



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

Legislative Fact Sheet
Updated 2/12/2020

SB20-031 Improve Student Success Innovation Pilot

Technical fact sheet**

The bill creates the Improve Student Success Innovation Pilot to be administered by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) to award institutions with the resources to implement a collaborative program among multiple institutions of higher education to improve student success and increase the number of students who complete postsecondary education.



The average cost of a degree in CO is \$4,500 for an associate's and \$11,100 for a bachelor's



10-year change in education appropriations is -\$402



Colorado state minimum wage is \$12.00

According to the bill, CCHE must prioritize program proposals that address common barriers to student success and the completion of postsecondary education.

Common Barriers to Entry

Students' and families' difficulty affording college remains the most significant barrier in their pursuit of higher education. Affordability is a concern for all kinds of students, including the young adults who go directly out of high school. But the cost of college could be especially prohibitive for certain groups of students: **student parents, working students, students who return to school later in life, and students who face housing insecurity.**

Student Insecurity in Denver Metro Area

According to a recent #RealCollege survey from the Hope Center, for institutions of higher education in the Denver metro area (Community College of Denver, University of Colorado Denver, Metropolitan State University and Denver University), among the 3,011 respondents questioned:

- 40% experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days
- 55% experienced housing insecurity in the previous year
- 18% experienced homelessness in the previous year

Student Demographics

According to data from Young Invincibles, of the 300,000 college students in Colorado:

- 64,000 experience housing insecurity
- 50,000 are student parents
- 62,000 are returning students
- 230,000 work 20+ hours a week

For More Information

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Colorado Department of Higher Education <https://highered.colorado.gov/>

Colorado Rises: Advancing Education and Talent Development <http://masterplan.highered.colorado.gov/>

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