

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 26-0667.01 Ken Fowler x2372

HOUSE BILL 26-1299

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Garcia Sander and Lukens,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Pelton B.,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING REDUCTION OF REGULATORY BURDENS ON LOCAL
102 EDUCATION PROVIDERS.

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 requires the Colorado bureau of investigation to transmit a list of missing children to the Colorado department of education (department) instead of each school district.

The bill repeals the requirement for a school district, board of cooperative services, district charter school, or institute charter school (local education provider) to have paper and pencil assessment policies

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.

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 17, 2026

for state-administered assessments in public schools.

The bill allows a school district, a charter school network, or a charter school collaborative with 1,200 students or fewer to submit a single plan to satisfy school district, school network, or school plan requirements.

The bill allows schools that have waived out of the underlying requirements for licensed personnel evaluations to be exempt from submitting licensed personnel evaluations.

The bill prohibits the department from representing a voluntary data collection request to a school district, the state charter school institute, or a public school as mandatory and prohibits the department from conditioning any benefit unrelated to a specific grant on the completion of a voluntary data collection request.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Colorado's commitment to public education is rooted in the
5 belief that every student deserves access to high-quality instruction and
6 the supports necessary to thrive from preschool through graduation;

7 (b) Honoring this commitment requires state law to prioritize
8 student learning and well-being, safeguard student privacy and safety, and
9 promote accountability and continuous improvement while avoiding
10 administrative requirements that no longer reflect current educational
11 practice;

12 (c) Statutory and regulatory reporting, planning assessment, and
13 data collection obligations have accumulated in ways that are often
14 duplicative, misaligned, or outdated, resulting in an administrative
15 workload that reduces the time, flexibility, and capacity educators can
16 devote to direct instruction and student support;

17 (d) Feedback collected through surveys and stakeholder
18 engagement conducted by the education data advisory committee

1 demonstrates that many local education providers experience data
2 reporting and planning requirements that lack a straightforward statutory
3 requirement, overlap with other mandated submissions, or provide limited
4 instructional or accountability value; and

5 (e) The general assembly therefore determines that strengthening
6 transparency, statutory alignment, and modernization of these
7 requirements will improve the usefulness and integrity of collected data,
8 reduce unnecessary burden, and better support educators, students, and
9 families across Colorado.

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-415.1,
11 **amend** (5) as follows:

12 **24-33.5-415.1. List of missing children.**

13 (5) ~~A timely~~ THE BUREAU SHALL DISTRIBUTE A list of missing
14 children ~~shall be distributed~~ on a regular basis to ~~all school districts in this~~
15 ~~state, except those school districts which have elected to provide the~~
16 ~~names of all new or transfer students to the bureau, and each school~~
17 ~~district shall distribute such information to the individual schools within~~
18 ~~the district in whatever manner deemed appropriate~~ THE COLORADO
19 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR CROSS-REFERENCE AGAINST THE
20 DEPARTMENT'S STUDENT RECORDS. The list ~~shall~~ MUST include the names
21 of missing children together with whatever information the bureau
22 determines would be helpful in making identification. ~~A school district~~
23 THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL COMPARE THE
24 BUREAU'S MISSING CHILDREN LIST TO THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPREHENSIVE
25 LIST OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND shall
26 ~~either~~ immediately notify the bureau if ~~it comes in contact with a child~~
27 ~~whose name appears on the list of missing children or send the names of~~

1 ~~all new or transfer students to the bureau on a regular basis,~~ ITS
2 COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLORADO PUBLIC
3 SCHOOLS INCLUDES A MISSING STUDENT OR INFORMATION ON THE
4 LAST-KNOWN SCHOOL OF ENROLLMENT OF A MISSING STUDENT, and, if a
5 missing child is identified, the bureau shall, in turn, notify the law
6 enforcement agency that submitted the missing child report. All
7 information received or transmitted pursuant to this subsection (5) ~~shall~~
8 ~~be~~ IS confidential and shall only be used for law enforcement purposes.

9 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1013, **repeal** (6)
10 as follows:

11 **22-7-1013. Local education provider - preschool through**
12 **elementary and secondary education standards - adoption - academic**
13 **acceleration - definition.**

14 ~~(6) Each local education provider shall adopt and implement a~~
15 ~~written policy by which the local education provider will decide whether~~
16 ~~the students enrolled by the local education provider will use pencil and~~
17 ~~paper to complete any portion of a state assessment administered pursuant~~
18 ~~to section 22-7-1006.3 (1)(a) that the students would otherwise complete~~
19 ~~using a computer. The policy must ensure that the local education~~
20 ~~provider makes the decision in consultation with parents and, if the local~~
21 ~~education provider is a school district or board of cooperative services,~~
22 ~~the public schools that the local education provider operates. The local~~
23 ~~education provider may decide that the students in one or more of the~~
24 ~~public schools, or in one or more of the classrooms of the public schools,~~
25 ~~operated by the local education provider will use pencil and paper to~~
26 ~~complete the computerized portions of a state assessment. Each year~~
27 ~~before the start of fall semester classes, the local education provider shall~~

1 ~~distribute copies of the policy to the parents of students enrolled in the~~
2 ~~local education provider and post a copy of the policy on the local~~
3 ~~education provider's website.~~

4 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-11-208, **amend**
5 (1)(d) as follows:

6 **22-11-208. Accreditation - annual review - supports and**
7 **interventions - rules.**

8 (1) (d) The state board by rule shall establish the time frames in
9 which the department ~~shall~~ MUST review school district and institute
10 performance and determine and report each school district's and the
11 institute's appropriate accreditation category, and the time frames in
12 which the school districts and the institute ~~shall~~ MUST adopt their
13 respective plans and submit them for review and publication on the data
14 portal. A school district with one thousand TWO HUNDRED students or
15 fewer ~~shall only be required to~~ MAY submit a single plan to satisfy the
16 school district and school plan requirements. A CHARTER SCHOOL
17 NETWORK ■ WITH ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED STUDENTS OR FEWER
18 AND AUTHORIZED BY A SINGLE AUTHORIZER MAY SUBMIT A SINGLE PLAN
19 TO SATISFY THE SCHOOL PLAN REQUIREMENTS OF ITS SCHOOLS.

20 ■ ■

21 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-2-307, **add** (4) as
22 follows:

23 **22-2-307. Data reporting requirements - interpretation of**
24 **federal law - suspension - information on required data.**

25 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT REPRESENT A VOLUNTARY DATA
26 COLLECTION REQUEST AS MANDATORY TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE STATE
27 CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE, OR A PUBLIC SCHOOL AND SHALL NOT

1 CONDITION ANY BENEFIT TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE STATE CHARTER
2 SCHOOL INSTITUTE, OR A PUBLIC SCHOOL, UNRELATED TO A SPECIFIC
3 GRANT, ON THE COMPLETION OF A VOLUNTARY DATA COLLECTION
4 REQUEST.

5 **SECTION 6. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
6 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
7 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
8 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
9 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
10 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
11 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
12 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
13 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
14 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.