

NOTE: This bill has been prepared for the signatures of the appropriate legislative officers and the Governor. To determine whether the Governor has signed the bill or taken other action on it, please consult the legislative status sheet, the legislative history, or the Session Laws.

An Act

SENATE BILL 26-103

BY SENATOR(S) Kolker and Marchman, Benavidez, Cutter, Exum, Gonzales J., Hinrichsen, Jodeh, Kipp, Snyder, Sullivan, Wallace, Weissman, Coleman;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Bacon and Lukens, Boesenecker, Carter, Duran, English, Froelich, Goldstein, Hamrick, Jackson, Lieder, Lindsay, Nguyen, Phillips, Ricks, Stewart K., McCluskie.

CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING
A SPECIALIZED SCHOOL POLICY FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS.

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

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

(a) Colorado law recognizes community schools as evidence-based, democratic public-school models that integrate academics, family engagement, health services, and community partnerships;

(b) Under current law, the community school model appears primarily as a last-resort accountability intervention, becoming available after schools have entered priority improvement or turnaround status;

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.

(c) Due to systemic inequities, the needs of Black, Latino, and low-income students are unmet far more often and far earlier than accountability systems recognize;

(d) The state must be proactive in allowing schools and families to adopt evidence-based, comprehensive interventions, like the community school model, before crisis emerges, thereby strengthening public schools and ensuring all students have access to high-quality schools; and

(e) School district contracting and metro-district land gifts have enabled privatization that diverts public education dollars and governance to private parties. These gaps must be addressed to preserve transparency, oversight, and equity.

(2) This act establishes early pathways for schools to adopt proven evidence-based, comprehensive interventions, like the community school model, and supports equitable school success across Colorado.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-32.5-112 as follows:

22-32.5-112. Achieving community commitment to equitable school success policy - required - definition.

(1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "ACCESS POLICY" OR "POLICY" MEANS A POLICY DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, EACH INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL, DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL, AND LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION, FOR ITS SCHOOLS THAT ARE NOT DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOLS, SHALL ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT AN ACHIEVING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT TO EQUITABLE SCHOOL SUCCESS POLICY, TO BE KNOWN AS AN ACCESS POLICY, THAT DIRECTS RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS TO AT-RISK STUDENTS, AND SHALL POST THE POLICY ON THE SCHOOL'S OR SCHOOL DISTRICT'S WEBSITE.

(b) THE POLICY MAY INCLUDE:

(I) PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE

ACCESS TO HEALTH CLINICS, LEGAL SERVICES, AND COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY;

(II) INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORT AND WRAPAROUND SERVICES INFORMED BY THE ASSET AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-32.5-103 (1.5)(a), INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INCREASING COUNSELORS, CASEWORKERS, AND OTHER MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS;

(III) EXTENDED LEARNING TIME WITH AFTER-SCHOOL, TUTORING, AND OTHER SUMMER PROGRAMS;

(IV) STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT TEACHER RETENTION AND PAY, INCLUDING INCREASING PLANNING TIME AND OPPORTUNITIES TO COLLABORATE MEANINGFULLY WITH COLLEAGUES AND FUNDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES;

(V) FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES THAT REFLECT CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY, INCLUDING BILINGUAL AND DUAL-LANGUAGE SUPPORTS, TRANSLATORS, AND FAMILY LIAISONS; AND

(VI) THE AT-RISK MEASURE DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-54-104.6.

(c) AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL, DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL, AND A SCHOOL OF A LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT IS NOT A DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL THAT IS PARTICIPATING IN A PERFORMANCE, IMPROVEMENT, PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT, OR TURNAROUND PLAN PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-11-210, WHICH PLAN DIRECTS RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS TO AT-RISK STUDENTS, IS DEEMED TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION, AND SHALL POST THE PLAN ON THE SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT'S WEBSITE.

SECTION 3. 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.

James Rashad Coleman, Sr.
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Julie McCluskie
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Esther van Mourik
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Vanessa Reilly
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED _____

(Date and Time)

Jared S. Polis
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO