

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

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 20-0591.01 Brita Darling x2241

**HOUSE BILL 20-1128**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Buentello and Wilson**, Young

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Zenzinger and Priola**,

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**House Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATORS TO**  
102 **INCREASE AWARENESS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ISSUES.**

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**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>.)*

For renewal of an educator license, the bill requires teachers, special services providers, principals, and administrators to complete 10 clock hours of professional development during the term of the license relating to increasing awareness of laws and practices relating to the education of students with disabilities in the classroom, including but not limited to child find and inclusive learning environments.

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.

The bill also requires each educator preparation program, alternative teacher program, and alternative principal preparation program to include course work that provides educator candidates or alternative teacher or principals with an overview of federal laws relating to the education of students with disabilities, individualized education programs, and child find and that teaches educators effective special education classroom practices, including but not limited to inclusive learning environments.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 hereby finds that:

4 (a) Every student needing special education services in  
5 kindergarten through twelfth grade is covered by the "Individuals with  
6 Disabilities Education Act", 20 U.S.C. sec. 1400 et seq., as amended, and  
7 its implementing regulations, 34 CFR 300. This federal law states that  
8 every child with a disability is entitled to a free and appropriate education,  
9 with special education services delivered in the least restrictive  
10 environment possible, and must be provided with specially designed  
11 instruction according to the student's individualized education program  
12 (IEP).

13 (b) Inclusive classroom environments where students with special  
14 needs are included in general education classrooms benefit students both  
15 with and without disabilities;

16 (c) Despite federal and state guidelines making sure special  
17 education students get a proper education, many students with disabilities  
18 and their families are being left behind in Colorado;

19 (d) In 2018, less than ten percent of students who had an IEP were  
20 meeting grade level expectations in grades three through eight, and less  
21 than sixty percent of students identified with a disability graduate high

1 school in four years;

2 (e) Moreover, thirty-three percent of all students who have been  
3 suspended in kindergarten through second grade had an IEP; and

4 (f) Educator preparation programs in Colorado are not required to  
5 prepare teacher and administrator candidates on special education laws  
6 and regulations, creating great variability among educators on the  
7 knowledge of federal and state laws regarding special education and best  
8 practices for inclusive classrooms.

9 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that teachers, special  
10 services providers, principals, and administrators should be aware of  
11 special education laws and requirements and effective special education  
12 practices, including but not limited to inclusive learning environments, as  
13 part of the professional development requirements for renewal of  
14 educator licenses, and that the teaching of special education laws and  
15 effective special education practices should be required for all students  
16 in Colorado's educator preparation programs.

17 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-110, **amend**  
18 (3)(b) introductory portion, (3)(b.5), (3)(c)(X), and (3)(c)(XI); and **add**  
19 (3)(b.7) and (3)(c)(XII) as follows:

20 **22-60.5-110. Renewal of licenses.** (3) (b) A professional licensee  
21 shall complete such ongoing professional development within the period  
22 of time for which such professional license is valid. Such professional  
23 development may include, but need not be limited to, in-service education  
24 programs, including programs concerning juvenile mental health issues  
25 and the awareness and prevention of youth suicide; ~~and~~ training in  
26 preventing, identifying, and responding to child sexual abuse and assault;  
27 AND LAWS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

1 WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
2 CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS; college or  
3 university credit from an accepted institution of higher education or a  
4 community, technical, or local district college; educational travel that  
5 meets the requirements specified in subsection (3)(d) of this section;  
6 involvement in school reform; service as a mentor teacher for teacher  
7 candidates participating in clinical practice, as defined in section  
8 23-78-103; internships; and ongoing professional development training  
9 and experiences. The state board of education, by rule, may establish  
10 minimum criteria for professional development; except that such criteria  
11 shall not:

12 (b.5) In adopting minimum criteria for professional development  
13 activities, the state board, by rule, may require all or a portion of the  
14 professional development activities to be related to increasing the license  
15 holder's competence in his or her existing or potential endorsement area;  
16 ~~or to~~ increasing the professional licensee's skills and competence in  
17 delivery of instruction in his or her existing or potential endorsement area;  
18 ~~or in~~ the teaching of literacy; OR INCREASING AWARENESS OF LAWS AND  
19 PRACTICES RELATING TO EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE  
20 CLASSROOM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE  
21 LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

22 (b.7) (I) IN ADOPTING MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR PROFESSIONAL  
23 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, THE STATE BOARD, BY RULE, SHALL REQUIRE  
24 AT LEAST TEN CLOCK HOURS OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
25 REQUIRED DURING THE TERM OF ANY PROFESSIONAL LICENSE TO RELATE  
26 TO INCREASING AWARENESS OF LAWS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO  
27 EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM, INCLUDING

1 BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING  
2 ENVIRONMENTS, AND RELATING TO STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIORAL  
3 CONCERNS OR BEHAVIORAL DISABILITIES.

4 (II) A LICENSEE WHO HAS LESS THAN THREE YEARS LEFT IN THE  
5 LICENSE RENEWAL PERIOD ON JUNE 30, 2020, HAS UNTIL THE END OF THE  
6 NEXT APPLICABLE RENEWAL PERIOD TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS  
7 ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b.7)(I) OF THIS SECTION AND MAY  
8 SUBMIT CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES COMPLETED WITHIN FIVE YEARS PRIOR  
9 TO JUNE 30, 2020, TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION  
10 (3)(b.7)(I) OF THIS SECTION.

11 (c) In selecting professional development activities for the  
12 renewal of a professional license pursuant to this section, each licensee  
13 shall choose those activities that will aid the licensee in meeting the  
14 standards for a professional educator, including but not limited to the  
15 following goals:

16 (X) Effective organization and management of human and  
17 financial resources to create a safe and effective working and learning  
18 environment; and

19 (XI) Awareness of warning signs of dangerous behavior in youth  
20 and situations that present a threat to the health and safety of students and  
21 knowledge of the community resources available to enhance the health  
22 and safety of students and the school community; AND

23 (XII) AWARENESS OF LAWS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO  
24 EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM, INCLUDING  
25 BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING  
26 ENVIRONMENTS, AND RELATING TO STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIORAL  
27 CONCERNS OR BEHAVIORAL DISABILITIES.

1           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-111, **amend**  
2 (14)(c)(II) and (14)(c)(III); and **add** (14)(c)(IV) as follows:

3           **22-60.5-111. Authorization - types - applicants' qualifications**  
4 **- rules.** (14) **Principal authorization.** (c) At a minimum, a person's  
5 individualized alternative principal program shall ensure that:

6           (II) The person receives coaching and mentoring from one or  
7 more licensed principals and administrators and continuing  
8 performance-based assessment of the person's skills development; except  
9 that, if the person participates in an individualized alternative principal  
10 program offered by a nonpublic school, the person must receive coaching  
11 and mentoring from one or more principals and administrators who have  
12 three or more years of experience in a nonpublic school; ~~and~~

13           (III) The person demonstrates professional competencies in  
14 subject matter areas as specified by rule of the state board of education  
15 pursuant to section 22-60.5-303; AND

16           (IV) THE PERSON RECEIVES EDUCATION AND TRAINING THAT  
17 PROVIDES THE PERSON WITH AN OVERVIEW OF TITLE II OF THE FEDERAL  
18 "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET  
19 SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; SECTION 504  
20 OF THE FEDERAL "REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 701 ET  
21 SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; THE  
22 "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400  
23 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS;  
24 INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND CHILD FIND AND THAT  
25 TEACHES EFFECTIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM PRACTICES,  
26 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

27           **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-205, **add**

1 (2)(i) as follows:

2 **22-60.5-205. One-year and two-year alternative teacher**  
3 **programs - legislative declaration - standards and evaluation - duties**  
4 **of department - duties of the state board of education - fees.**

5 (2) Designated agencies are hereby authorized to implement one-year  
6 alternative teacher programs or two-year alternative teacher programs,  
7 which two-year programs were formerly known as teacher in residence  
8 programs, as follows:

9 (i) AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE COURSE  
10 WORK THAT PROVIDES ALTERNATIVE TEACHERS WITH AN OVERVIEW OF  
11 TITLE II OF THE FEDERAL "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990",  
12 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING  
13 REGULATIONS; SECTION 504 OF THE FEDERAL "REHABILITATION ACT OF  
14 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 701 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING  
15 REGULATIONS; THE "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT",  
16 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING  
17 REGULATIONS; INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND CHILD FIND  
18 AND THAT TEACHES EFFECTIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM  
19 PRACTICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO INCLUSIVE LEARNING  
20 ENVIRONMENTS.

21 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-305.5, **add**  
22 (3)(a.5) as follows:

23 **22-60.5-305.5. Alternative principal preparation program -**  
24 **legislative declaration.** (3) In designing an individualized alternative  
25 principal program, the school district, charter school, or nonpublic school  
26 shall, at a minimum, ensure that:

27 (a.5) THE PROGRAM PROVIDES INFORMATION AND TRAINING THAT

1 INCLUDES AN OVERVIEW OF TITLE II OF THE FEDERAL "AMERICANS WITH  
2 DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED,  
3 AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; SECTION 504 OF THE FEDERAL  
4 "REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 701 ET SEQ., AS  
5 AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; THE "INDIVIDUALS WITH  
6 DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ., AS  
7 AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; INDIVIDUALIZED  
8 EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND CHILD FIND AND THAT TEACHES EFFECTIVE  
9 SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM PRACTICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED  
10 TO INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

11 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-121, **add**  
12 (2)(c.7) as follows:

13 **23-1-121. Commission directive - approval of educator**  
14 **preparation programs - review.** (2) The commission shall adopt  
15 policies establishing the requirements for educator preparation programs  
16 offered by institutions of higher education. The department shall work in  
17 cooperation with the state board of education in developing the  
18 requirements for educator preparation programs. At a minimum, the  
19 requirements must ensure that each educator preparation program  
20 complies with section 23-1-125, is designed on a performance-based  
21 model, and includes:

22 (c.7) COURSE WORK THAT PROVIDES EDUCATOR CANDIDATES WITH  
23 AN OVERVIEW OF TITLE II OF THE FEDERAL "AMERICANS WITH  
24 DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED,  
25 AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; SECTION 504 OF THE FEDERAL  
26 "REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 701 ET SEQ., AS  
27 AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; THE "INDIVIDUALS WITH



1     DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ., AS  
2     AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; INDIVIDUALIZED  
3     EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND CHILD FIND AND THAT TEACHES EDUCATORS  
4     EFFECTIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM PRACTICES, INCLUDING BUT  
5     NOT LIMITED TO INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS;

6             **SECTION 7. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
7     determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
8     preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.