



Legislative Council Staff
Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 9/21/2016

Bill Number

House Bill 16-1429

Sponsors

*Representatives Pettersen and
Wilson
Senator Kerr*

Short Title

*Alternative Education Campus
Criteria & Pilot Program*

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which became effective June 8, 2016.

Summary

This bill changes the criteria for alternative education campuses (AECs) and directs the Colorado Department of Education to continue working with interested stakeholders and AECs to find and develop effective performance measurement methods until July 1, 2017.

The bill modifies the criteria for AECs by:

- lowering the threshold for AEC designation from 95 percent high-risk students to 90 percent high-risk students;
- substituting four absences in one month, or ten absences in one year, for the current high-risk criteria of failing to remain continuously enrolled and regularly attending school in the previous semester;
- expanding high-risk criteria to include students who are wards of the courts, are in foster care, or have experienced the loss of a parent or sibling; and
- redefining the meaning of behavioral health issues related to high-risk students in AECs.

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Background

AECs serve high-needs populations, and are considered by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to be one of multiple pathways available to students who may otherwise drop out of school, or those who have dropped out but are seeking to complete their high school education. AECs were established in state law by Senate Bill 02-094, which required the State Board of Education (SBE) to establish rules specifying the criteria and application process for schools wishing to be designated as AECs, within certain parameters. Those parameters have been adjusted by the legislature periodically.

House Action

House Education Committee (April 6, 2016). At the hearing, representatives of AECs and Momentum Strategy and Research testified in support of the bill. The committee adopted amendment L.001, which struck provisions requiring CDE to establish a quality review pilot program for AECs and substituted a requirement that CDE continue to work with stakeholders regarding performance measurement methods. The committee referred the bill, as amended, to the House Appropriations Committee.

House Appropriations Committee (May 3, 2016). The committee adopted amendment J.001, which added an appropriation clause to the bill. The committee referred the bill, as amended, to the House Committee of the Whole.

House second reading (May 3, 2016). The House Committee of the Whole adopted the Education and Appropriation committee reports and passed the bill with no further amendments.

House third reading (May 4, 2016). The House passed the bill with no amendments.

Senate Action

Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee (May 5, 2016). At the hearing, representatives of an AEC and Momentum Policy and Research testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill, unamended, to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senate Appropriations Committee (May 5, 2016). The committee referred the bill, unamended, to the Senate Committee of the Whole.

Senate second reading (May 5, 2016). The Senate Committee of the Whole passed the bill, unamended.

Senate third reading (May 6, 2016). The Senate passed the bill, unamended.

Relevant Research

Accountability Policy Guidance for AECs:

http://cde.state.co.us/accountability/policy_guidance_accountability_for_aecs