

Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 16-0169.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

HOUSE BILL 16-1429

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Pettersen,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kerr,

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House Committees

Education  
Appropriations

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES.

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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

Under existing law, a school that meets specified criteria may be designated as an alternative education campus, which makes the school subject to accountability standards that are different from those that apply to other public schools. One of the criteria is that at least 95% of the school's student population has an individual education plan or meets the criteria for identification as an at-risk student under the alternative education campus statute or that at least 95% of the school's student population meets a combination of these requirements. The bill reduces

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

the percentage to 90%. The bill also expands some of the criteria for being identified as an at-risk student for purposes of the alternative education campus statute.

The bill creates the school quality review pilot program to create a base for qualitative measurement of the performance of alternative education campuses. An alternative education campus that participates in the pilot program will receive annual on-site reviews of its operations. The pilot program starts in the 2016-17 school year and continues through the 2018-19 school year. The department of education must review the findings of the pilot program and recommend whether to expand the school quality reviews to additional alternative education campuses.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-604.5, **amend**  
3 (1) (a) (VI) (B), (1.5) (b), (1.5) (f), (1.5) (g), and (1.5) (m) as follows:

4 **22-7-604.5. Alternative education campuses - criteria -**  
5 **application - rule-making.** (1) A public school may apply to the state  
6 board for designation as an alternative education campus. The state board  
7 shall adopt rules specifying the criteria and application process for a  
8 public school to be designated an alternative education campus. The rules  
9 must include but need not be limited to:

10 (a) Criteria that a public school must meet to be designated an  
11 alternative education campus, including but not limited to the following:

12 (VI) (B) Serving a student population in which more than  
13 ~~ninety-five~~ NINETY percent of the students have an individualized  
14 education program pursuant to section 22-20-108 or meet the definition  
15 of a high-risk student contained in subsection (1.5) of this section, or any  
16 combination of these two criteria that equals at least ~~ninety-five~~ NINETY  
17 percent of the student population; or

18 (1.5) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires,  
19 a "high-risk student" means a student enrolled in a public school who:

1 (b) Has dropped out of school or has ~~not been continuously~~  
2 ~~enrolled and regularly attending school for at least one semester prior to~~  
3 ~~enrolling in his or her current public school;~~ FOUR EXCUSED OR  
4 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL IN ANY ONE MONTH OR TEN  
5 EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL DURING ANY  
6 SCHOOL YEAR. ABSENCES DUE TO SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF A  
7 STUDENT ARE CONSIDERED ABSENCES FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH  
8 (b).

9 (f) Has a documented history of child abuse or neglect, HAS BEEN  
10 ADJUDICATED A WARD OF THE COURT, OR HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE  
11 FOSTER CARE SYSTEM;

12 (g) Has a parent or guardian in prison or on parole or probation OR  
13 HAS EXPERIENCED THE LOSS OF A PARENT OR SIBLING;

14 (m) Has a documented history of a ~~serious psychiatric or~~  
15 ~~behavioral disorder, including but not limited to an eating disorder,~~  
16 ~~suicidal behaviors, or deliberate, self-inflicted injury~~ MENTAL OR  
17 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUE OR HAS EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT TRAUMA;  
18 or

19 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-7-604.7 as  
20 follows:

21 **22-7-604.7. School quality review pilot program - creation -**  
22 **repeal.** (1) BEGINNING WITH THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR, THE  
23 DEPARTMENT SHALL OPERATE A SCHOOL QUALITY REVIEW PILOT PROGRAM  
24 TO CREATE A BASE FOR A QUALITATIVE MEASURE OF THE PERFORMANCE  
25 OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES. THE GOAL OF THE PILOT  
26 PROGRAM IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER ON-SITE REVIEW OF AN  
27 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUS IS AN EFFECTIVE METHOD OF

1 ACCURATELY MEASURING QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF THE ALTERNATIVE  
2 EDUCATION CAMPUS'S PERFORMANCE. THE PILOT PROGRAM WILL APPLY TO  
3 PERFORMANCE REVIEWS PREPARED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-11-210 FOR  
4 THE 2016-17 TO 2018-19 SCHOOL YEARS.

5 (2) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT NO FEWER THAN TEN  
6 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT  
7 PROGRAM. A PARTICIPATING CAMPUS IS NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT DATA  
8 IN SUPPORT OF OTHER QUALITATIVE MEASURES THAT THE STATE BOARD  
9 MAY ADOPT PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-11-210 (1) (b) IN REVIEWING THE  
10 PERFORMANCE OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES. THE  
11 DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM TO ENSURE THAT  
12 EACH PARTICIPATING ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUS RECEIVES AN  
13 ANNUAL ON-SITE SCHOOL QUALITY REVIEW DURING WHICH THE REVIEWER  
14 USES A RUBRIC TO EVALUATE HOW WELL THE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION  
15 CAMPUS IS ORGANIZED TO SUPPORT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

16 (b) IN OPERATING THE PILOT PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

17 (I) DESIGN THE REVIEW RUBRIC;

18 (II) CREATE THE PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS FOR THE REVIEW  
19 AND FOR DOCUMENTING THE RESULTS, INCLUDING WHO CONDUCTS THE  
20 REVIEW AND WHETHER THE REVIEWER IS AN INDIVIDUAL OR A TEAM OF  
21 INDIVIDUALS;

22 (III) RECOMMEND TO THE STATE BOARD THE MANNER IN WHICH  
23 THE RESULTS OF THE SCHOOL QUALITY REVIEW ARE INCLUDED IN THE  
24 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUS'S PERFORMANCE EVALUATION UNDER  
25 SECTION 22-11-210; AND

26 (IV) REVIEW AND SUMMARIZE THE RESULTS OF THE PILOT  
27 PROGRAM.

1           (3) NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2019, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
2 REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM AND RECOMMEND TO THE  
3 STATE BOARD WHETHER TO EXPAND THE USE OF SCHOOL QUALITY  
4 REVIEWS TO OTHER ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES AS AN EFFECTIVE  
5 METHOD OF ACCURATELY MEASURING QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF THE  
6 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES' PERFORMANCE.

7           (4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020.

8           **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
9 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
10 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.