

## CHAPTER 249

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**EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS**


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**HOUSE BILL 16-1429**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Pettersen and Wilson, Arndt, Fields, Hamner, Lee, Mitsch Bush, Ryden, Young;  
also SENATOR(S) Kerr, Cooke, Guzman, Heath, Newell, Steadman, Todd.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Has dropped out of school or has ~~not been continuously enrolled and regularly attending school for at least one semester prior to enrolling in his or her current public school;~~ FOUR EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PUBLIC

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

SCHOOL IN ANY ONE MONTH OR TEN EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL DURING ANY SCHOOL YEAR. ABSENCES DUE TO SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF A STUDENT ARE CONSIDERED ABSENCES FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH (b).

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

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

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

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

**22-7-604.7. Alternative education campuses - methods to measure quality performance - repeal.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE 2016-17 FISCAL YEAR, THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT MONEY TO ESTABLISH A SCHOOL QUALITY REVIEW PROGRAM FOR ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THE STAKEHOLDERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-11-210 (1.5).

(2) THE DEPARTMENT, WITHIN EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS, SHALL CONTINUE WORKING WITH THE INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 22-11-210 (1.5) AND INTERESTED ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES TO FIND AND DEVELOP EFFECTIVE METHODS TO ACCURATELY MEASURE QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUS'S PERFORMANCE.

(3) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017.

**SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2016-17 state fiscal year, \$43,896 is appropriated to the department of education. This appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an assumption that the department will require an additional 0.5 FTE. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for college and career readiness.

**SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: June 8, 2016