

CHAPTER 295

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOUSE BILL 26-1299

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Garcia Sander and Lukens, Barron, Camacho, Clifford, Duran, Goldstein, Gonzalez R., Jackson, Keltie, Lieder, Lindsay, Marshall, Nguyen, Phillips, Richardson, Rydin, Smith, Stewart K., Weinberg, Woog, McCluskie; also SENATOR(S) Pelton B. and Bridges, Kipp, Coleman.

AN ACT**CONCERNING REDUCTION OF REGULATORY BURDENS ON LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS.**

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

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

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assessment, and data collection obligations have accumulated in ways that are often duplicative, misaligned, or outdated, resulting in an administrative workload that reduces the time, flexibility, and capacity educators can devote to direct instruction and student support;

(d) Feedback collected through surveys and stakeholder engagement conducted by the education data advisory committee demonstrates that many local education providers experience data reporting and planning requirements that lack a straightforward statutory requirement, overlap with other mandated submissions, or provide limited instructional or accountability value; and

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.

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

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

24-33.5-415.1. List of missing children.

(5) ~~A timely~~ THE BUREAU SHALL DISTRIBUTE A list of missing children ~~shall be distributed~~ on a regular basis to ~~all school districts in this state, except those school districts which have elected to provide the names of all new or transfer students to the bureau, and each school district shall distribute such information to the individual schools within the district in whatever manner deemed appropriate~~ THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR CROSS-REFERENCE AGAINST THE DEPARTMENT'S STUDENT RECORDS. The list ~~shall~~ MUST include the names of missing children together with whatever information the bureau determines would be helpful in making identification. ~~A school district~~ THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL COMPARE THE BUREAU'S MISSING CHILDREN LIST TO THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND shall ~~either immediately notify the bureau if it comes in contact with a child whose name appears on the list of missing children or send the names of all new or transfer students to the bureau on a regular basis,~~ ITS COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS INCLUDES A MISSING STUDENT OR INFORMATION ON THE LAST-KNOWN SCHOOL OF ENROLLMENT OF A MISSING STUDENT, and, if a missing child is identified, the bureau shall, in turn, notify the law enforcement agency that submitted the missing child report. All information received or transmitted pursuant to this subsection (5) ~~shall be~~ IS confidential and shall only be used for law enforcement purposes.

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

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

(6) ~~Each local education provider shall adopt and implement a written policy by which the local education provider will decide whether the students enrolled by the local education provider will use pencil and paper to complete any portion of a state assessment administered pursuant to section 22-7-1006.3 (1)(a) that the students would otherwise complete using a computer. The policy must ensure that the local education provider makes the decision in consultation with parents and, if the local education provider is a school district or board of cooperative services, the public schools that the local education provider operates. The local education provider may decide that the students in one or more of the public schools, or in one or more of the classrooms of the public schools, operated by the local education provider will use pencil and paper to complete the computerized portions of a state assessment. Each year before the start of fall semester classes, the local education provider shall distribute copies of the policy to the parents of students enrolled in the local education provider and post a copy of the policy on the local education provider's website.~~

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

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

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

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

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

(4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT REPRESENT A VOLUNTARY DATA COLLECTION REQUEST AS MANDATORY TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE, OR A PUBLIC SCHOOL AND SHALL NOT CONDITION ANY BENEFIT TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE, OR A PUBLIC SCHOOL, UNRELATED TO A SPECIFIC GRANT, ON THE COMPLETION OF A VOLUNTARY DATA COLLECTION REQUEST.

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

Approved: June 1, 2026