

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 24-0066.01 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL 24-069

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kolker,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

Education
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO CLARIFY INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION**
102 **PROGRAM INFORMATION THROUGH A PUBLICLY AVAILABLE**
103 **TRAINING 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>.)

On or before July 1, 2026, the bill requires the department of education to:

- Create and deliver a training program, in plain and easy-to-understand language, regarding individualized education program laws and procedures for special

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.*

- education advocates and parents; and
● Make certain training program information publicly available on its website, in plain and easy-to-understand language.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-20-122 as
3 follows:

4 **22-20-122. Special education advocates and parents - training**
5 **program - publish materials - legislative declaration - definition.**

6 (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

7 (I) IN THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR, TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND ONE
8 HUNDRED NINE STUDENTS IN COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS WERE ELIGIBLE
9 TO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL
10 "REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 701 ET SEQ.;

11 (II) IN THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR, TWELVE PERCENT OF STUDENTS
12 IN COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS WERE IDENTIFIED AS HAVING A DISABILITY
13 THAT QUALIFIED THOSE STUDENTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES
14 PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION
15 ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ. AND THIS ARTICLE 20;

16 (III) APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN PERCENT OF STUDENTS IN
17 COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE CHILDREN WHO HAVE AN
18 INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM OR A SECTION 504
19 ACCOMMODATION; AND

20 (IV) FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS, AND RELATED PROCESSES
21 REGARDING INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS, ARE COMPLEX AND
22 CHALLENGING TO NAVIGATE.

23 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS AN

1 IMPORTANT PRIORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PARENTS, THE PUBLIC,
2 AND ADVOCATES TO HELP PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF INDIVIDUALIZED
3 EDUCATION PLANS AND PARTICIPATION OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.

4 (2) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
5 CREATE, DELIVER, AND MAKE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE A TRAINING PROGRAM.
6 THE TRAINING PROGRAM MUST PRESENT COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION,
7 IN PLAIN AND EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE, REGARDING FEDERAL
8 AND STATE LAWS AND PROCEDURES REGARDING INDIVIDUALIZED
9 EDUCATION PROGRAMS. THE DEPARTMENT MAY INCLUDE INTERPERSONAL
10 AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY EXERCISES IN THE TRAINING PROGRAM.

11 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DELIVER THE TRAINING PROGRAM IN
12 PERSON AND MAKE THE TRAINING ACCESSIBLE ONLINE. THE GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY ENCOURAGES ANYONE WHO WISHES TO PARTICIPATE TO
14 COMPLETE THE TRAINING PROGRAM IN PERSON, IF PRACTICABLE, IN ORDER
15 TO BENEFIT FROM ANY INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY
16 EXERCISES OFFERED DURING THE TRAINING PROGRAM.

17 (c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS
18 TO CREATE THE TRAINING PROGRAM. AT A MINIMUM, THE DEPARTMENT IS
19 ENCOURAGED TO COLLABORATE WITH PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE
20 AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM, TEACHERS, PERSONS WITH
21 DISABILITIES, SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES, AND MEMBERS OF THE
22 PUBLIC.

23 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
24 PUBLISH, AND UPDATE AS NECESSARY, THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS ON THE
25 DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE:

26 (I) A RECORDING OF THE TRAINING DELIVERED PURSUANT TO THIS
27 SECTION; AND

1 (II) ANY RESOURCES OR MATERIALS DEVELOPED TO ACCOMPANY
2 THE TRAINING PROGRAM CREATED AND DELIVERED PURSUANT TO THIS
3 SECTION.

4 (b) THE MATERIALS AND RESOURCES PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO
5 SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION MUST BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC
6 AND IN PLAIN AND EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE.

7 (3.5) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR PURPOSES
9 OF THIS SECTION IN STATE FISCAL YEARS 2024-25 AND 2025-26. FOR
10 STATE FISCAL YEAR 2026-27, AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
11 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT APPROPRIATE MONEY TO THE
12 DEPARTMENT FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, AND THE DEPARTMENT
13 SHALL PERFORM ANY DUTIES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION
14 WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES.

15 (4) UPON THE REQUEST OF A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, THE
16 DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A TRAIN-THE-TRAINER MODEL TRAINING TO
17 EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, OR AGENTS OF THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.
18 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH, AND UPDATE AS NECESSARY ON ITS
19 WEBSITE, THE NAMES OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE
20 EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, OR AGENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE
21 TRAIN-THE-TRAINER MODEL TRAINING.

22 (5) UPON THE REQUEST OF ANY PERSON, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
23 PROVIDE ANY RESOURCES OR MATERIALS DEVELOPED TO ACCOMPANY THE
24 TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE LANGUAGE REQUESTED BY THE PERSON.

25 (6) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
26 REQUIRES, "TRAIN-THE-TRAINER" MEANS A TRAINING FRAMEWORK THAT
27 DEVELOPS TRAINING RECIPIENTS INTO SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS WHO ARE

1 THEN QUALIFIED TO DELIVER A TRAINING.

2 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
3 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
4 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
5 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
6 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
7 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
8 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
9 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
10 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.