

CHAPTER 74

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOUSE BILL 24-1393

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Bird and Taggart, Sirota, Amabile, Bradley, Brown, Frizell, Herod, Joseph, Pugliese, Snyder, Young, McCluskie;
also SENATOR(S) Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer, Bridges, Cutter, Exum, Hinrichsen, Michaelson Jenet, Priola.

AN ACT

CONCERNING MEASURES TO REDUCE THE COST OF THE ACCELERATING STUDENTS THROUGH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AND REDUCING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-108, **amend** (1)(a) introductory portion, (1)(b), (2)(a)(III), (3), and (4); and **add** (2)(a)(V), (2)(a)(VI), (2)(c), and (7) as follows:

22-35-108. Accelerating students through concurrent enrollment program - objectives - non-tuition expenses - rules. (1) (a) There is established the accelerating students through concurrent enrollment program, which is available to ~~all~~ qualified students who are designated by their enrolling local education providers pursuant to subsection (2)(a) of this section. The objectives of the ASCENT program are to:

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this article 35 to the contrary, a qualified student who is designated by ~~a~~ THE STUDENT's local education provider to be an ASCENT program participant pursuant to subsection (2) of this section may concurrently enroll in postsecondary courses, including academic courses and career and technical education courses, in the year directly following the year in which the qualified student was enrolled in the twelfth grade of the local education provider.

(2) (a) A local education provider may designate a qualified student as an ASCENT program participant if the qualified student:

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.

(III) Has been accepted into a postsecondary degree program at an institution of higher education; ~~and~~

(V) HAS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED A FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID OR A COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID; AND

(VI) HAS SATISFIED ANY OTHER SELECTION CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD'S GUIDELINES, PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION.

(c) FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR, AND EACH STATE FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL NOT DESIGNATE A TOTAL NUMBER OF ASCENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS THAT IS GREATER THAN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ASCENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS THAT IT DESIGNATED IN THE 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR.

~~(3) A local education provider may include each qualified student whom the local education provider designates to participate in the ASCENT program pursuant to this section~~ THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER OF A QUALIFIED STUDENT WHO IS DESIGNATED BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER AS AN ASCENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT MAY INCLUDE THE STUDENT IN THE DISTRICT'S FUNDED PUPIL COUNT, OR, IN THE CASE OF A QUALIFIED STUDENT ENROLLED IN AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL, IN THE FUNDED PUPIL COUNT OF THE SCHOOL'S ACCOUNTING DISTRICT, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 22-54-103 (7).

(4) The board shall establish guidelines as necessary for the administration of the ASCENT program, INCLUDING SELECTION CRITERIA THAT THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY USE TO DESIGNATE QUALIFIED STUDENTS AS ASCENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

(7) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, AND THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE, CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE ASCENT PROGRAM. AT A MINIMUM, THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE:

(a) A SAMPLE-BASED ANALYSIS OF THE EXPENDITURES REQUIRED OF LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO OFFER THE ASCENT PROGRAM, INCLUDING INFORMATION REGARDING THE AMOUNT PAID FOR STUDENT TUITION; FEES; TEXTBOOKS; TRANSPORTATION; STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES, INCLUDING COUNSELING; AND ANY OTHER EXPENDITURES REQUIRED OF LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS FOR GENERAL OVERHEAD. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE INFORMATION FROM A SAMPLE OF SCHOOLS THAT DESIGNATED ASCENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS DURING THE 2023-24 BUDGET YEAR AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE DATA COLLECTIONS REGARDING ASCENT PROGRAM EXPENDITURES.

(b) INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DISTRICTS TO THE DEPARTMENT REGARDING ASCENT PROGRAM SERVICES AND EXPENDITURES THAT HAVE THE GREATEST EFFECT; AND

(c) RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO IMPROVE THE ASCENT PROGRAM, INCLUDING AN ESTIMATE OF HOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD IMPROVE OUTCOMES BASED ON THE OBJECTIVES STATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-104, **amend** (4.7)(b); **repeal** (4.7)(c); and **add** (4.7)(d) as follows:

22-54-104. District total program - definitions - repeal. (4.7) (b) (I) ~~Subject to the provisions of paragraph (c) of this subsection (4.7), for~~ FOR the 2010-11 budget year and budget years thereafter THROUGH THE 2023-24 BUDGET YEAR, the dollar amount set forth in ~~paragraph (a) of this subsection (4.7) shall~~ SUBSECTION (4.7)(a) OF THIS SECTION MUST be increased by the percentage by which the statewide base per pupil funding for that budget year, as specified in ~~paragraph (a) of subsection (5)~~ SUBSECTION (5)(a) of this section, is increased over the statewide base per pupil funding for the 2007-08 budget year, as specified in ~~subparagraph (XIV) of paragraph (a) of subsection (5)~~ SUBSECTION (5)(a)(XIV) of this section. The amount ~~shall~~ MUST be rounded to the nearest dollar.

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (4.7)(b) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

~~(c) In any budget year in which the provisions of subsection (5)(g) of this section apply, the department of education shall calculate a district's reduction amount for extended high school funding by multiplying the budget stabilization factor calculated for the applicable budget year pursuant to subsection (5)(g)(H)(A) of this section by the amount of the district's extended high school funding calculated pursuant to subsection (4.7)(b) of this section for the applicable budget year. A district's extended high school funding for the applicable budget year shall be the greater of:~~

~~(f) The district's extended high school funding calculated for the applicable budget year pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (4.7) minus the district's reduction amount calculated for the applicable budget year pursuant to this paragraph (c) for extended high school funding; or~~

~~(h) An amount equal to the base per pupil funding amount specified in paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of this section for the applicable budget year multiplied by the district's extended high school pupil enrollment for the applicable budget year.~~

(d) FOR THE 2024-25 BUDGET YEAR AND EACH BUDGET YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DOLLAR AMOUNT SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (4.7)(a) OF THIS SECTION MUST BE INCREASED BY THE PERCENTAGE BY WHICH THE STATEWIDE BASE PER PUPIL FUNDING FOR THAT BUDGET YEAR, AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION, IS INCREASED OVER THE STATEWIDE BASE PER PUPIL FUNDING FOR THE 2007-08 BUDGET YEAR, AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (5)(a)(XIV) OF THIS SECTION; EXCEPT THAT THE DOLLAR AMOUNT THAT IS MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENTS INCLUDED IN THE DISTRICT'S EXTENDED HIGH SCHOOL PUPIL ENROLLMENT WHO ARE THE DISTRICT'S ASCENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS MUST NOT INCREASE OR EXCEED THE DOLLAR AMOUNT DURING THE 2023-24 BUDGET YEAR. THE AMOUNT MUST BE ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-104, **amend** (4.7)(a) as follows:

22-54-104. District total program - definitions - repeal. (4.7) (a) For the ~~2009-10~~ 2024-25 budget year and budget years thereafter, a district's extended high

school funding shall be determined in accordance with the following formula:

(District extended high school pupil enrollment x \$6,135, or an amount determined pursuant to ~~paragraph (b) of this subsection (4.7)~~ SUBSECTION (4)(d) OF THIS SECTION).

SECTION 4. Appropriation - adjustments to 2024 long bill. (1) To implement this act, the cash funds appropriation from the state education fund created in section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of the state constitution made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2024-25 fiscal year to the department of education for extended high school is decreased by \$1,081,762.

(2) For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, \$45,600 is appropriated to the department of education. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for an ASCENT program study.

SECTION 5. Effective date. This act takes effect upon passage; except that section 3 of this act takes effect July 1, 2024.

SECTION 6. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

Approved: April 18, 2024