

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0979.01 Jerry Barry x4341

HOUSE BILL 22-1366

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Kipp,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING INCREASING ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY WORKFORCE
102 READINESS WITH FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION.

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 establishes a number of new programs concerning postsecondary career and education options for students, including:

- Establishing the postsecondary, workforce, career, and education grant program in the department of education (CDE) to provide grants to local education providers to improve the training of school educators and

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.

administrators, to support students and families in developing career and education plans for after high school, and to increase the number of students for whom applications for free financial aid are completed;

- Creating regional postsecondary and workforce coordinators in the CDE to train educators concerning financial aspects of postsecondary options;
- Updating the financial literacy resource bank to include more information and training concerning postsecondary financial aid;
- Creating stipends for teachers who successfully complete financial aid training;
- Adding a requirement to individual career and postsecondary education plans to include information about available state and federal financial aid;
- Requiring the department of higher education (CDHE) to use technology to assist students and families in completing postsecondary state and federal financial aid applications; and
- Requiring the CDHE to make certain improvements to streamline the Colorado application for financial aid.

The bill appropriates money for each of the programs and specifies that the CDE and the CDHE may use the money appropriated in subsequent years without additional appropriation.

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) Research shows that education and training culminating in
5 credentials, such as industry certificates, trade school certificates,
6 apprenticeships, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees, among other
7 business and industry-based experiences, are necessary to earn a living
8 wage in Colorado. Completion of the federal or state financial aid
9 applications are key components of understanding how additional
10 education beyond high school can be financially supported. Completion
11 of federal or state financial aid applications supports access to these

1 career pathway options, as they are vehicles to support paying for tuition,
2 fees, equipment, and other expenses associated with additional training
3 beyond high school.

4 (b) An understanding of how to access these career-aligned
5 resources and supports is integral to navigating training and education
6 resources for students and families. Financial literacy education and
7 Colorado's individual career and academic plan can help families
8 understand how to obtain federal or state financial aid to support students
9 in pursuing additional education and career training.

10 (c) Research shows that students and families who do not
11 complete financial aid forms do so for one or more of the following
12 reasons:

13 (I) (A) Students and families are unaware of the true cost of
14 attending postsecondary options and the resources available to pay for
15 education and training that might be available by federal or state financial
16 aid forms; or

17 (B) A false belief that grants or scholarships are unavailable based
18 on family resources and income levels;

19 (II) Students and families often do not have the required tax
20 information available due to individual or family circumstances or needed
21 support to acquire that information or fill out complex forms, which leads
22 to students not completing and submitting federal financial aid or state
23 financial aid documents; and

24 (III) Students and families fear incurring debt for postsecondary
25 education because of the potential difficulty in paying back those loans;

26 (d) In 2023, the free application for federal student aid will be
27 simplified, reducing the number of questions from 100 to 30 and reducing

1 the financial information needed through the federal "FAFSA
2 Simplification Act";

3 (e) More broadly, Colorado students have the opportunity to
4 magnify the impact of state investments in higher education by accessing
5 federal dollars to pursue postsecondary education and a credential of
6 value to enhance income earning potential. It is estimated that more than
7 \$30 million in federal resources could be leveraged each year by
8 Colorado students completing federal and state financial aid applications.

9 (f) Completing federal and state financial aid applications requires
10 support among students and their families, K-12 college and career
11 readiness programs, and higher education institutions for academic and
12 workforce training.

13 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-7-1015.5 as
14 follows:

15 **22-7-1015.5. Postsecondary, workforce, career, and education**
16 **grant program - created - application - criteria - awards -**
17 **appropriation - repeal.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
18 EDUCATION, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "DEPARTMENT", THE
19 POSTSECONDARY, WORKFORCE, CAREER, AND EDUCATION GRANT
20 PROGRAM, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "GRANT PROGRAM", TO
21 AWARD GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO IMPROVE THE
22 POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AND TO INCREASE THE
23 NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMPLETING THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL
24 STUDENT AID, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS "FAFSA", AND THE
25 COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID, REFERRED TO IN THIS
26 SECTION AS "CASFA". EACH GRANT HAS A TERM OF THREE YEARS
27 BEGINNING IN THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR. IN MAKING A GRANT

1 AWARD, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SPECIFY THE AMOUNT OF EACH GRANT.

2 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE GRANT MONEY TO
3 THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS THAT RECEIVE A GRANT FOR THE
4 FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

5 (a) DEVELOPING AND DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION TO STUDENTS,
6 FAMILIES, AND SCHOOL LEADERS REGARDING THE FAFSA AND
7 APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID, AND THE BENEFITS OF
8 COMPLETING THE FAFSA AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID;

9 (b) DEVELOPING AND DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION TO STUDENTS
10 AND FAMILIES REGARDING THE STEPS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA
11 AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID;

12 (c) TRAINING SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND OTHER EDUCATORS ON
13 BEST PRACTICES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH FILLING OUT
14 THE FAFSA AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID, WITH AN
15 EMPHASIS ON SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE HISTORICALLY LOW
16 COMPLETION RATES OF THE FAFSA AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE
17 STUDENT AID;

18 (d) ORGANIZING AND HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND
19 FAMILIES TO MEET WITH STAKEHOLDERS WHO ASSIST IN COMPLETING THE
20 FAFSA OR APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID;

21 (e) INCORPORATING COMPLETION OF APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL
22 STUDENT AID AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID INTO
23 INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLANS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS
24 22-32-109 AND 22-30.5-525; AND

25 (f) COLLABORATING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
26 EDUCATION'S EFFORTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-3.3-1007 TO SUPPORT
27 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS IN EXPLORING POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS

1 UNDER THE INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLANS PURSUANT TO
2 SECTIONS 22-32-109 AND 22-30.5-525.

3 (3) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SEEKING A GRANT MUST
4 SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
5 REVIEW EACH GRANT APPLICATION RECEIVED AND DETERMINE WHETHER
6 AND IN WHAT AMOUNT A GRANT SHOULD BE AWARDED TO THE LOCAL
7 EDUCATION PROVIDER. IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES AN APPLICATION
8 IS MISSING ANY INFORMATION REQUIRED BY RULE TO BE INCLUDED WITH
9 THE APPLICATION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONTACT THE LOCAL
10 EDUCATION PROVIDER TO OBTAIN THE MISSING INFORMATION.

11 (4) AT A MINIMUM, EACH GRANT APPLICATION MUST SPECIFY:

12 (a) THE CURRENT PROGRAMS RELATED TO COLLEGE AND CAREER
13 READINESS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1015 AND INDIVIDUAL
14 CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLANS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 22-32-109 AND
15 22-30.5-525 THAT THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER USES;

16 (b) WHETHER THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER HAS ENTERED
17 INTO, OR HAS COMMITTED TO ESTABLISHING, ONE OR MORE PARTNERSHIPS
18 WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR POSTSECONDARY SERVICE
19 PROVIDERS IN COLORADO TO SUPPORT AND INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND
20 EFFECTIVENESS OF CAREER COUNSELING AND POSTSECONDARY
21 PREPARATION SERVICES PROVIDED TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN OR
22 RECEIVING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FROM THE EDUCATION PROVIDER;

23 (c) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S PLAN FOR USE OF THE
24 GRANT MONEY, INCLUDING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GRANT MONEY
25 WILL BE USED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE
26 FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS AT THE LOCAL
27 EDUCATION PROVIDER'S HIGH SCHOOLS SERVED BY THE GRANT AND TO

1 PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND
2 OTHER EDUCATORS ON WORK-BASED LEARNING, COMPLETION OF FEDERAL
3 AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS, AND INTEGRATION OF ALL
4 POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS INTO THE INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC
5 PLANS FOR STUDENTS;

6 (d) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S PLAN FOR INVOLVING
7 EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS AT THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S
8 SCHOOLS PROVIDING POSTSECONDARY PREPARATION SUPPORTS;

9 (e) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER HAS
10 DEVELOPED OR PLANS TO DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS TO SERVE THE
11 POSTSECONDARY NEEDS OF ALL OF THE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN OR
12 RECEIVING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FROM THE LOCAL EDUCATION
13 PROVIDER;

14 (f) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S USE OF DISTRICT-LEVEL OR
15 SCHOOL-LEVEL EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROGRAMMING FOR
16 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
17 22-7-1008;

18 (g) WHETHER THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER INTENDS TO
19 PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS TO AUGMENT ANY GRANT MONEY RECEIVED
20 FROM THE PROGRAM AND THE ANTICIPATED AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF ANY
21 MATCHING FUNDS; AND

22 (h) WHETHER THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER NEEDS TO UPDATE
23 THE INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN PROCESS TO
24 ACCOMMODATE REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-136 (1),
25 INCLUDING FINANCIAL AID FORM INFORMATION, OR FINANCIAL LITERACY
26 CURRICULUM PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-127.

27 (5) IN REVIEWING APPLICATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONSIDER

1 THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER CRITERIA ADOPTED
2 BY RULE OF THE STATE BOARD:

3 (a) HIGH SCHOOLS WITH LOW POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL
4 ATTAINMENT RATES;

5 (b) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S HIGH SCHOOLS WITH LOW
6 FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION COMPLETION RATES;
7 AND

8 (c) THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF THE LOCAL EDUCATION
9 PROVIDER. THE DEPARTMENT MAY PRIORITIZE AWARDED GRANTS TO
10 RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO
11 RURAL LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS REQUESTING SUPPORT.

12 (6) (a) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE
13 DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS
14 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. EACH GRANT HAS A TERM OF THREE YEARS
15 BEGINNING IN THE 2022-23 BUDGET YEAR. IN MAKING A GRANT AWARD,
16 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SPECIFY THE AMOUNT OF EACH GRANT.

17 (b) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER THAT RECEIVES A GRANT
18 SHALL USE THE MONEY FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

19 (I) DEVELOPING AND DISTRIBUTING TO STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND
20 EDUCATORS INFORMATION ABOUT AND STEPS TO COMPLETE THE FEDERAL
21 AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS;

22 (II) TRAINING SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND OTHER EDUCATORS ON
23 BEST PRACTICES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH FILLING OUT
24 FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON
25 SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE HISTORICALLY LOW COMPLETION
26 RATES OF FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS;

27 (III) ORGANIZING AND HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

1 AND FAMILIES TO MEET WITH STAKEHOLDERS WHO ASSIST IN COMPLETING
2 THE FAFSA OR APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID; AND

3 (IV) UPDATING THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S INDIVIDUAL
4 CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN PROCESS WITH FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION
5 AND COMPLETION OF THE APPLICATION FORMS.

6 (7) THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND NO MORE THAN THREE
7 PERCENT OF THE MONEY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM TO
8 OFFSET THE COSTS INCURRED IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING
9 THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO RURAL LOCAL EDUCATION
10 PROVIDERS, GRANT-RELATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING,
11 AND REPORTING ACTIVITIES.

12 (8) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, AND ON OR BEFORE
13 SEPTEMBER 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER FOR THE LENGTH OF THE GRANT,
14 EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER RECEIVING GRANT MONEY PURSUANT
15 TO THIS SECTION SHALL REPORT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO THE
16 DEPARTMENT:

17 (a) A COMPARISON OF THE DROPOUT RATES, AND THE COLLEGE
18 MATRICULATION AND REMEDIATION RATES, IF APPLICABLE, AT THE HIGH
19 SCHOOLS SERVED BY THE GRANT FOR THE YEARS PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF THE
20 GRANT AND THE YEARS FOR WHICH THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER
21 RECEIVES THE GRANT; AND

22 (b) A COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED
23 FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS FOR THE YEAR PRIOR
24 TO WHICH THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER RECEIVED THE GRANT, IF
25 AVAILABLE, AND THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED FEDERAL
26 AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS FOR EACH OF THE THREE YEARS
27 THE EDUCATION PROVIDER RECEIVES THE GRANT.

1 (9) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), ON OR
2 BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2023, AND ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15 EACH YEAR
3 THEREAFTER FOR THE LENGTH OF THE GRANT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
4 SUBMIT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
5 OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, A REPORT THAT,
6 AT A MINIMUM, SUMMARIZES THE INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE
7 DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (8) OF THIS SECTION AND THAT
8 THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
9 EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-113 (9). THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
10 ALSO POST THE REPORT TO ITS WEBSITE.

11 (10) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT FIVE MILLION
13 DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT
14 TO THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY REMAINING AT THE END OF
15 THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR FROM THIS APPROPRIATION:

16 (I) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND;

17 (II) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE 2023-24 OR
18 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

19 (III) MUST NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN
20 THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

21 (11) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027.

22 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1015, **amend**
23 (4)(c); and **add** (4)(e), (4)(f), and (4)(g) as follows:

24 **22-7-1015. Postsecondary and workforce readiness program**
25 **- technical assistance - appropriation.** (4) The department of education,
26 the department of higher education, and the state institutions of higher
27 education, upon request, shall provide support to local education

1 providers in implementing postsecondary and workforce readiness.
2 Beginning with the 2009-10 budget year, the department of education and
3 the department of higher education may include in their annual budget
4 requests an amount necessary to offset the costs incurred in complying
5 with this section. Support may include, but need not be limited to:

6 (c) Providing professional development for educators; ~~and~~

7 (e) ESTABLISHING SUPPORT THROUGH REGIONAL POSTSECONDARY
8 AND WORKFORCE READINESS COORDINATORS FOR TRAINING THAT ALIGNS
9 WITH FINANCIAL AID, FINANCIAL LITERACY, AND SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT
10 FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION AND STUDENT STATE FINANCIAL AID
11 APPLICATION COMPLETION;

12 (f) (I) SUPPORTING THE NUMBER OF REGIONAL INDIVIDUAL CAREER
13 AND ACADEMIC PLAN COORDINATORS IN THE STATE AND UPDATING THE
14 RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COORDINATORS TO SUPPORT FINANCIAL
15 AID INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS;

16 (II) REQUIRING THE REGIONAL INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC
17 PLAN COORDINATORS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND OUTREACH
18 TO SCHOOLS AND COORDINATE WITH THE OUTREACH TEAM IN THE
19 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION
20 23-1-119 (6).

21 (g) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT TWENTY-FIVE
23 THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE PROGRAMS
24 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(f) OF THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED
25 MONEY REMAINING AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR FROM
26 THIS APPROPRIATION:

27 (I) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND;

1 (II) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE 2023-24 OR
2 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

3 (III) MUST NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN
4 THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (4)(f) OF THIS SECTION.

5 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-2-127, **add** (7) as
6 follows:

7 **22-2-127. Financial literacy - resource bank - technical**
8 **assistance - definitions - appropriation - repeal.** (7) (a) THE
9 DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
10 EDUCATION, SHALL:

11 (I) UPDATE FINANCIAL LITERACY INFORMATION AND TRAINING
12 PROVIDED TO LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO INCLUDE DETAILED
13 RESOURCES AND TOOLS ABOUT FINANCIAL AID, ACCESS TO FINANCIAL AID
14 TOOLS, AND APPLICATIONS AND PROCESSES BEGINNING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
15 OR EARLIER; AND

16 (II) DEVELOP FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING OPTIONS ALIGNED
17 WITH FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION, FEDERAL AND STATE APPLICATION
18 PROCESSES, AND UNDERLYING FINANCIAL LITERACY PRINCIPLES, SUCH AS
19 IN-DEMAND, HIGH-WAGE JOBS AND THE NECESSARY TRAINING LEADING TO
20 THOSE JOBS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRIORITIZE PROVIDING TRAINING TO
21 FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATORS, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
22 INSTRUCTORS, COUNSELORS, AND PROFESSIONALS, SUCH AS THOSE
23 WORKING IN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.

24 (b) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
25 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT TWO HUNDRED
26 SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE
27 PROGRAMS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (7). ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY

1 REMAINING AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR FROM THIS
2 APPROPRIATION:

3 (I) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND;

4 (II) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE 2023-24 OR
5 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

6 (III) MUST NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN
7 THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION (7).

8 (c) THIS SUBSECTION (7) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

9 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-2-127.1** as
10 follows:

11 **22-2-127.1. Stipends for financial aid training - definitions -**
12 **appropriation - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE
13 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

14 (a) "ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT" MEANS AN EDUCATOR WHO
15 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES TRAINING IN FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION
16 APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

17 (b) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A
18 CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART
19 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY
20 THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE
21 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED
22 AND OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22 THAT
23 OPERATES ONE OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

24 (c) "TRAINING TO IMPROVE FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION
25 AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES" OR "TRAINING" MEANS A
26 TRAINING CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND
27 APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH AN EMPHASIS ON IMPROVING THE

1 COMPLETION RATE OF STUDENTS COMPLETING THE FREE APPLICATION FOR
2 FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE
3 FINANCIAL AID.

4 (2) BEGINNING WITH THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, FOR
5 ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE TRAINING TO
6 IMPROVE FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AND
7 FAMILIES, THE DEPARTMENT, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS,
8 SHALL AWARD TO THE ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT A ONE-TIME STIPEND IN THE
9 AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

10 (3) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT TWO HUNDRED
12 THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO BE USED FOR THE
13 STIPENDS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY
14 REMAINING AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR FROM THIS
15 APPROPRIATION:

16 (a) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER
17 FUND;

18 (b) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE 2023-24 OR
19 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEARS WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

20 (c) MUST NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE
21 PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

22 (4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

23 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-32-109, **amend**
24 (1)(oo)(III)(B.5) and (1)(oo)(III)(C); and **add** (1)(oo)(III)(D) as follows:

25 **22-32-109. Board of education - specific duties - definitions.** (1)
26 In addition to any other duty required to be performed by law, each board
27 of education has the following specific duties:

1 (oo) (III) At a minimum, each public school shall ensure that, in
2 developing and maintaining each student's ICAP, the counselor or teacher
3 explains to the student's parent or legal guardian, by electronic mail or
4 other written form, and to the student:

5 (B.5) The teaching career pathway created pursuant to section
6 23-60-110, the career opportunities to which the pathway leads, and
7 information concerning participation in the TREP program created in
8 section 22-35-108.5; and

9 (C) The skills and educational opportunities available through
10 military enlistment. In discussing military enlistment with a student and
11 his or her parent, each public school is encouraged to provide to the
12 student information concerning the military enlistment test; AND

13 (D) THE AVAILABILITY AND IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING THE
14 FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID OR THE COLORADO
15 APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID, OR SUCCESSOR FORMS FOR
16 ACCESSING FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID, AND THE AVAILABILITY
17 OF HELP IN COMPLETING THE FORMS, IF REQUESTED.

18 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-119, **add** (6) as
19 follows:

20 **23-1-119. Department directive - transition between K-12**
21 **education system and postsecondary education system.** (6) (a) THE
22 DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AN OUTREACH TEAM TO PROVIDE
23 TRAINING TO AND ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT
24 AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS, CHARTER SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL
25 DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, CHARTER
26 SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE
27 PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF

1 COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE
2 5 OF TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES ONE OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ASSIST
3 THEM IN PREPARING STUDENTS TO TRANSITION FROM THE K-12
4 EDUCATION SYSTEM. THE TEAM SHALL ALSO PROVIDE OUTREACH AND
5 TRAINING TO INDIVIDUALS IN WORKFORCE CENTERS, INDIVIDUALS IN
6 CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES, AND FOSTER YOUTH.

7 (b) THE TRAINING MUST INCLUDE:

8 (I) CAREER ADVISING AS PART OF STUDENT'S INDIVIDUAL CAREER
9 AND EDUCATION PLANS;

10 (II) FINANCIAL LITERACY, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON THE FREE
11 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND THE COLORADO
12 APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID;

13 (III) HOW TO SUPPORT THE COMPLETION OF FEDERAL AND STATE
14 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS;

15 (IV) THE IMPORTANCE OF, AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF, ALL
16 POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS;

17 (V) THE AVAILABILITY OF STATE FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS AND
18 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS; AND

19 (VI) THE DEPARTMENT'S ROLE AND MISSION.

20 (c) THE TRAINING MUST BE AVAILABLE TO EDUCATORS IN
21 CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRAINING APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION
22 22-2-127.1.

23 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-3.3-106 and
24 23-3.3-107 as follows:

25 **23-3.3-106. Technology to support FAFSA and CASFA -**
26 **definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
27 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

1 (a) "CASFA" MEANS THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE
2 FINANCIAL AID.

3 (b) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
4 EDUCATION.

5 (c) "FAFSA" MEANS THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL
6 STUDENT AID.

7 (d) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A
8 CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART
9 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE
10 STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5
11 OF TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND
12 OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES ONE OR
13 MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

14 (2) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE TECHNOLOGY TO ASSIST IN
15 INCREASING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE THE FAFSA AND
16 CASFA FORMS. ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT
17 SHALL DEVELOP A TOOL KIT AND TRAINING OUTLINING WEB TOOLS AND
18 RESOURCES FOR USE BY HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS, MIDDLE
19 AND HIGH SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT THE
20 COMPLETION OF FAFSA AND CASFA FORMS. THE TOOL KIT MUST
21 INCLUDE FREE RESOURCES, INCLUDING:

22 (I) NET PRICE CALCULATORS AND INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO
23 USE CALCULATORS TO OUTLINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE BASED ON
24 FINANCIAL NEED;

25 (II) SUPPORTS FOR POPULATIONS OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE
26 ACCOMMODATIONS AS OUTLINED BY THE FAFSA OR YOUTH WHO MAY BE
27 CONSIDERED INDEPENDENT ACCORDING TO FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF

1 EDUCATION POLICIES, INCLUDING:

2 (A) YOUTH WHO HAVE DECEASED PARENTS, ARE CURRENTLY OR
3 PREVIOUSLY WERE IN FOSTER CARE, OR ARE A WARD OF THE COURT;

4 (B) EMANCIPATED MINORS;

5 (C) YOUTH UNDER A LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP; AND

6 (D) YOUTH WHO ARE HOMELESS, SELF-SUPPORTING, OR AT RISK OF
7 HOMELESSNESS;

8 (III) INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE THE FIRST IN THEIR
9 FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE AND HOW TO NAVIGATE FINANCIAL AID
10 RESOURCES AND APPLICATION PROCESSES; AND

11 (IV) PUBLIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH STATE OR
12 FEDERAL ENTITIES.

13 (b) THE INFORMATION IN THE TOOL KIT MUST BE:

14 (I) OFFERED IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES; AND

15 (II) UPDATED ANNUALLY FOR EDUCATORS AND NONPROFIT
16 ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES IN DEVELOPING
17 INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND EDUCATION PLANS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS
18 22-32-109 (1)(OO) AND 22-30.5-525 AND CAREER-CONNECTED
19 STRATEGIES, SUCH AS WORK-BASED LEARNING IN SUPPORT OF FINANCIAL
20 LITERACY EDUCATION AND COMPLETION OF THE FINANCIAL AID FORMS.

21 (c) THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONSIDER AVOIDING DUPLICATION
22 OF EFFORTS BY LEVERAGING EXISTING RESOURCES IN CREATING THE TOOL
23 KIT.

24 (3) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), ON OR
25 BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2023, AND ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15 EACH YEAR
26 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE EDUCATION
27 COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR

1 ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, A REPORT CONCERNING:

2 (a) THE STEPS THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE TO IMPROVE THE
3 TOOL KIT;

4 (b) ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES
5 NECESSARY TO IMPROVE FAFSA AND CASFA COMPLETION RATES;

6 (c) DATA INDICATING THE FAFSA AND CASFA COMPLETION
7 RATES, DISAGGREGATED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, FIRST-GENERATION STATUS,
8 AND PELL GRANT ELIGIBILITY FOR:

9 (I) ADULTS BY COUNTY; AND

10 (II) HIGH SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND

11 (d) OTHER INFORMATION AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR
12 PARTNER AGENCIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE COLORADO
13 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COLORADO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
14 COUNCIL, COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, OR
15 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADES IN
16 SUPPORT OF COLORADO'S ECONOMIC AND JOB NEEDS.

17 (4) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO ITS
18 WEB-BASED FINANCIAL AID COMPLETION TOOL TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS AND
19 SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS COLORADO IN DETERMINING WHICH STUDENTS
20 HAVE COMPLETED FINANCIAL AID FORMS BY:

21 (I) UPDATING AND MODERNIZING THE COMPLETION TOOL WITH
22 FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION; AND

23 (II) DISPLAYING THE INFORMATION FOR FAFSA AND CASFA
24 COMPLETION AND VERIFICATION STATUS ON A LOCAL LEVEL TO SHOW HOW
25 MANY STUDENTS IN A HIGH SCHOOL HAVE COMPLETED AN APPLICATION
26 FORM AND MAKE THE INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE BY SCHOOL OR DISTRICT
27 ADMINISTRATORS IN ALIGNMENT WITH STATE DATA PRIVACY

1 REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

2 (b) FINANCIAL INFORMATION SHALL NOT BE SHARED IN THIS TOOL.
3 THE TOOL MAY ONLY BE USED TO SHOW APPLICATION COMPLETION,
4 PARTIAL COMPLETION, AND VERIFICATION STATUS.

5 (5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUPPORT COLLEGE ACCESS ACTIVITIES
6 BY:

7 (a) PROVIDING CAREER ADVISING ALIGNED WITH COLORADO'S
8 CRITICAL INDUSTRY SHORTAGE AREAS;

9 (b) PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT DEGREE PROGRAMS IN
10 ALIGNMENT WITH IN-DEMAND, HIGH-WAGE JOBS;

11 (c) PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE APPLICATION AND
12 FINANCIAL AID PROCESSES ASSOCIATED WITH ACCESSING POSTSECONDARY
13 EDUCATION;

14 (d) SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES IN COMPLETING
15 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS; AND

16 (e) PROVIDING INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH
17 RETURN-ON-INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION IN
18 RELATION TO ADDITIONAL EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL, INCLUDING:

19 (I) DEGREE PROGRAMS;

20 (II) CREDENTIALS;

21 (III) APPRENTICESHIPS;

22 (IV) WORK-BASED LEARNING; AND

23 (V) SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND OTHER FINANCIAL TOOLS TO
24 SUPPORT POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

25 (6) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
26 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE SIX HUNDREDEIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS
27 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS

1 SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY REMAINING AT THE END OF THE
2 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR:

3 (a) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER
4 FUND;

5 (b) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN SUBSEQUENT STATE
6 FISCAL YEARS WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

7 (c) SHALL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE
8 PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

9 **23-3.3-107. Improvements to CASFA - definitions - repeal.**

10 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
11 REQUIRES:

12 (a) "CASFA" MEANS THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE
13 FINANCIAL AID.

14 (b) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
15 EDUCATION.

16 (c) "FAFSA" MEANS THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL
17 STUDENT AID.

18 (2) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE
19 THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CASFA:

20 (a) IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND EASE OF USE IN COMPLETING
21 THE CASFA FORMS;

22 (b) IMPROVE THE FORM AND APPLICATION BY CONDUCTING FOCUS
23 GROUPS AND CONSULTING ORGANIZATIONS SERVING CASFA-ELIGIBLE
24 STUDENTS AND FAMILIES, INCLUDING STREAMLINING TO MIRROR
25 MODERNIZATIONS IN THE FAFSA APPLICATION;

26 (c) ASSESSING THE EXISTING FUNCTIONALITY OF THE CASFA
27 PROCESS, WEB TOOL, AND APPLICATION;

1 (d) IDENTIFYING AND IMPROVING WEBSITE FUNCTIONALITY; AND

2 (e) PROVIDING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WITH SUPPORT
3 FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ON AN ONGOING CAPACITY.

4 (3) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND
6 DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE
7 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY REMAINING AT THE
8 END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR:

9 (a) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER
10 FUND;

11 (b) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN SUBSEQUENT STATE
12 FISCAL YEARS WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

13 (c) SHALL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE
14 PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

15 (4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

16 **SECTION 9. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
17 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.