

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 19-1008.01 Jacob Baus x2173

**SENATE BILL 19-215**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Rodriguez,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lontine,**

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**Senate Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS**  
102                      **CONFERENCE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES,**  
103                      **AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

**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://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill creates parents encouraging parents conferences for parents of children with disabilities who are enrolled in public schools in Colorado. The department of education shall provide for the conferences and related lodging and food for attendees. The bill requires a specified conference curriculum.

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

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-20-120 as  
3 follows:

4           **22-20-120. Parents encouraging parents conference -**  
5 **legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND  
6 DECLARES THAT:

7           (a) PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES OFTEN SUPPORT  
8 THEIR CHILDREN UNTIL THEIR DEATH;

9           (b) THERE ARE NO RESOURCES THAT ADEQUATELY PREPARE  
10 PARENTS FOR THE TASK OF SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES;

11           (c) PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES STRUGGLE TO  
12 OBTAIN TIME AWAY FROM CARING FOR THEIR CHILD IN ORDER TO GAIN  
13 PERSONAL INSIGHT AND SUPPORT FROM EACH OTHER WHILE LEARNING OF  
14 EDUCATIONAL, LEGAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES;

15           (d) BOTH PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS PLAY CRITICAL  
16 INTERACTIVE ROLES IN A CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS AND IN  
17 DEVELOPING AND SUSTAINING FAMILY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS;

18           (e) THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS CONFERENCE UNIQUELY  
19 MOTIVATES INTERPERSONAL AND INTRAPERSONAL INSIGHT THAT IS  
20 CRITICAL FOR SUCCESSFUL PARENT AND PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS;

21           (f) THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS PROGRAM WAS FOUNDED  
22 IN 1978 AND HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF  
23 FAMILIES; AND

24           (g) PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS PROGRAM EVALUATIONS  
25 HAVE SHOWN THAT PARTICIPATING PARENTS FEEL LESS ISOLATED THAN  
26 BEFORE PARTICIPATION AND FEEL MORE HOPEFUL AND EMPOWERED TO

1 ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY FOR THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION AND LIFE PLANS.

2 (2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS  
3 NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS PROGRAM  
4 FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.

5 (3) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDS, OR SUBJECT TO STATE  
6 APPROPRIATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE UP TO FOUR PARENTS  
7 ENCOURAGING PARENTS CONFERENCES, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS  
8 "CONFERENCE", PER YEAR. THE PARENTS OF A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY  
9 ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AS A COUPLE. ALTERNATIVELY, A PARENT  
10 IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND WITH A SUPPORT PERSON.

11 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND FACILITATE AN  
12 APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE.  
13 AT A MINIMUM, A PERSON IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE IF HE OR  
14 SHE IS THE PARENT OF A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.

15 (5) A CONFERENCE MUST BE PROVIDED OF SUFFICIENT LENGTH FOR  
16 CONTENT TO BE DELIVERED, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE OVERNIGHT STAY.

17 (6) A CONFERENCE SHALL BE HELD AT A VENUE EQUIPPED TO MEET  
18 REGIONAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT NEEDS.

19 (7) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE ALL CONFERENCE  
20 PARTICIPANTS WITH LODGING AND FOOD, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FUNDING  
21 AND CONSISTENT WITH STATE FISCAL RULES.

22 (8) THE CONFERENCE CURRICULUM MUST INCLUDE TOPICS THAT  
23 ENABLE PARENTS TO EFFECTIVELY PARTNER WITH THEIR CHILDREN'S  
24 TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH APPROPRIATE  
25 EDUCATION SERVICES SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE STAGES OF  
26 GRIEVING; SPECIAL EDUCATION IN COLORADO AND THE PROGRAM  
27 STANDARDS FOR PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS; AN INDIVIDUAL WITH

1 A DISABILITY'S LEGAL RIGHTS UNDER THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH  
2 DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. 1400 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, OR  
3 OTHER RELATED FEDERAL OR STATE LAWS; PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL  
4 WORK SESSIONS ON FAMILY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES;  
5 AND HOW PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY CAN ADVOCATE FOR  
6 THEIR CHILDREN.

7 (9) THE CONFERENCE MUST PROVIDE PEER SUPPORT FOR PARENTS  
8 AT WORKING MEALS AND DURING BREAKS.

9 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2019-20 state fiscal year,  
10 \$68,000 is appropriated to the department of education. This  
11 appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the  
12 department may use this appropriation for parents encouraging parents  
13 conferences.

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