Jenet, Ortiz, Ricks, Sharbini, Sirota, Story, Titone, Velasco, Willford, Woodrow, Young, McCluskie, Snyder, Vigil;  
 also SENATOR(S) Zenzinger, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cutter, Danielson, Exum, Fields, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kolker, Moreno, Mullica, Priola, Roberts, Rodriguez, Sullivan, Winter F., Fenberg.

**AN ACT****CONCERNING EXPANDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATOR PROGRAMS.**

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

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.9-301, **amend** (7) and (12) as follows:

**23-3.9-301. Definitions - repeal.** As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:

(7) "Eligible student" means a student who is:

(a) Enrolled in an approved program of preparation; ~~and~~

(b) Eligible for financial assistance because the student's expected family contribution does not exceed two hundred FIFTY percent of the maximum federal Pell-eligible expected family contribution; AND

(c) (I) FOR THE 2022-23 AND 2023-24 STATE FISCAL YEARS, ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BECAUSE THE STUDENT'S EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION DOES NOT EXCEED THREE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE MAXIMUM FEDERAL PELL-ELIGIBLE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION.

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (7)(c) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 31, 2027.

---

*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.*

(12) "Teacher" means a person employed to instruct students enrolled in a public school. ~~in the state.~~

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.9-302, **amend** (2)(a); and **add** (4)(c.5) as follows:

**23-3.9-302. Student educator stipend program - created - guidelines - definition - repeal.** (2) (a) To qualify to participate in the stipend program, a student must be an eligible student and placed as a student educator IN COLORADO OR WITHIN ONE HUNDRED MILES OF THE COLORADO STATE BORDER. No later than July 1, 2022, and no later than July 1 each year thereafter, each approved program of preparation shall notify the department of the eligible students who qualify for the stipend program.

(4) (c.5) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (4) ONLY, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE THE CRITERIA OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS, INCLUDING FIRST CONSIDERATION FOR STUDENTS WHOSE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION DOES NOT EXCEED THREE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE MAXIMUM FEDERAL PELL-ELIGIBLE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION.

**SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.9-303, **add** (4)(c.5) as follows:

**23-3.9-303. Educator test stipend program - created - guidelines - repeal.** (4) (c.5) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (4) ONLY, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE THE CRITERIA OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS, INCLUDING:

(I) FIRST, CONSIDERATION FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHOSE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION DOES NOT EXCEED THREE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE MAXIMUM FEDERAL PELL-ELIGIBLE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION; AND

(II) SECOND, CONSIDERATION FOR GRADUATES OF AN APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION WHO WERE PLACED AS STUDENT EDUCATORS BEFORE PASSING THE ASSESSMENT OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES IN STATE FISCAL YEARS 2019-20, 2020-21, AND 2021-22.

**SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.9-401, **amend** (4) and (7); and **repeal** (1) and (2) as follows:

**23-3.9-401. Definitions.** As used in this part 4, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) ~~"Approved program of preparation" means a program of study for preparation that is approved by the Colorado commission on higher education pursuant to section 23-1-121, including a preparation program for school counselors or an alternative teacher program, as defined in section 22-60.5-102 (5), and that upon completion leads to a recommendation for licensure by an accepted institution of higher education, as defined in section 22-60.5-102 (1).~~

(2) ~~"At-risk pupils" has the same meaning as set forth in section 22-54-103 (1.5)(a)(VI).~~

(4) "Educator" means a teacher, ~~or school counselor~~ PRINCIPAL, OR SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-60.5-102 (19).

(7) "Qualified position" means:

(a) A hard-to-staff educator position in a rural school or rural school district, or in a facility school that is in a rural school district, identified by the department of education pursuant to section 23-3.9-102 (6); ~~or~~

(b) A hard-to-staff educator position in a content shortage area identified pursuant to section 23-3.9-102 (6) in a Colorado public school, a school operated by a board of cooperative services created pursuant to article 5 of title 22, or a facility school; OR

(c) AN EDUCATOR POSITION IN A COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL, A SCHOOL OPERATED BY A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 22, OR A FACILITY SCHOOL.

**SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.9-402, **amend** (1)(c) and (2); and **add** (1)(d) as follows:

**23-3.9-402. Temporary educator loan forgiveness program - administration - eligibility.** (1) (c) No later than July 1, ~~2022~~ 2023, the commission shall approve applications. If more new participants apply than can be approved based on the money available, the commission shall:

(I) First, approve applicants who have contracted for a qualified position in a rural school district or rural school; ~~whose percentage of at-risk pupils exceeded sixty percent in the 2021-22 budget year;~~

(II) Second, approve applicants who have contracted for a qualified position in a content shortage area; ~~with a school whose percentage of at-risk pupils exceeded sixty percent in the 2021-22 budget year;~~ AND

(III) Third, approve applicants who have contracted for a qualified position in a ~~rural school district or rural school;~~ and COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL, A SCHOOL OPERATED BY A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 22, OR A FACILITY SCHOOL.

(IV) ~~Fourth, approve applicants who have contracted with a school for a qualified position in a content shortage area.~~

(d) IN APPROVING APPLICATIONS FOR EACH GROUP OF APPLICANTS IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTIONS (1)(c)(I), (1)(c)(II), AND (1)(c)(III) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL FIRST CONSIDER THOSE APPLICANTS WHO HOLD EDUCATOR LICENSES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF TITLE 22 AND PRIORITIZE THE APPROVAL OF THOSE APPLICATIONS BASED ON THE LENGTH OF TIME EACH APPLICANT HAS BEEN EMPLOYED UNDER THE LICENSE, BEGINNING WITH THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED THE SHORTEST LENGTH OF TIME.

(2) In addition to any qualifications the commission specifies, to qualify for the

temporary educator loan forgiveness program, an educator must BE LIABLE FOR AN OUTSTANDING BALANCE ON A QUALIFIED LOAN.

~~(a) Graduate from a program of preparation that leads to educator licensure pursuant to article 60.5 of title 22;~~

~~(b) Meet licensure requirements pursuant to section 22-60.5-201 (1)(a) or (1)(b) or 22-60.5-210 (1)(a);~~

~~(c) Enter the educator workforce on or after the 2019-20 state fiscal year and contract for a qualified position no later than the end of the 2021-22 state fiscal year; and~~

~~(d) Be liable for an outstanding balance on a qualified loan.~~

**SECTION 6.** In Session Laws of Colorado 2022, section 9 of chapter 239, **amend** (1) as follows:

Section 9. **Appropriation.** (1) (a) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$720,612 is appropriated to the department of education. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation as follows:

~~(a) (I) \$689,737 \$371,887 for the office of professional services, which amount is based on an assumption that the department will require an additional 3.6 FTE; and~~

~~(b) (II) \$30,875 for information technology services; AND~~

~~(III) \$317,850 FOR A PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.~~

(b) ANY MONEY APPROPRIATED IN SUBSECTION (1)(a)(III) OF THIS SECTION NOT EXPENDED PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2023, IS FURTHER APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE 2023-24 AND 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEARS FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

**SECTION 7. 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: April 10, 2023