

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 21-1001.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

HOUSE BILL 21-1330

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCluskie and Ricks,

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Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer,

House Committees

Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS IN OBTAINING**
102 **POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS, AND, IN CONNECTION**
103 **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>.)

Section 1: Legislative declaration. The bill explains why appropriating money to the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative (COSI) and to the department of higher education (department) for programs to incentivize students to re-enroll and complete postsecondary credentials and degrees, and for a grant program to assist students in

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.

completing applications for financial assistance, are appropriate and lawful uses of a portion of the money the state receives pursuant to the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" (ARPA).

Sections 2 through 5: Distribution of federal money to support student success. Beginning with the 2021-22 state fiscal year, the bill directs the COSI advisory board to allocate to public institutions of higher education (institution) an amount appropriated to the COSI fund from money received pursuant to ARPA. To receive a distribution of its allocation, an institution must submit a student assistance plan (plan) explaining how the institution will use the money to provide financial assistance and support services to students who have some postsecondary credits but stopped attending before obtaining a credential, and first-time students who were admitted to an institution for the 2019-20 or 2020-21 academic year but did not enroll for the 2020-21 academic year. The provision of financial assistance and support services is designed to decrease student debt and increase student enrollment, retention, and completion of credentials. The COSI advisory board must review each plan based on specified criteria and may require changes to a plan before approving a distribution. At the end of the fiscal year, each institution must submit a report of how it used the money and the results achieved. The COSI director must include the information in the report that the board annually prepares. The program to distribute the federal money in this manner is repealed July 1, 2026.

The bill creates the student aid applications completion grant program (grant program) in COSI. A school district, a charter school, or a board of cooperative services that operates a high school (local education provider) that chooses to apply for a grant must require the students enrolled by the local education provider to complete the free application for federal student aid and the Colorado application for state financial aid (student aid applications) before high school graduation, unless waived under conditions specified by the local education provider. The bill specifies the contents of the application and requires the COSI board to review the applications and approve the grant awards to be paid from an amount appropriated to the COSI fund in the bill. Each grant recipient must submit an annual report concerning use of the grant money, and the COSI board must include a summary report in the annual report that the COSI board submits to the education committees of the general assembly. The grant program is repealed July 1, 2026.

Section 6: Colorado re-engaged (CORE) initiative. The bill creates the Colorado re-engaged (CORE) initiative within the department to award an associate degree to an eligible student who enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program at a 4-year institution and earns at least 70 credit hours, but stops attending before attaining the degree. The bill specifies the role of the department in implementing the CORE initiative and the role of an institution that chooses to participate in the CORE

initiative. Each institution that chooses to participate in the CORE initiative must annually submit to the department a report concerning implementation of the CORE initiative. The department must review and compile the reports and submit a summary report to the education committees of the general assembly.

Sections 7 through 12: Bachelor of applied science degree programs. The bill repeals the requirement that a community college or a local district college must receive approval from the Colorado commission on higher education (commission) to offer a bachelor of applied science degree program. A community college or a local district college that seeks to offer a bachelor of applied science degree program must apply to its governing board, and the governing board may approve the program based on specified criteria. If a governing board approves a bachelor of applied science degree program, the governing board must notify the commission. The bill repeals the criteria the commission must apply in approving a bachelor's degree program for a local district college.

Section 13: Study of role and mission and workforce development. The bill directs the commission to convene a task force to:

- Review the role and mission and service area of each state institution of higher education, local district college, and area technical college;
- The interaction between the institutions, the local district colleges, the area technical colleges, and the state work force development council in supporting and improving workforce development; and
- Review and make recommendations concerning uses of ARPA money for assistance for populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency that addresses or mitigates the impacts of the public health emergency on educational disparities.

The bill describes the membership of the task force and the issues the task force must address. By December 15, 2021, the task force must submit a report of findings and recommendations to the commission and to the education committees of the general assembly. The department must post the report on the department's website.

Section 14: Completion of student aid applications. The bill creates within the department a working group appointed by the governor to recommend strategies for increasing the student completion rate for the student aid applications. The working group must submit its recommendations to the commission, the state board of education, the joint budget committee, and the education committees of the general assembly by January 15, 2022.

Section 15: Classification for in-state tuition. The bill allows the governing board of an institution to classify a qualified person as an

in-state student, for tuition purposes only, if the qualified person moves to the state to accept employment, the employer is paying the qualified person's tuition, and the qualified person demonstrates the intent to establish permanent domicile in the state. The qualified person is not eligible to receive the state stipend for the first year of enrollment.

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

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

4 (a) On March 11, 2021, the federal government enacted the
5 "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" (ARPA), pursuant to which
6 Colorado will receive \$3,828,761,790 from the federal coronavirus state
7 fiscal recovery fund to be used for certain specified purposes, including
8 "to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the
9 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or its negative economic impacts,
10 including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or
11 aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality";

12 (b) Under the authority granted pursuant to section 602 (f) of
13 ARPA, the secretary of the United States treasury adopted regulations
14 providing further guidance to states regarding the authorized uses of the
15 money allocated to states from the federal coronavirus state fiscal
16 recovery fund to respond to the public health emergency or its negative
17 economic impacts, which include:

18 (I) Assistance to unemployed workers, including job training for
19 individuals who want and are available for work;

20 (II) Aid to impacted industries to respond to the negative
21 economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

22 (III) Programs, services, or other assistance for populations
23 disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency,

1 such as programs or services that address or mitigate the impacts of the
2 public health emergency on education;

3 (c) Traditional and non-traditional students from low-income
4 communities, many of whom are low-wage workers and persons of color,
5 were disproportionately impacted by the public health emergency,
6 experiencing greater job loss and negative economic impacts, which
7 forced many of them to stop attending institutions of higher education
8 without having earned a credential or degree. Programs to incentivize
9 these students to re-enroll to complete a credential or degree, and to assist
10 first-time students from low-income communities to enroll in
11 postsecondary education, are important measures to mitigate the effects
12 of the public health emergency by improving the earnings and economic
13 potential of these students and the communities in which they live and
14 reducing the long-term damage to the economic prospects in low-income
15 neighborhoods that could otherwise result.

16 (d) Appropriating a portion of the federal money to the Colorado
17 opportunity scholarship initiative to allocate to institutions of higher
18 education for programs that provide direct and indirect support to students
19 to re-enroll and complete postsecondary credentials will:

20 (I) Incentivize traditional and non-traditional students who may
21 have been forced to withdraw from postsecondary education due to the
22 economic disruption and safety concerns caused by the public health
23 emergency to re-enroll in institutions of higher education and complete
24 the credits needed for a postsecondary credential or degree, enabling
25 these student to obtain high-paying jobs and careers; and

26 (II) Support businesses and industries negatively impacted by the
27 public health emergency in obtaining the qualified employees necessary

1 to rebuild and return to pre-pandemic productivity levels;

2 (e) A grant program to assist local education providers in
3 partnering with higher education institutions and community-based
4 organizations to help students and families complete the free application
5 for federal student aid and the Colorado application for state financial aid
6 will:

7 (I) Support students in communities of color and low-income
8 populations that are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public
9 health emergency to enroll in and attend postsecondary institutions and
10 obtain postsecondary credentials and degrees, thereby reducing the
11 long-term effects of the pandemic on earnings and economic potential;
12 and

13 (II) Help to mitigate the negative impacts on education and
14 business and industry caused by the public health emergency by
15 expanding the workforce with persons who obtain high-quality
16 postsecondary credentials and degrees and enter the workforce as
17 well-trained and qualified employees; and

18 (f) Programs that seek out nontraditional students who earned
19 enough credits for an associate degree but stopped attending without
20 attaining the degree, and encourage those students to return and to obtain
21 the degree and possibly seek a higher degree, will mitigate the long-term
22 effects of the public health emergency on earnings and economic
23 potential by providing these students, most of whom are low-income
24 workers who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, with the
25 credentials and degrees needed to obtain higher paying jobs and improve
26 the economic prospects for themselves and their communities. Increasing
27 the number of persons with credentials and degrees will also strengthen

1 the workforce and support the economic recovery of the business
2 community.

3 (2) The general assembly therefore declares that the following
4 uses, programs, and initiatives will provide the kind of assistance for
5 which Colorado will receive money from the federal coronavirus state
6 fiscal recovery fund and therefore are appropriate and lawful uses of the
7 money transferred to Colorado pursuant to ARPA:

8 (a) Allocation of money to public institutions of higher education
9 to implement student assistance plans as described in section
10 23-3.3-1006, Colorado Revised Statutes;

11 (b) The student aid applications completion grant program created
12 in section 23-3.3-1007, Colorado Revised Statutes;

13 (c) Implementation of associate degree completion programs as
14 described in section 23-1-131, Colorado Revised Statutes; and

15 (d) The Colorado re-engaged initiative created in section
16 23-1-131.5, Colorado Revised Statutes.

17 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.3-1001, **add** (3)
18 as follows:

19 **23-3.3-1001. Legislative declaration - repeal.** (3) (a) THE
20 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER DECLARES THAT:

21 (I) THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS CAUSED SIGNIFICANT
22 DISRUPTION TO THE LIVES OF STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES, THE
23 OPERATIONS OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN
24 COLORADO, AND THE STATE'S WORKFORCE AND ECONOMY;

25 (II) WHILE THE PANDEMIC HAS AFFECTED THE ENTIRE STATE, IT
26 HAS DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AND
27 COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, EXACERBATING SYSTEMIC ECONOMIC

1 INEQUITIES;

2 (III) THE CRISIS HAS HAD A DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON
3 FRONT-LINE WORKERS, THOSE WHO EARN LOW WAGES, AND THOSE WHO
4 LACK A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL OR DEGREE; AND

5 (IV) AN EQUITABLE ECONOMIC RECOVERY FROM THE PANDEMIC
6 DEPENDS ON HAVING ROBUST PATHWAYS FOR WORKERS TO OBTAIN NEW
7 SKILLS, EARN HIGHER WAGES, AND BE PREPARED FOR THE IN-DEMAND
8 CAREERS OF THE FUTURE.

9 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEREFORE FINDS THAT IT IS AN
10 APPROPRIATE, NECESSARY, AND LAWFUL USE OF THE MONEY RECEIVED
11 THROUGH THE FEDERAL "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", PUB.L.
12 117-2, TO APPROPRIATE A PORTION OF SAID MONEY TO THE COLORADO
13 OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS THE SIGNIFICANT
14 DECLINE IN ENROLLMENT IN THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
15 EDUCATION, HIGH RATES OF JOB LOSS, AND CONTINUING UNEMPLOYMENT
16 AND THE OVERALL DISRUPTION TO THE WORKFORCE CAUSED BY THE
17 COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC
18 HARM TO INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES, BY QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY
19 PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS TO RETURN TO THE PUBLIC
20 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO COMPLETE THEIR
21 POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS AND HELP TO REBUILD AND REVITALIZE
22 THE WORKFORCE OF COLORADO AND BY ASSISTING STUDENTS TO
23 COMPLETE THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND THE
24 COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID.

25 (c) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT
26 INSTITUTIONS USE THE ALLOCATIONS DISTRIBUTED PURSUANT TO SECTION
27 23-3.3-1006 TO PROVIDE DIRECT AND INDIRECT SUPPORT TO STUDENTS TO

1 RE-ENROLL AND COMPLETE POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS. IT IS FURTHER
2 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S INTENT THAT THE INSTITUTIONS PROVIDE THIS
3 DIRECT AND INDIRECT STUDENT SUPPORT THROUGH PROGRAMS THAT
4 INCENTIVIZE STUDENTS TO RETURN AND COMPLETE DEGREE AND
5 CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS, ASSIST STUDENTS IN NAVIGATING THEIR OPTIONS
6 FOR HOW TO RETURN AND COMPLETE DEGREES AND CREDENTIALS
7 EFFICIENTLY, ADDRESS EQUITY GAPS IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE
8 WORKFORCE, PROVIDE TRAINING FOR INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
9 CERTIFICATES AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR TRADITIONAL AND
10 NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE WORKFORCE,
11 SUPPORT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED JOB
12 SECTORS, AND SUPPORT AND IMPROVE OVERALL STUDENT SUCCESS IN
13 COMPLETING POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS AND ENTERING THE
14 WORKFORCE.

15 (d) THIS SUBSECTION (3) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

16 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.3-1004, **amend**
17 (4)(a)(III)(C) as follows:

18 **23-3.3-1004. Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative**
19 **advisory board - created - duties - rules.** (4) The board shall hold its
20 first meeting on or before November 1, 2014, at a time and place to be
21 designated by the executive director or by the executive director's
22 designee. The board shall meet at least four times each year and shall
23 carry out the following duties:

24 (a) Promulgate rules for administration of the initiative, including
25 but not limited to the following:

26 (III) Rules establishing permissible uses of grant and scholarship
27 money from the initiative, which rules must stipulate that:

1 (C) Any money appropriated to the fund that is not used for the
2 purposes described in subsection (4)(a)(III)(A) of this section, ~~or~~ to pay
3 the direct and indirect costs of administering the initiative as described in
4 section 23-3.3-1005 (4), OR AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SECTIONS
5 23-3.3-1006 AND 23-3.3-1007, must be used to build a financial corpus
6 capable of providing financial assistance to eligible Colorado students in
7 Colorado who will attend eligible institutions of higher education within
8 the state. Financial assistance provided pursuant to this subsection
9 (4)(a)(III)(C) may take the form of direct awards, matching incentives to
10 create or increase the number of other scholarships, loans, or any
11 combination thereof.

12 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.3-1005, **add** (6)
13 and (7) as follows:

14 **23-3.3-1005. Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative fund**
15 **- created - rules - repeal.** (6) (a) FOR THE 2020-21 STATE FISCAL YEAR,
16 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE
17 WORKERS, EMPLOYERS, AND WORKFORCE CENTERS CASH FUND, CREATED
18 IN SECTION 24-75-231, TO THE FUND FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN
19 SECTION 23-3.3-1006. IN ADDITION TO THE AMOUNTS DESCRIBED IN
20 SUBSECTIONS (4) AND (7) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT IS
21 AUTHORIZED TO SPEND UP TO FIVE PERCENT OF THE APPROPRIATED
22 AMOUNT TO PAY THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS OF ADMINISTERING THE
23 DISTRIBUTION OF THE AMOUNT DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION (6) AS
24 PROVIDED IN SECTION 23-3.3-1006.

25 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (6) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

26 (7) (a) FOR THE 2021-22 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
27 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE FROM THE WORKERS, EMPLOYERS, AND

1 WORKFORCE CENTERS CASH FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-231, TO
2 THE FUND ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE
3 PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-3.3-1007. IN ADDITION TO THE
4 AMOUNTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS (4) AND (6) OF THIS SECTION, THE
5 DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SPEND FROM THE APPROPRIATED AMOUNT
6 UP TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ANNUALLY FOR THE COSTS
7 INCURRED IN IMPLEMENTING SECTION 23-3.3-1007, WHICH COSTS MAY
8 INCLUDE PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, COLLECTING AND SHARING
9 BEST PRACTICES, AND PROVIDING AN EVALUATION OF THE STUDENT AID
10 APPLICATIONS COMPLETION GRANT PROGRAM IN THE ANNUAL REPORT
11 PREPARED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-3.3-1004 (4)(c).

12 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (7) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

13 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-3.3-1006 and
14 23-3.3-1007 as follows:

15 **23-3.3-1006. Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative -**
16 **federal money - institutional allocations - purposes - reporting - rules**
17 **- definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE
18 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

19 (a) "ELIGIBLE STUDENT" MEANS AN UNDERGRADUATE, IN-STATE
20 STUDENT WHO:

21 (I) EARNED SOME POSTSECONDARY CREDITS FROM A PUBLIC OR
22 PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION BUT DID NOT COMPLETE A
23 CREDENTIAL BEFORE DECIDING NOT TO ENROLL FOR TWO OR MORE
24 CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS; OR

25 (II) WAS ADMITTED TO A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
26 EDUCATION AS A FIRST-TIME STUDENT FOR THE 2019-20 OR 2020-21
27 ACADEMIC YEAR BUT DID NOT ENROLL AT ANY INSTITUTION FOR THE

1 2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR.

2 (b) "PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR
3 "INSTITUTION" MEANS A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
4 IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 23-18-102 (10)(a), A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE, OR
5 AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

6 (c) "STUDENT ASSISTANCE PLAN" OR "PLAN" MEANS THE PROPOSAL
7 THAT A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DEVELOPS AS PART OF
8 ITS APPLICATION TO THE INITIATIVE TO DESCRIBE HOW THE INSTITUTION
9 WILL SPEND THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED TO THE INSTITUTION PURSUANT TO
10 THIS SECTION TO ASSIST ELIGIBLE STUDENTS IN ENROLLING, PERSISTING,
11 AND COMPLETING IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE INITIATIVE'S COMMUNITY
12 PARTNER PROGRAM MODEL.

13 (2) AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS
14 SECTION, THE BOARD SHALL PUBLISH A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS THAT
15 ALLOCATES THE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND PURSUANT TO
16 SECTION 23-3.3-1005 (6) TO THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
17 EDUCATION AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION. EACH
18 INSTITUTION, MAY RECEIVE UP TO ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF ITS
19 ALLOCATION OVER TWO ACADEMIC YEARS BEGINNING IN THE 2021-22
20 ACADEMIC YEAR BY SUBMITTING A STUDENT ASSISTANCE PLAN TO THE
21 BOARD AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION TO USE THE
22 MONEY TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE STUDENTS DIRECTLY THROUGH
23 SCHOLARSHIPS, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE COST OF ATTENDANCE,
24 AND OTHER DIRECT STUDENT FINANCIAL INCENTIVES OR ASSISTANCE. THE
25 PLAN MUST ALSO INCLUDE INDIRECT SUPPORT FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS
26 THROUGH STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES. THE GOAL OF EACH INSTITUTION'S
27 STUDENT ASSISTANCE PLAN MUST BE TO INCREASE ELIGIBLE STUDENT

1 ENROLLMENT, PERSISTENCE, AND COMPLETION AND, FOR INSTITUTIONS
2 OTHER THAN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES, REDUCE STUDENT DEBT.

3 (3) (a) THE BOARD SHALL ALLOCATE THE MONEY APPROPRIATED
4 TO THE FUND PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-3.3-1005 (6) TO EACH PUBLIC
5 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

6 (I) FIFTY PERCENT BASED ON EACH INSTITUTION'S HEADCOUNT
7 ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR OF UNDERGRADUATE,
8 IN-STATE STUDENTS WHOSE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION DID NOT
9 EXCEED TWO HUNDRED FIFTY PERCENT OF THE MAXIMUM PELL-ELIGIBLE
10 EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION FOR A FEDERAL PELL GRANT AND ON
11 OTHER CRITERIA ADOPTED BY RULE AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)
12 OF THIS SECTION; AND

13 (II) FIFTY PERCENT BASED ON EACH INSTITUTION'S FULL-TIME
14 EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR OF
15 UNDERGRADUATE, IN-STATE STUDENTS WHOSE EXPECTED FAMILY
16 CONTRIBUTION DID NOT EXCEED TWO HUNDRED FIFTY PERCENT OF THE
17 MAXIMUM PELL-ELIGIBLE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION FOR A
18 FEDERAL PELL GRANT AND ON OTHER CRITERIA ADOPTED BY RULE AS
19 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

20 (b) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT RULES THAT IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL
21 CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATING THE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND
22 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-3.3-1005 (6), WHICH CRITERIA TAKE INTO
23 ACCOUNT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
24 EDUCATION, INCLUDING LOCATION IN A RURAL AREA OF THE STATE, TOTAL
25 HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT, AND CHARACTERISTICS UNIQUE TO AREA
26 TECHNICAL COLLEGES.

27 (c) THE BOARD SHALL DISTRIBUTE ALL OR A PORTION OF AN

1 INSTITUTION'S ALLOCATION AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER THE BOARD
2 APPROVES THE INSTITUTION'S STUDENT ASSISTANCE PLAN AS PROVIDED IN
3 SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION.

4 (4) (a) TO RECEIVE A DISTRIBUTION OF THE MONEY ALLOCATED
5 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF
6 HIGHER EDUCATION MUST SUBMIT TO THE BOARD A STUDENT ASSISTANCE
7 PLAN DESCRIBING THE INSTITUTION'S INTENDED USE OF THE MONEY TO
8 SUPPORT ELIGIBLE STUDENTS. EACH PLAN MUST BE STUDENT-CENTERED
9 AND, AT A MINIMUM, MUST SPECIFY:

10 (I) THE POPULATION OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS THAT THE PLAN IS
11 DESIGNED TO SUPPORT, WHICH MAY INCLUDE TRADITIONAL AND
12 NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS AND WHICH SHOULD FOCUS ON
13 DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED STUDENT POPULATIONS;

14 (II) THE PERCENTAGE OF THE MONEY DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE
15 PLAN THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS IN THE
16 FORM OF SCHOLARSHIPS, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE COST OF
17 ATTENDANCE, AND OTHER DIRECT STUDENT FINANCIAL INCENTIVES OR
18 ASSISTANCE;

19 (III) IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE INITIATIVE'S COMMUNITY PARTNER
20 PROGRAM MODEL, THE STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES THAT THE
21 INSTITUTION WILL PROVIDE USING THE REMAINING PERCENTAGE OF THE
22 AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE PLAN;

23 (IV) THE AMOUNT OF THE INSTITUTION'S REQUESTED
24 DISTRIBUTION AND THE TIMELINE FOR RECEIVING DISTRIBUTIONS OF THE
25 ALLOCATION OVER THE 2021-22 AND 2022-23 ACADEMIC YEARS;

26 (V) THE SPECIFIC, MEASURABLE GOALS THAT THE INSTITUTION
27 EXPECTS TO ACHIEVE THROUGH THE PLAN, WHICH GOALS MUST INCLUDE

1 INCREASING RETENTION OF THE IDENTIFIED POPULATION OF ELIGIBLE
2 STUDENTS AND MUST BE OTHERWISE ALIGNED WITH INCREASING
3 ENROLLMENT, PERSISTENCE, AND COMPLETION FOR SAID STUDENTS AND,
4 FOR INSTITUTIONS OTHER THAN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES, DECREASING
5 STUDENT DEBT FOR SAID STUDENTS; AND

6 (VI) THE METRICS AND DATA THAT THE INSTITUTION WILL USE TO
7 MEASURE THE DEGREE OF SUCCESS IN MEETING THE GOALS IDENTIFIED IN
8 THE PLAN.

9 (b) EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL
10 SUBMIT ITS STUDENT ASSISTANCE PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES
11 PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD.

12 (5) (a) THE BOARD SHALL REVIEW EACH STUDENT ASSISTANCE
13 PLAN RECEIVED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION. BEFORE
14 APPROVING A STUDENT ASSISTANCE PLAN, THE BOARD AT A MINIMUM
15 MUST CONSIDER:

16 (I) THE PERCENTAGE OF THE DISTRIBUTION THAT THE PUBLIC
17 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WILL SPEND AS DIRECT FINANCIAL
18 ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS VERSUS THE PERCENTAGE THAT THE
19 INSTITUTION WILL SPEND IN PROVIDING STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES, WITH
20 THE INTENT THAT A GREATER PERCENTAGE IS SPENT AS SCHOLARSHIPS,
21 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE COST OF ATTENDANCE, AND OTHER
22 DIRECT STUDENT FINANCIAL INCENTIVES;

23 (II) THE POPULATION OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS THAT THE PLAN IS
24 DESIGNED TO SUPPORT, INCLUDING WHETHER THE PLAN INCLUDES
25 TRADITIONAL AND NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS AND THE DEGREE TO
26 WHICH THE PLAN FOCUSES ON DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED STUDENT
27 POPULATIONS;

1 (III) THE SPEED AND EFFICIENCY WITH WHICH THE INSTITUTION
2 EXPECTS TO DISTRIBUTE ITS MONEY TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS; AND

3 (IV) THE QUALITY OF THE PLAN, INCLUDING THE RIGOR OF
4 PROGRAMMING AND QUALITY OF THE EVALUATION MEASURES, AND THE
5 LIKELIHOOD THAT THE INSTITUTION WILL MEET THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN
6 THE PLAN AND THAT THE PLAN WILL RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN
7 ELIGIBLE STUDENT ENROLLMENT, PERSISTENCE, AND COMPLETION AND,
8 FOR INSTITUTIONS OTHER THAN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES, SIGNIFICANT
9 DECREASES IN STUDENT DEBT.

10 (b) BEFORE APPROVING A STUDENT ASSISTANCE PLAN, THE BOARD
11 MAY PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO THE SUBMITTING PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF
12 HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING SUGGESTED CHANGES, AND REQUIRE THE
13 INSTITUTION TO REVISE AND RESUBMIT THE PLAN.

14 (6) (a) AT THE END OF THE 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR, BY A DATE
15 SET BY BOARD RULE, EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
16 SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE BOARD THAT SPECIFIES:

17 (I) THE AMOUNT OF THE INSTITUTION'S ALLOCATION THAT THE
18 INSTITUTION SPENT DURING THE 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR;

19 (II) THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE MONEY WAS SPENT,
20 INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS SERVED, THE AMOUNTS
21 DIRECTLY DISTRIBUTED TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS, AND THE STUDENT
22 SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS;

23 (III) THE DATA IDENTIFIED IN THE INSTITUTION'S STUDENT
24 ASSISTANCE PLAN THAT DEMONSTRATES THE INSTITUTION'S DEGREE OF
25 SUCCESS IN MEETING THE GOALS IDENTIFIED IN THE PLAN;

26 (IV) ANY OTHER DATA THAT DEMONSTRATES THE INSTITUTION'S
27 PROGRESS TOWARD AND ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOALS OF ASSISTING

1 ELIGIBLE STUDENTS TO ENROLL, PERSIST, AND COMPLETE POSTSECONDARY
2 CREDENTIALS AND, FOR INSTITUTIONS OTHER THAN AREA TECHNICAL
3 COLLEGES, DECREASE STUDENT DEBT;

4 (V) ANY OTHER DATA RELATED TO THE USE OF THE MONEY
5 ALLOCATED TO THE INSTITUTION THAT THE BOARD REQUESTS; AND

6 (VI) IF ANY PORTION OF THE INSTITUTION'S ALLOCATION REMAINS
7 UNDISTRIBUTED, A REQUEST THAT THE BOARD DISTRIBUTE THE
8 REMAINDER OF THE ALLOCATION AND A DESCRIPTION OF ANY REVISIONS
9 TO THE INSTITUTION'S STUDENT ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR SPENDING THE
10 DISTRIBUTION.

11 (b) THE BOARD SHALL REVIEW THE REPORTS RECEIVED PURSUANT
12 TO SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION AND DETERMINE EACH
13 INSTITUTION'S SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS IDENTIFIED IN THE
14 INSTITUTION'S PLAN. FOR EACH INSTITUTION THAT REQUESTS THE
15 DISTRIBUTION OF THE REMAINDER OF THE INSTITUTION'S ALLOCATION, THE
16 BOARD SHALL REVIEW THE INSTITUTION'S STUDENT ASSISTANCE PLAN,
17 INCLUDING ANY REVISIONS. BASED ON THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN
18 SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD MAY PROVIDE FEEDBACK
19 AND REQUIRE CHANGES TO THE PLAN BEFORE DISTRIBUTING THE MONEY
20 TO THE INSTITUTION FOR THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR.

21 (c) AN INSTITUTION THAT IMPLEMENTS A STUDENT ASSISTANCE
22 PLAN DURING THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR AND THAT CONTINUES TO
23 IMPLEMENT THE PLAN IN SUBSEQUENT ACADEMIC YEARS SHALL SUBMIT TO
24 THE BOARD, BY A DATE SPECIFIED BY BOARD RULE, THE REPORT
25 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION AS IT PERTAINS TO EACH
26 ACADEMIC YEAR IN WHICH THE PLAN CONTINUES TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

27 (7) (a) BY DECEMBER 1, 2022, AND BY DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR

1 THEREAFTER SO LONG AS THE BOARD CONTINUES TO RECEIVE REPORTS
2 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) THIS SECTION, THE DIRECTOR SHALL SUBMIT
3 TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES
4 OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
5 COMMITTEES, A REPORT THAT SUMMARIZES THE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM
6 THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION PURSUANT TO
7 SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION. THE SUMMARY REPORT MUST INCLUDE,
8 BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO:

9 (I) THE AMOUNTS ALLOCATED AND DISTRIBUTED TO EACH PUBLIC
10 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

11 (II) THE AMOUNT EACH INSTITUTION SPENT IN PROVIDING DIRECT
12 STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS AND IN
13 PROVIDING SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS AND THE TYPES
14 OF DIRECT STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES AND SUPPORT
15 PROVIDED;

16 (III) THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO RE-ENROLLED IN
17 THE ACADEMIC YEARS IN WHICH EACH INSTITUTION'S STUDENT
18 ASSISTANCE PLAN WAS IMPLEMENTED;

19 (IV) THE POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS AWARDED TO ELIGIBLE
20 STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED ASSISTANCE THROUGH EACH INSTITUTION'S
21 STUDENT ASSISTANCE PLAN; AND

22 (V) ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THE BOARD DEEMS USEFUL IN
23 DETERMINING THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE
24 FUND PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-3.3-1005 (6) WAS SUCCESSFULLY SPENT
25 TO INCREASE ELIGIBLE STUDENT ENROLLMENT, PERSISTENCE, AND
26 COMPLETION AND DECREASE STUDENT DEBT.

27 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 24-1-136

1 (11)(a)(I), THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED IN THIS
2 SUBSECTION (7) CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

3 (8) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

4 **23-3.3-1007. Student aid applications completion grant**
5 **program - created - applications - rules - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS
6 USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "APPLICATION COMPLETION RATE" MEANS THE PERCENTAGE OF
8 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A HIGH SCHOOL OPERATED BY A LOCAL
9 EDUCATION PROVIDER WHO COMPLETE THE STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS IN
10 A SINGLE SCHOOL YEAR.

11 (b) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS
12 COMPLETION GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN THIS SECTION.

13 (c) "HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION" MEANS A STATE
14 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-102
15 (10)(a), A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 71
16 OF THIS TITLE 23, AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE AS DEFINED IN SECTION
17 23-60-103, OR A PRIVATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS DEFINED
18 IN SECTION 23-18-102 (9).

19 (d) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT
20 ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 30 OF TITLE 22, A CHARTER
21 AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5
22 OF TITLE 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER
23 SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, OR
24 A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF
25 TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES A HIGH SCHOOL.

26 (e) "STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS" MEANS THE FREE APPLICATION
27 FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR

1 STUDENT FINANCIAL AID.

2 (2) (a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE INITIATIVE THE STUDENT AID
3 APPLICATIONS COMPLETION GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO
4 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS IN IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES TO INCREASE
5 THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION
6 PROVIDER WHO COMPLETE THE STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS BEFORE
7 GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL. TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
8 GRANT PROGRAM, A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MUST REQUIRE
9 STUDENTS TO COMPLETE THE STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS BEFORE
10 GRADUATION UNLESS THE REQUIREMENT IS WAIVED UNDER CONDITIONS
11 DESCRIBED BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER.

12 (b) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER THAT SEEKS TO PARTICIPATE
13 IN THE GRANT PROGRAM MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE BOARD IN
14 ACCORDANCE WITH TIMELINES AND PROCEDURES SPECIFIED IN RULES OF
15 THE BOARD. AT A MINIMUM, THE APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

16 (I) THE STUDENT AID APPLICATION COMPLETION RATE FOR HIGH
17 SCHOOLS OPERATED BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER FOR THE
18 SCHOOL YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE APPLICATION;

19 (II) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S GOAL FOR INCREASING THE
20 STUDENT AID APPLICATION COMPLETION RATE;

21 (III) THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE LOCAL EDUCATION
22 PROVIDER MAY WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT A STUDENT COMPLETE THE
23 STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS BEFORE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL;

24 (IV) WHETHER THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS PARTNERING
25 OR INTENDS TO PARTNER WITH A COMMUNITY-BASED NONPROFIT
26 ORGANIZATION OR AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO SUPPORT
27 STUDENTS IN COMPLETING THE STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS; AND

1 (V) HOW THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER INTENDS TO USE THE
2 MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE
3 STUDENT AID APPLICATION COMPLETION RATE, WHICH MAY INCLUDE:

4 (A) STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING STUDENT AND FAMILY
5 AWARENESS OF THE STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS AND THE BENEFITS OF
6 COMPLETING THEM AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING TO COMPLETE
7 THEM;

8 (B) STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING STUDENT AND FAMILY
9 AWARENESS OF THE OPTIONS FOR AND COSTS OF POSTSECONDARY
10 ENROLLMENT AND A VARIETY OF CREDENTIAL AND DEGREE PROGRAMS
11 AND HOW THESE RELATE TO COMPLETION OF THE STUDENT AID
12 APPLICATIONS;

13 (C) HIRING ADDITIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELORS TO ASSIST
14 STUDENTS IN COMPLETING THE STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS; AND

15 (D) STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO
16 APPLY TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION BY ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO
17 COMPLETE ADMISSION APPLICATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH COMPLETING
18 THE STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS.

19 (c) THE BOARD SHALL REVIEW THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
20 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE
21 APPROPRIATIONS, AWARD THE GRANTS FROM MONEY APPROPRIATED TO
22 THE FUND PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-3.3-1005 (7). IN AWARDING GRANTS,
23 THE BOARD SHALL PRIORITIZE APPLICANTS THAT PARTNER WITH ONE OR
24 MORE COMMUNITY-BASED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS OR INSTITUTIONS
25 OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN SUPPORTING STUDENT COMPLETION OF STUDENT
26 AID APPLICATIONS. BEFORE AWARDING GRANTS, THE BOARD SHALL
27 CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

1 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
2 COMPLETION OF A SCHOOL YEAR IN WHICH A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER
3 RECEIVES A GRANT THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM, THE LOCAL
4 EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL SUBMIT TO THE BOARD A REPORT SPECIFYING
5 HOW THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER USED THE GRANT MONEY TO
6 INCREASE THE STUDENT AID APPLICATION COMPLETION RATE AND
7 WHETHER AND TO WHAT DEGREE THE STUDENT AID APPLICATION
8 COMPLETION RATE INCREASED ABOVE THE COMPLETION RATE FOR THE
9 PRECEDING SCHOOL YEAR.

10 (b) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2022, AND ON OR BEFORE
11 NOVEMBER 1 FOR EACH YEAR IN WHICH A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER
12 SUBMITS A REPORT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE
13 BOARD SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED PURSUANT TO
14 SECTION 23-3.3-1004 (4)(c) A REPORT THAT SUMMARIZES THE REPORTS
15 RECEIVED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION. THE BOARD
16 MAY INCLUDE IN THE SUMMARY REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING
17 CONTINUATION OF AND CHANGES TO THE GRANT PROGRAM.

18 (4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

19 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-1-131.5 as
20 follows:

21 **23-1-131.5. Commission directive - Colorado re-engaged**
22 **(CORE) initiative - four-year institutions - associate degrees - report**
23 **- definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
24 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

25 (a) "COLORADO RE-ENGAGED INITIATIVE" OR "CORE INITIATIVE"
26 MEANS THE INITIATIVE CREATED IN THIS SECTION TO AUTHORIZE
27 INSTITUTIONS TO AWARD ASSOCIATE DEGREES TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.

1 (b) "ELIGIBLE STUDENT" MEANS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT
2 WHO MEETS THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION.

3 (c) "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"
4 MEANS A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 71
5 OF THIS TITLE 23 OR A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS
6 DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-102 (10)(a), BUT NOT INCLUDING AN
7 INSTITUTION GOVERNED BY THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES
8 AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION.

9 (2) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE COLORADO
10 RE-ENGAGED, OR CORE, INITIATIVE TO AUTHORIZE INSTITUTIONS OF
11 HIGHER EDUCATION TO AWARD ASSOCIATE DEGREES, NOTWITHSTANDING
12 AN INSTITUTION'S ROLE AND MISSION, TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO ENROLL
13 IN BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS AND EARN AT LEAST SEVENTY
14 CREDIT HOURS IN THE PROGRAMS, BUT WITHDRAW FROM THE INSTITUTIONS
15 BEFORE ATTAINING THE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE. THE GOAL OF
16 AWARDED AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE THROUGH THE CORE INITIATIVE IS TO
17 INCREASE A STUDENT'S EARNING POTENTIAL BY GRANTING THE STUDENT
18 A DEGREE, MAKING IT MORE LIKELY THE STUDENT WILL RE-ENROLL AND
19 COMPLETE A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE OR HIGHER.

20 (3) THE COMMISSION SHALL COLLABORATE WITH THE
21 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND COORDINATE A
22 PROCESS TO IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE STUDENTS AND AWARD ASSOCIATE
23 DEGREES THROUGH THE CORE INITIATIVE. TO IMPLEMENT THE CORE
24 INITIATIVE, THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT IS TO:

25 (a) PUBLICIZE THE CORE INITIATIVE, INCLUDING THE ELIGIBILITY
26 REQUIREMENTS THAT A STUDENT MUST MEET TO OBTAIN AN ASSOCIATE
27 DEGREE THROUGH THE CORE INITIATIVE AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (5)

1 OF THIS SECTION; AND

2 (b) WORK WITH THE INSTITUTIONS TO IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE
3 STUDENTS AND NOTIFY THOSE ELIGIBLE STUDENTS OF THEIR ELIGIBILITY
4 TO OBTAIN AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE THROUGH THE CORE INITIATIVE AND
5 THE PROCESS FOR DOING SO.

6 (4) (a) THE ROLE OF AN INSTITUTION THAT CHOOSES TO
7 PARTICIPATE IN THE CORE INITIATIVE IS LIMITED TO:

8 (I) PROVIDING TO THE DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR
9 ELIGIBLE STUDENTS, IF AVAILABLE;

10 (II) DETERMINING WHETHER AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT QUALIFIES FOR
11 AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE BASED ON EARNED CREDITS AND COURSES TAKEN;

12 (III) ISSUING AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE UPON THE REQUEST OF AN
13 ELIGIBLE STUDENT AND ADVISING THE STUDENT OF OPPORTUNITIES TO
14 RE-ENROLL AT THE INSTITUTION TO COMPLETE THE BACCALAUREATE
15 DEGREE PROGRAM; AND

16 (IV) SUBMITTING TO THE DEPARTMENT THE INFORMATION
17 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION.

18 (b) AN INSTITUTION THAT CHOOSES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CORE
19 INITIATIVE MUST OBTAIN APPROVAL FROM THE INSTITUTION'S
20 ACCREDITING AGENCY TO GRANT ASSOCIATE DEGREES THROUGH THE
21 CORE INITIATIVE. AN INSTITUTION MAY AWARD AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE
22 TO AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT THROUGH THE CORE INITIATIVE FOR UP TO TEN
23 ACADEMIC YEARS AFTER THE LAST SEMESTER IN WHICH THE ELIGIBLE
24 STUDENT ENROLLED AT THE INSTITUTION.

25 (c) AN INSTITUTION THAT CHOOSES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CORE
26 INITIATIVE SHALL NOT ALLOW A STUDENT TO ENROLL IN THE INSTITUTION
27 TO OBTAIN AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND SHALL NOT OFFER PROGRAMS THAT

1 ARE DESIGNED TO LEAD TO ASSOCIATE DEGREES; EXCEPT THAT THIS
2 SUBSECTION (4)(c) DOES NOT APPLY TO A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE,
3 ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY, FORT LEWIS COLLEGE WITH REGARD TO THE
4 AUTHORITY GRANTED IN SECTION 23-52-101 (2)(a), AND COLORADO MESA
5 UNIVERSITY. THE ASSOCIATE DEGREES ISSUED BY INSTITUTIONS THROUGH
6 THE CORE INITIATIVE SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING AN
7 INSTITUTION'S FUNDING PURSUANT TO PART 3 OF ARTICLE 18 OF THIS TITLE
8 23.

9 (5) (a) TO RECEIVE AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE THROUGH THE CORE
10 INITIATIVE, A STUDENT MUST:

11 (I) NOT HAVE TRANSFERRED TO THE INSTITUTION DIRECTLY FROM
12 AN INSTITUTION GOVERNED BY THE STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY
13 COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION;

14 (II) NOT HAVE BEEN ENROLLED IN THE INSTITUTION FOR AT LEAST
15 TWO CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS; AND

16 (III) HAVE EARNED AT LEAST SEVENTY CREDIT HOURS, WHICH
17 CREDITS MUST INCLUDE COMPLETION OF THE INSTITUTION'S GENERAL
18 EDUCATION CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND COMPLETION OF ALL OTHER
19 COURSES REQUIRED FOR AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM APPROVED BY
20 THE COMMISSION.

21 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION TO THE
22 CONTRARY, A STUDENT WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE AN ASSOCIATE
23 DEGREE THROUGH A PROGRAM AUTHORIZED IN SECTION 23-1-131 IS NOT
24 ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE THROUGH THE CORE
25 INITIATIVE.

26 (6) EACH INSTITUTION THAT CHOOSES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
27 CORE INITIATIVE SHALL, BY AUGUST 1, 2022, AND BY AUGUST 1 EACH

1 YEAR THEREAFTER, REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE NUMBER OF
2 ELIGIBLE STUDENTS TO WHOM THE INSTITUTION AWARDED AN ASSOCIATE
3 DEGREE THROUGH THE CORE INITIATIVE, THE TYPES OF ASSOCIATE
4 DEGREES AWARDED THROUGH THE CORE INITIATIVE, AND THE NUMBER
5 OF STUDENTS WHO RE-ENROLLED IN THE INSTITUTION AFTER RECEIVING AN
6 ASSOCIATE DEGREE THROUGH THE CORE INITIATIVE. THE DEPARTMENT
7 SHALL REVIEW AND COMPILE THE ANNUAL REPORTS AND, BY JANUARY 15,
8 2025, SUBMIT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE
9 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, A REPORT
10 CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CORE INITIATIVE, INCLUDING, TO
11 THE EXTENT DISCERNABLE, THE DEGREE TO WHICH STUDENTS WHO
12 RECEIVE ASSOCIATE DEGREES THROUGH THE CORE INITIATIVE RE-ENROLL
13 IN AN INSTITUTION TO COMPLETE A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE. THE
14 DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO INCLUDE IN THE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
15 CHANGES TO THE CORE INITIATIVE, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
16 INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE INSTITUTIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CORE
17 INITIATIVE.

18 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-133, **amend**
19 (2)(a) introductory portion, (2)(a)(V), (2)(b) introductory portion, and
20 (2)(b)(I); and **repeal** (1) as follows:

21 **23-1-133. Commission directive - bachelor of science degree**
22 **in nursing program - Aims community college - approval.** (1) ~~(a) The~~
23 ~~state board for community colleges and occupational education, referred~~
24 ~~to in this section as the "state board", shall submit to the commission for~~
25 ~~its approval technical, career, and workforce development bachelor of~~
26 ~~applied science degree programs to be offered at one or more community~~
27 ~~colleges within the state system. The commission shall consider the~~

1 following criteria in determining whether to approve a bachelor of
2 applied science degree program:

3 (I) Whether the state board provides data demonstrating
4 workforce and student demand for the degree program;

5 (II) The regional and professional accreditation requirements for
6 the degree program, if applicable, and whether the college can satisfy
7 those requirements, as appropriate, at both the institutional and program
8 levels;

9 (III) Whether the state board can demonstrate that providing the
10 degree program within the community college system is cost-effective for
11 the student and the community college system;

12 (IV) Whether the state board can demonstrate that the degree
13 program is sufficiently distinguishable from:

14 (A) An existing degree program at a state four-year institution of
15 higher education that is provided to a student who resides in the
16 community college's geographic service area, as defined by the
17 commission pursuant to section 23-1-109 (2), without the student having
18 to change his or her residence; or

19 (B) A degree program that has been successfully offered
20 previously in conjunction with a state four-year institution of higher
21 education, which degree program will be reinstated sooner than the
22 degree program could be offered by the community college; and

23 (V) Whether the bachelor of applied science degree program
24 could be provided through a statewide transfer agreement pursuant to
25 section 23-1-108 (7) with an accredited state four-year institution in the
26 community college's geographic service area or with an accredited state
27 four-year institution of higher education that has a statewide service area;

1 as defined by the commission pursuant to section 23-1-109 (2), that will
2 deliver an existing bachelor of applied science program in the community
3 college's geographic service area sooner than the degree program could
4 be offered by the community college.

5 (b) In addition, in determining whether to approve a bachelor of
6 applied science degree program, the commission:

7 (I) Shall consider whether the state board has met the criteria set
8 forth in subparagraphs (I) to (IV) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1)
9 and whether the proposed bachelor of applied science degree program is
10 in the best interests of the state of Colorado;

11 (II) Shall consult with the state board and state four-year
12 institutions of higher education concerning whether the collaboration
13 described in subparagraph (V) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) is
14 feasible; and

15 (III) May consult with any state four-year institution of higher
16 education that shares the same geographic service area, as defined by the
17 commission pursuant to section 23-1-109 (2), concerning the proposed
18 degree program to inform the commission of any anticipated systemwide
19 effects of the new degree program.

20 (2) (a) In determining whether to approve a bachelor of applied
21 science degree program SCIENCE DEGREE IN NURSING PROGRAM AS A
22 COMPLETION DEGREE TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE OR ARE PURSUING AN
23 ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING for Aims community college pursuant to
24 section 23-71-102 SECTION 23-71-102 (1)(b)(II)(B), the commission shall
25 consider the following criteria:

26 (V) Whether the bachelor of applied science degree program
27 could be provided through a statewide transfer agreement pursuant to

1 section 23-1-108 (7) with an accredited state four-year institution in Aims
2 community college's geographic service area or with an accredited state
3 four-year institution of higher education that has a statewide service area,
4 as defined by the commission pursuant to section 23-1-109 (2), that will
5 deliver an existing bachelor of ~~applied~~ science DEGREE IN NURSING
6 program in Aims community college's geographic service area sooner
7 than the degree program could be offered by Aims community college.

8 (b) In addition, in determining whether to approve a bachelor of
9 ~~applied degree~~ SCIENCE DEGREE IN NURSING program, the commission:

10 (I) Shall consider whether Aims community college has met the
11 criteria set forth in ~~subparagraphs (I) to (IV) of paragraph (a) of this~~
12 ~~subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTIONS (2)(a)(I) TO (2)(a)(IV) OF THIS SECTION and
13 whether the proposed ~~bachelor of applied science~~ degree program is in
14 the best interests of the state of Colorado;

15 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 23-60-201 as
16 follows:

17 **23-60-201. State system of community and technical colleges**
18 **established - local district colleges - role and mission.** There is
19 established a state system of community and technical colleges that is
20 under the management and jurisdiction of the state board for community
21 colleges and occupational education. The mission of the community
22 colleges is to serve Colorado residents who reside in their service areas
23 by offering a broad range of general, personal, career, and technical
24 education programs, ~~as well as~~ BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE
25 PROGRAMS APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-60-211 (4), AND bachelor
26 of science in nursing completion programs that result in the awarding of
27 a bachelor of science in nursing degree to successful candidates pursuant

1 to section 23-60-211 (5). Except as provided in section 23-60-211, each
2 college must be a two-year college. Each community college may offer
3 two-year degree programs with or without academic designation, and,
4 upon approval of the board pursuant to section 23-60-211, may offer
5 technical, career, and workforce development bachelor of applied science
6 degree programs. A community college shall not impose admission
7 requirements upon any student. Admission to a community college does
8 not guarantee enrollment in a specific program that has prerequisites. The
9 objects of the community and technical colleges are to provide
10 educational programs to fill the occupational needs of youth and adults
11 in career and technical fields, two-year transfer educational programs to
12 qualify students for admission to the junior year at other colleges and
13 universities, developmental education courses, workforce development,
14 and a broad range of personal and career education for adults, and
15 technical, career, and workforce development bachelor of applied science
16 degree programs established pursuant to section 23-60-211, that address
17 the needs of the community within each community college service area.

18 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-60-211, **amend**
19 **(5); and repeal and reenact, with amendments, (4)** as follows:

20 **23-60-211. Degrees.** (4) (a) SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF
21 SECTION 23-1-107, A COMMUNITY COLLEGE THAT IS PART OF THE STATE
22 SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES MAY, WITH BOARD
23 APPROVAL, OFFER A BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE. A
24 COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAY REQUEST AUTHORITY TO OFFER MORE THAN
25 ONE BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM. IN CONSIDERING
26 WHETHER TO APPROVE A REQUEST BY A COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO OFFER
27 A BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE, THE BOARD SHALL CONSIDER

1 STUDENT AND WORKFORCE DEMAND, COST EFFECTIVENESS FOR THE
2 STUDENTS, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, AND THE STATE, AND
3 ACCREDITATION AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

4 (b) THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON
5 HIGHER EDUCATION OF EACH BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE
6 PROGRAM THAT THE BOARD APPROVES PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4).

7 (5) Subject to the requirements of sections 23-1-113.7 and
8 23-1-107, ~~and notwithstanding the provisions of section 23-1-133~~, a
9 community college that is part of the state system of community and
10 technical colleges established and governed by this part 2 may, with board
11 approval, offer a bachelor of science degree in nursing as a completion
12 degree to students who have or are pursuing an associate degree in
13 nursing. In considering whether to approve a request by a community
14 college to offer a bachelor of science in nursing as a completion degree,
15 the board shall consider student and workforce demand, cost
16 effectiveness for the students, and accreditation and licensing
17 requirements. The board shall provide such information to the Colorado
18 commission on higher education and solicit the commission's input in a
19 joint meeting of the board and the commission. A community college that
20 is seeking board approval shall provide the board with data regarding its
21 current partnerships with existing bachelor of science nursing degree
22 programs and its plans to continue such partnerships. At least ninety days
23 prior to requesting board approval to offer a bachelor of science degree
24 in nursing as a completion degree, the community college seeking such
25 board approval shall provide notice to the Colorado commission on
26 higher education and all state public and nonpublic institutions of higher
27 education.

1 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 23-71-102
2 as follows:

3 **23-71-102. Definitions.** As used in this article 71, unless the
4 context otherwise requires:

5 (1) (a) "Local district college" means an educational institution
6 that provides not more than two years of training in the arts, sciences, and
7 humanities beyond the twelfth grade of the public high school curriculum
8 or vocational education and that conducts occupational, technical, and
9 community service programs, with no term limitations, and general
10 education, including college transfer programs, with unrestricted
11 admissions.

12 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1)(a) of this
13 section:

14 (I) Colorado mountain college ~~in addition to its mission~~ IS A DUAL
15 MISSION INSTITUTION, OPERATING as a local district college ~~and may also~~
16 ~~offer~~ AND OFFERING a limited number of baccalaureate degree programs,
17 as its board of trustees determines appropriate to address the needs of the
18 communities within its service area and ~~that~~ AS are approved by the
19 Colorado commission on higher education. ~~Colorado mountain college~~
20 ~~should confer with regional education providers to determine the~~
21 ~~feasibility of cooperative delivery of new bachelor's programs in adjacent~~
22 ~~localities.~~ COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE MAY ALSO OFFER BACHELOR
23 OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAMS THAT ARE APPROVED BY THE
24 BOARD OF TRUSTEES PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-71-134.

25 (II) Aims community college, in addition to its mission as a local
26 district college, may also offer, as its board of trustees determines
27 appropriate to address the needs of the communities within its service

1 area: that are approved by the Colorado commission on higher education
2 pursuant to the criteria set forth in section 23-1-133 (2):

3 (A) Bachelor of applied science degree programs THAT ARE
4 APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-71-134;
5 and

6 (B) Bachelor of science degree in nursing programs, as a
7 completion degree to students who have or are pursuing an associate
8 degree in nursing, THAT ARE APPROVED BY THE COLORADO COMMISSION
9 ON HIGHER EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-133 (2).

10 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-71-133, **amend**
11 (3); and **repeal** (1) as follows:

12 **23-71-133. Local district colleges - attorney general to advise**
13 **- revenue for baccalaureate degree programs.** (1) ~~When approving~~
14 ~~baccalaureate degrees for any local district college pursuant to the~~
15 ~~authority in section 23-71-102 (1), the Colorado commission on higher~~
16 ~~education shall make its determination based on the following criteria:~~

17 (a) ~~Whether the local district college can demonstrate workforce~~
18 ~~and student demand for the baccalaureate degree program by providing~~
19 ~~data;~~

20 (b) ~~Whether the local district college can demonstrate regional and~~
21 ~~professional accreditation requirements, when applicable, and compliance~~
22 ~~with those requirements as deemed appropriate at both the institutional~~
23 ~~and program levels;~~

24 (c) ~~Whether the local district college can demonstrate that its~~
25 ~~provision of the baccalaureate degree program is the most cost-effective~~
26 ~~method of providing the baccalaureate degree program in its service area;~~
27 and

1 ~~(d) Whether the local district college can provide a cost-benefit~~
2 ~~analysis showing that the additional baccalaureate degree program will~~
3 ~~not create a negative impact for the local district college or require~~
4 ~~additional state-appropriated money to operate.~~

5 (3) In accordance with the budget adopted by the board of trustees
6 pursuant to section 23-71-123 (1), a local district college may use any
7 state-appropriated money it receives, in addition to any other revenues
8 REVENUE of the college, to operate any baccalaureate degree program that
9 the Colorado commission on higher education approves. ~~pursuant to this~~
10 ~~section.~~

11 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-71-134 as
12 follows:

13 **23-71-134. Local district colleges - bachelor of applied science**
14 **degree programs - approval.** (1) A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE MAY, WITH
15 THE APPROVAL OF ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES, OFFER A BACHELOR OF
16 APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE. A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE MAY REQUEST
17 AUTHORITY TO OFFER MORE THAN ONE BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE
18 DEGREE. IN CONSIDERING WHETHER TO APPROVE A REQUEST TO OFFER A
19 BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL
20 CONSIDER STUDENT AND WORKFORCE DEMAND, COST EFFECTIVENESS FOR
21 THE STUDENTS, AND ACCREDITATION AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

22 (2) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL NOTIFY THE COLORADO
23 COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION OF EACH BACHELOR OF APPLIED
24 SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES
25 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

26 **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-1-137 as
27 follows:

1 **23-1-137. Commission directive - institutional role and mission**
2 **- service areas - workforce development - study - report - legislative**
3 **declaration - repeal.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT, DUE IN
4 PART TO THE CHALLENGES AND PRESSURES CAUSED BY THE GLOBAL
5 COVID-19 PANDEMIC, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION ARE FACING
6 NEW OPERATIONAL AND ECONOMIC REALITIES DRIVEN BY DECLINING
7 ENROLLMENT, INCREASING DEMAND FOR REMOTE LEARNING OPTIONS, AND
8 THE INCREASING COSTS OF PROVIDING IN-PERSON EDUCATION AND
9 MAINTAINING PHYSICAL CAMPUSES. THESE NEW REALITIES CREATE
10 OPPORTUNITIES TO SYSTEMICALLY RE-EXAMINE AND RECONSIDER THE
11 OPERATIONS AND INTERACTIONS OF THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
12 EDUCATION AND HOW EACH INSTITUTION, INDIVIDUALLY AND IN
13 COOPERATION WITH THE OTHER INSTITUTIONS, MAY MOST EFFECTIVELY
14 MEET THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF COLORADO'S CITIZENS AND
15 COLORADO'S WORKFORCE NEEDS. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS,
16 THEREFORE, THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE TO RE-EXAMINE THE ROLE AND
17 MISSION AND SERVICE AREAS OF THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
18 EDUCATION, LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGES, AND AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES
19 AND THE ROLE OF THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, LOCAL
20 DISTRICT COLLEGES, AND AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES IN PROVIDING
21 EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

22 (2) (a) NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2021, THE COMMISSION SHALL
23 CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE ROLE AND MISSION AND SERVICE
24 AREA OF EACH STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AS DEFINED IN
25 SECTION 23-18-102 (10)(a), THE LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGES CREATED
26 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 71 OF THIS TITLE 23, AND THE AREA TECHNICAL
27 COLLEGES, AND THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER

1 EDUCATION, THE LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGES, THE AREA TECHNICAL
2 COLLEGES, AND THE STATE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN
3 SUPPORTING AND IMPROVING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT. THE TASK
4 FORCE, AT A MINIMUM, MUST INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE
5 GOVERNING BOARD FOR EACH STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
6 INCLUDING THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND
7 OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION; A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE BOARD OF
8 TRUSTEES FOR EACH LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE; A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
9 THE STATE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CREATED IN SECTION
10 24-46.3-101; POSTSECONDARY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY
11 THE COMMISSION FROM A VARIETY OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
12 AROUND THE STATE; TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM HIGHER EDUCATION
13 ADVOCACY GROUPS; AND AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE
14 COMMISSION. IN ADDITION, THE TASK FORCE SHALL WORK WITH THE
15 ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE COMMISSION, CREATED IN SECTION
16 23-1-103, AND WITH THE EDUCATION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL CONVENED BY
17 EXECUTIVE ORDER B 2017-001. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMISSION
18 SHALL SERVE AS THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
19 PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT TO THE TASK FORCE.

20 (b) AT A MINIMUM, THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

21 (I) REVIEW THE ROLE AND MISSION AND SERVICE AREA OF EACH
22 STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, EACH LOCAL DISTRICT
23 COLLEGE, AND EACH AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE, INCLUDING ALL
24 INSTRUCTION OFFERED BY WHATEVER MEANS OUTSIDE THE GEOGRAPHIC
25 BOUNDARIES OF A CAMPUS AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-1-109 (4), TO
26 DETERMINE WHETHER THE AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO
27 POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS IS SUFFICIENT THROUGHOUT THE

1 STATE WITHOUT UNDUE OVERLAP AND TO ENSURE THE MOST EFFICIENT
2 USE OF RESOURCES;

3 (II) REVIEW THE HISTORY, PURPOSE, EFFECT, AND CONTINUING
4 BENEFIT OF SERVICE AREAS AND THE COMMISSION'S POLICY CONCERNING
5 SERVICE AREAS AND, BASED ON THE DEGREE TO WHICH SERVICE AREAS
6 IMPROVE AND ADD VALUE TO THE DELIVERY OF POSTSECONDARY
7 EDUCATION WITHIN THE STATE AND SUPPORT THE STATE'S
8 POSTSECONDARY ACCESS AND ATTAINMENT GOALS, RECOMMEND
9 WHETHER THE SERVICE AREAS SHOULD CONTINUE AND WHETHER THE
10 SERVICE AREAS SHOULD BE REDRAWN;

11 (III) EXAMINE WAYS IN WHICH TO LEVERAGE BEST PRACTICES
12 THROUGH DATA AND TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT
13 INTERVENTIONS THAT DRIVE STUDENT SUCCESS; CREATE MULTIPLE AND
14 LINKED PATHWAYS TO POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS, INCLUDING THE
15 DEVELOPMENT OF INCREMENTAL CREDENTIALS THAT A STUDENT MAY
16 ATTAIN WHILE WORKING TOWARD A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE; AND
17 ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS AND BENEFIT TO STUDENTS, INCLUDING
18 MINIMIZING COSTS AND TIME SPENT IN ATTAINING A CREDENTIAL OR
19 DEGREE;

20 (IV) EXAMINE STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING STUDENT RETENTION
21 AND COMPLETION AND TO ADDRESS THE CONSEQUENCES STUDENTS
22 EXPERIENCE WHEN THEY INCUR DEBT IN ATTENDING AN INSTITUTION OF
23 HIGHER EDUCATION OR LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE WITHOUT COMPLETING
24 A DEGREE OR OTHER CREDENTIAL;

25 (V) DEVELOP EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR LEVERAGING FEDERAL
26 HIGHER EDUCATION REFORMS, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF FUNDING
27 FOR TWO YEARS OF POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT FOR EACH STUDENT, TO

1 RAISE THE COMPLETION RATE FOR TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR DEGREE
2 PROGRAMS;

3 (VI) REVIEW THE ROLE OF THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
4 EDUCATION, THE LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGES, THE AREA TECHNICAL
5 COLLEGES, AND THE STATE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN
6 DESIGNING AND PROMOTING CAREER PATHWAYS AND OTHER WORKFORCE
7 DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES. THE GOAL OF THE REVIEW IS TO DETERMINE
8 HOW THE ROLES OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE STATE WORK FORCE
9 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MAY BE THOUGHTFULLY INTEGRATED TO REDUCE
10 OVERLAP AND FACILITATE GREATER EFFICIENCIES AND ECONOMIES IN
11 PROVIDING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND SKILLS TRAINING FOR
12 TRADITIONAL AND NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS AND TO SUPPORT AND
13 MEET THE NEEDS OF THE WORKFORCE AND THE PROFESSIONAL,
14 INDUSTRIAL, AND BUSINESS SECTORS IN COLORADO.

15 (VII) REVIEW POSSIBLE USES OF MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE
16 WORKERS, EMPLOYERS, AND WORKFORCE CENTERS CASH FUND PURSUANT
17 TO SECTION 24-75-231 (2)(b)(I)(A) FOR PROGRAMS, SERVICES, OR OTHER
18 ASSISTANCE FOR POPULATIONS DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY THE
19 COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY THAT ADDRESS OR MITIGATE THE
20 IMPACTS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ON EDUCATIONAL
21 DISPARITIES.

22 (3) THE TASK FORCE SHALL PREPARE A REPORT OF FINDINGS AND
23 RECOMMENDATIONS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, INCLUDING
24 RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE ROLE AND MISSION AND SERVICE
25 AREA FOR EACH STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE LOCAL
26 DISTRICT COLLEGES, AND THE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES; AND
27 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE USE OF MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE

1 WORKERS, EMPLOYERS, AND WORKFORCE CENTERS CASH FUND PURSUANT
2 TO SECTION 24-75-231 (2)(b)(I)(A), AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION
3 (2)(b)(VII) OF THIS SECTION. NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15, 2021, THE
4 TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORT TO THE COMMISSION AND TO THE
5 EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, AND SHALL POST
7 THE REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE.

8 (4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022.

9 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 23-3.3-105** as
10 follows:

11 **23-3.3-105. Free application for federal student assistance -**
12 **working group - report - legislative declaration - definition - repeal.**

13 (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT EACH YEAR, COLORADO
14 STUDENTS FAIL TO CLAIM APPROXIMATELY FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS IN
15 AVAILABLE FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID BECAUSE THEY DO NOT
16 COMPLETE THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID OR THE
17 COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID. MOST FEDERAL
18 STUDENT AID IS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE FEDERAL PELL GRANT
19 PROGRAM, WHICH AWARDS INDIVIDUAL STUDENT GRANTS OF UP TO SIX
20 THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS PER YEAR THAT DO NOT
21 HAVE TO BE REPAYED. THE PELL GRANTS ARE PAID TO LOW-INCOME
22 STUDENTS, WHO ARE UNLIKELY TO ENROLL IN POSTSECONDARY
23 EDUCATION IF THEY DO NOT COMPLETE THE STUDENT AID FORMS. THE
24 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS, THEREFORE, THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO
25 CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING
26 THE RATE OF COMPLETION OF STUDENT AID FORMS AND THEREBY
27 INCREASE POSTSECONDARY ACCESS, MATRICULATION, AND COMPLETION.

1 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
2 REQUIRES, "STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS" MEANS THE FREE APPLICATION
3 FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR
4 STUDENT FINANCIAL AID.

5 (3) (a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
6 EDUCATION A WORKING GROUP TO RECOMMEND MEASURES FOR
7 INCREASING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO, BEFORE GRADUATING FROM
8 HIGH SCHOOL, COMPLETE THE STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS. THE WORKING
9 GROUP CONSISTS OF THIRTEEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AS
10 FOLLOWS:

11 (I) TWO PERSONS EMPLOYED AS HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, ONE OF
12 WHOM IS EMPLOYED IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE
13 GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ENROLLS MORE THAN ONE
14 THOUSAND STUDENTS AND ONE OF WHOM IS EMPLOYED IN A PUBLIC
15 SCHOOL THAT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF A SCHOOL
16 DISTRICT THAT ENROLLS ONE THOUSAND STUDENTS OR FEWER;

17 (II) A PERSON EMPLOYED AS A SCHOOL DISTRICT
18 SUPERINTENDENT;

19 (III) A PERSON EMPLOYED AS A TEACHER IN A PUBLIC HIGH
20 SCHOOL;

21 (IV) A PERSON EMPLOYED AS A SCHOOL COUNSELOR IN A PUBLIC
22 HIGH SCHOOL;

23 (V) A PERSON WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ENTITY THAT
24 ADVOCATES FOR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES;

25 (VI) THREE PERSONS WHO REPRESENT HIGHER EDUCATION
26 INSTITUTIONS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED AT A
27 STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND INDIVIDUALS EMPLOYED

1 BY STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ENROLLMENT
2 MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL AID; AND

3 (VII) FOUR PERSONS WHO ARE STUDENT ADVOCATES,
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF SCHOLARSHIP OR OTHER STUDENT SUPPORT
5 PROGRAMS, REPRESENTATIVES OF STATEWIDE ASSOCIATIONS THAT
6 REPRESENT PERSONS WORKING IN EDUCATION, OR HIGHER EDUCATION
7 RESEARCHERS.

8 (b) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE MEMBERS OF THE
9 WORKING GROUP BY AUGUST 1, 2021. IN APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE
10 WORKING GROUP THE GOVERNOR SHALL, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE,
11 APPOINT PERSONS FROM ALL AREAS OF THE STATE WHO ARE
12 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

13 (c) THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP SERVE WITHOUT
14 COMPENSATION BUT MAY RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR NECESSARY
15 EXPENSES INCURRED IN SERVING ON THE WORKING GROUP.

16 (d) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMISSION SHALL
17 CONVENE THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP NO LATER THAN
18 AUGUST 15, 2021. AT THE FIRST MEETING, THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING
19 GROUP SHALL SELECT FROM AMONG THEIR MEMBERS A PERSON TO SERVE
20 AS THE CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP. THE CHAIR SHALL CONVENE
21 SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY
22 TO COMPLETE ITS DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT
23 OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL
24 PROVIDE STAFF AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO THE WORKING GROUP UPON
25 REQUEST.

26 (4) THE WORKING GROUP SHALL REVIEW BEST PRACTICES WITHIN
27 COLORADO AND IN OTHER STATES AND THE EXISTING RESEARCH

1 CONCERNING POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL COMPLETION TO IDENTIFY
2 AND RECOMMEND RESOURCES AND STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING THE RATE
3 OF COMPLETION OF THE STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS. AT A MINIMUM, THE
4 WORKING GROUP SHALL CONSIDER:

5 (a) HOW TO LEVERAGE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO INCREASE
6 THE STUDENT AID APPLICATION COMPLETION RATE;

7 (b) INCENTIVES AND SCHOOL-BASED SUPPORTS TO ASSIST IN
8 COMPLETING STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE
9 REQUIRING COMPLETION OF STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL
10 GRADUATION; AND

11 (c) NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY, OR POLICY CHANGES
12 TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES.

13 (5) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15, 2022, THE WORKING GROUP SHALL
14 SUBMIT A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
15 SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASING THE COMPLETION RATE FOR STUDENT AID
16 APPLICATIONS TO THE COMMISSION, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE
17 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE, AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE
18 SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
19 COMMITTEES.

20 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022.

21 **SECTION 15.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend 23-7-111** as
22 follows:

23 **23-7-111. Tuition classification for persons who move to**
24 **Colorado for employment.** (1) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision
25 of this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 7 to the contrary, and subject to the provisions of
26 subsections (2) to (4) of this section, a ~~child~~ MINOR who is a legal resident
27 of the United States and who would otherwise not be classified as an

1 in-state student for tuition purposes under this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 7 may be
2 classified as an in-state student for purposes of tuition at an institution if:

3 (I) The ~~child's~~ MINOR IS CONSIDERED A DEPENDENT AND THE
4 MINOR'S parent or legal guardian moved his or her family to Colorado for
5 the purpose of accepting a job in the state during the ~~child's~~ MINOR'S
6 senior year of high school;

7 (II) The ~~child~~ MINOR moved with his or her parent or legal
8 guardian to Colorado during the ~~child's~~ MINOR'S senior year of high
9 school; and

10 (III) The ~~child~~ MINOR graduated from a Colorado public high
11 school.

12 (b) Each institution shall develop a policy to verify that a ~~child~~
13 MINOR meets each of the requirements specified in ~~paragraph (a) of this~~
14 ~~subsection (1)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

15 (2) If a ~~child~~ MINOR is classified as an in-state student pursuant to
16 this section, ~~he or she~~ THE MINOR may be counted as a resident student for
17 any purpose; except that the ~~child shall not be~~ MINOR IS NOT entitled to
18 receive state financial aid.

19 (3) The governing board of each institution may grant in-state
20 tuition status to a ~~child~~ MINOR classified as an in-state student pursuant to
21 this section.

22 (4) IF A QUALIFIED PERSON MOVES TO COLORADO FOR PURPOSES
23 OF ACCEPTING A JOB WITH AN EMPLOYER THAT WILL PAY THE QUALIFIED
24 PERSON'S TUITION, AND THE QUALIFIED PERSON DEMONSTRATES INTENT TO
25 ESTABLISH PERMANENT DOMICILE IN THE STATE, THE GOVERNING BOARD
26 OF AN INSTITUTION MAY GRANT IN-STATE TUITION STATUS TO THE
27 QUALIFIED PERSON FOR PURPOSES OF TUITION ONLY.

1 ~~(4)~~ (5) If a ~~child~~ MINOR OR A QUALIFIED PERSON is classified as an
2 in-state student pursuant to this section, the ~~child shall not be~~ MINOR OR
3 QUALIFIED PERSON IS NOT entitled to receive a stipend pursuant to article
4 18 of this ~~title~~ TITLE 23 for the first year the ~~child~~ MINOR OR QUALIFIED
5 PERSON is enrolled at an institution.

6 **SECTION 16. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2020-21 state fiscal
7 year, \$50,000,000 is appropriated to the Colorado opportunity scholarship
8 initiative fund created in section 23-3.3-1005 (1), C.R.S. This
9 appropriation is from the workers, employers, and workforce centers cash
10 fund created in section 24-75-231, C.R.S., and of money the state
11 received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. The
12 department of higher education is responsible for the accounting related
13 to this appropriation.

14 (2) For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, \$1,500,000 is appropriated to
15 the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative fund created in section 23-
16 3.3-1005 (1), C.R.S. This appropriation is from the workers, employers,
17 and workforce centers cash fund created in section 24-75-231, C.R.S.,
18 and of money the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal
19 recovery fund. The department of higher education is responsible for the
20 accounting related to this appropriation.

21 **SECTION 17. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
22 except that section 4 of this act takes effect only if House Bill 21-1264 is
23 enacted and becomes law.

24 **SECTION 18. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
25 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.