

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

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 22-0979.01 Jerry Barry x4341

HOUSE BILL 22-1366

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING INCREASING ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY WORKFORCE**
102 **READINESS WITH FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION, AND, IN**
103 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill 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

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.

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
May 5, 2022

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
May 2, 2022

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 29, 2022

improve the training of school educators and 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; ■■■

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; AND

3 (g) COLLABORATING OR PARTNERING WITH NONPROFIT
4 ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND
5 STUDENTS WITH EDUCATION AND COMPLETION OF STUDENT APPLICATIONS
6 FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID.

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

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

16 (a) THE CURRENT PROGRAMS RELATED TO COLLEGE AND CAREER
17 READINESS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1015 AND INDIVIDUAL
18 CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLANS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 22-32-109 AND
19 22-30.5-525 THAT THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER USES;

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

27 (c) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S PLAN FOR USE OF THE

1 GRANT MONEY, INCLUDING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GRANT MONEY
2 WILL BE USED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE
3 FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS AT THE LOCAL
4 EDUCATION PROVIDER'S HIGH SCHOOLS SERVED BY THE GRANT AND TO
5 PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND
6 OTHER EDUCATORS ON WORK-BASED LEARNING, COMPLETION OF FEDERAL
7 AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS, AND INTEGRATION OF ALL
8 POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS INTO THE INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC
9 PLANS FOR STUDENTS;

10 (d) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S PLAN FOR INVOLVING
11 EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS AT THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S
12 SCHOOLS PROVIDING POSTSECONDARY PREPARATION SUPPORTS;

13 (e) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER HAS
14 DEVELOPED OR PLANS TO DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS TO SERVE THE
15 POSTSECONDARY NEEDS OF ALL OF THE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN OR
16 RECEIVING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FROM THE LOCAL EDUCATION
17 PROVIDER;

18 (f) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S USE OF DISTRICT-LEVEL OR
19 SCHOOL-LEVEL EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROGRAMMING FOR
20 POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
21 22-7-1008;

22 (g) WHETHER THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER INTENDS TO
23 PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS TO AUGMENT ANY GRANT MONEY RECEIVED
24 FROM THE PROGRAM AND THE ANTICIPATED AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF ANY
25 MATCHING FUNDS; AND

26 (h) WHETHER THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER NEEDS TO UPDATE
27 THE INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN PROCESS TO

1 ACCOMMODATE REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-136 (1),
2 INCLUDING FINANCIAL AID FORM INFORMATION, OR FINANCIAL LITERACY
3 CURRICULUM PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-127.

4 (5) IN REVIEWING APPLICATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONSIDER
5 THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER CRITERIA ADOPTED
6 BY RULE OF THE STATE BOARD:

7 (a) HIGH SCHOOLS WITH LOW POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL
8 ATTAINMENT RATES;

9 (b) THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S HIGH SCHOOLS WITH LOW
10 FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION COMPLETION RATES;
11 AND

12 (c) THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF THE LOCAL EDUCATION
13 PROVIDER. THE DEPARTMENT MAY PRIORITIZE AWARDED GRANTS TO
14 RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO
15 RURAL LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS REQUESTING SUPPORT.

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

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

23 (I) DEVELOPING AND DISTRIBUTING TO STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND
24 EDUCATORS INFORMATION ABOUT AND STEPS TO COMPLETE THE FEDERAL
25 AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS;

26 (II) TRAINING SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND OTHER EDUCATORS ON
27 BEST PRACTICES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH FILLING OUT

1 FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON
2 SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE HISTORICALLY LOW COMPLETION
3 RATES OF FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS;

4 (III) ORGANIZING AND HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS
5 AND FAMILIES TO MEET WITH STAKEHOLDERS WHO ASSIST IN COMPLETING
6 THE FAFSA OR APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID; AND

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

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

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

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

26 (b) A COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED
27 FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS FOR THE YEAR PRIOR

1 TO WHICH THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER RECEIVED THE GRANT, IF
2 AVAILABLE, AND THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED FEDERAL
3 AND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS FOR EACH OF THE THREE YEARS
4 THE EDUCATION PROVIDER RECEIVES THE GRANT.

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

15 (10) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT ONE MILLION, ONE
17 HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND
18 FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED
19 MONEY REMAINING AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR FROM
20 THIS APPROPRIATION:

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

22 (II) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE 2023-24 OR
23 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

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

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

27 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1015, **amend**

1 (4)(c); and **add** (4)(e), (4)(f), and (4)(g) as follows:

2 **22-7-1015. Postsecondary and workforce readiness program**

3 **- technical assistance - appropriation.** (4) The department of education,
4 the department of higher education, and the state institutions of higher
5 education, upon request, shall provide support to local education
6 providers in implementing postsecondary and workforce readiness.
7 Beginning with the 2009-10 budget year, the department of education and
8 the department of higher education may include in their annual budget
9 requests an amount necessary to offset the costs incurred in complying
10 with this section. Support may include, but need not be limited to:

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

12 (e) ESTABLISHING SUPPORT THROUGH REGIONAL POSTSECONDARY
13 AND WORKFORCE READINESS COORDINATORS FOR TRAINING THAT ALIGNS
14 WITH FINANCIAL AID, FINANCIAL LITERACY, AND SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT
15 FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION AND STUDENT STATE FINANCIAL AID
16 APPLICATION COMPLETION;

17 (f) (I) SUPPORTING THE NUMBER OF REGIONAL INDIVIDUAL CAREER
18 AND ACADEMIC PLAN COORDINATORS IN THE STATE AND UPDATING THE
19 RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COORDINATORS TO SUPPORT FINANCIAL
20 AID INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS;

21 (II) REQUIRING THE REGIONAL INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC
22 PLAN COORDINATORS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND OUTREACH
23 TO SCHOOLS AND COORDINATE WITH THE OUTREACH TEAM IN THE
24 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION
25 23-1-119 (6).

26 (g) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
27 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT TWENTY-FIVE

1 THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE PROGRAMS
2 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(f) OF THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED
3 MONEY REMAINING AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR FROM
4 THIS APPROPRIATION:

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

6 (II) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE 2023-24 OR
7 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

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

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

12 **22-2-127. Financial literacy - resource bank - technical**
13 **assistance - definitions - appropriation - repeal.** (7) (a) THE
14 DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
15 EDUCATION, SHALL:

16 (I) UPDATE FINANCIAL LITERACY INFORMATION AND TRAINING
17 PROVIDED TO LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO INCLUDE DETAILED
18 RESOURCES AND TOOLS ABOUT FINANCIAL AID, ACCESS TO FINANCIAL AID
19 TOOLS, AND APPLICATIONS AND PROCESSES BEGINNING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
20 OR EARLIER; AND

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

1 WORKING IN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.

2 (b) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT TWO HUNDRED
4 SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE
5 PROGRAMS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (7). ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY
6 REMAINING AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR FROM THIS
7 APPROPRIATION:

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

9 (II) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE 2023-24 OR
10 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION; AND

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

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

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

16 **22-2-127.1. Stipends for financial aid training - definitions -**
17 **appropriation - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE
18 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

19 (a) "ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT" MEANS AN EDUCATOR WHO
20 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES TRAINING IN FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION
21 APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

22 (b) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A
23 CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART
24 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY
25 THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE
26 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED
27 AND OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22 THAT

1 OPERATES ONE OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

2 (c) "TRAINING TO IMPROVE FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION
3 AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES" OR "TRAINING" MEANS A
4 TRAINING CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND
5 APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH AN EMPHASIS ON IMPROVING THE
6 COMPLETION RATE OF STUDENTS COMPLETING THE FREE APPLICATION FOR
7 FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE
8 FINANCIAL AID.

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

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

21 (a) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER
22 FUND;

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

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

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

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

3 **22-32-109. Board of education - specific duties - definitions.** (1)
4 In addition to any other duty required to be performed by law, each board
5 of education has the following specific duties:

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

10 (B.5) The teaching career pathway created pursuant to section
11 23-60-110, the career opportunities to which the pathway leads, and
12 information concerning participation in the TREP program created in
13 section 22-35-108.5; **and**

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

18 (D) THE AVAILABILITY AND IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING THE
19 FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID OR THE COLORADO
20 APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID, OR SUCCESSOR FORMS FOR
21 ACCESSING FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID, AND THE AVAILABILITY
22 OF HELP IN COMPLETING THE FORMS, IF REQUESTED.

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

25 **23-1-119. Department directive - transition between K-12**
26 **education system and postsecondary education system.** (6) (a) THE
27 DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AN OUTREACH TEAM TO PROVIDE

1 TRAINING TO AND ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT
2 AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS, CHARTER SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL
3 DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, CHARTER
4 SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE
5 PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF
6 COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE
7 5 OF TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES ONE OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ASSIST
8 THEM IN PREPARING STUDENTS TO TRANSITION FROM THE K-12
9 EDUCATION SYSTEM. THE TEAM SHALL ALSO PROVIDE OUTREACH AND
10 TRAINING TO INDIVIDUALS IN WORKFORCE CENTERS, INDIVIDUALS IN
11 CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES, AND FOSTER YOUTH.

12 (b) THE TRAINING MUST INCLUDE:

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

15 (II) FINANCIAL LITERACY, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON THE FREE
16 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND THE COLORADO
17 APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID;

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

20 (IV) THE IMPORTANCE OF, AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF, ALL
21 POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS, INCLUDING AVAILABLE STATE-SUPPORTED
22 WEBSITES AND NAVIGATION TOOLS ON POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE
23 OPPORTUNITIES;

24 (V) THE AVAILABILITY OF STATE FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS AND
25 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS; AND

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

27 (c) THE TRAINING MUST BE AVAILABLE TO EDUCATORS IN

1 CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRAINING APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION
2 22-2-127.1.

3 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-3.3-106 and
4 23-3.3-107 as follows:

5 **23-3.3-106. Technology to support FAFSA and CASFA -**
6 **definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
7 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

8 (a) "CASFA" MEANS THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE
9 FINANCIAL AID.

10 (b) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
11 EDUCATION.

12 (c) "FAFSA" MEANS THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL
13 STUDENT AID.

14 (d) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A
15 CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART
16 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE
17 STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5
18 OF TITLE 22, OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND
19 OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES ONE OR
20 MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

21 (2) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE TECHNOLOGY TO ASSIST IN
22 INCREASING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE THE FAFSA AND
23 CASFA FORMS. ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT
24 SHALL DEVELOP A TOOL KIT AND TRAINING OUTLINING WEB TOOLS AND
25 RESOURCES FOR USE BY HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS, MIDDLE
26 AND HIGH SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT THE
27 COMPLETION OF FAFSA AND CASFA FORMS. THE TOOL KIT MUST

1 INCLUDE FREE RESOURCES, INCLUDING:

2 (I) NET PRICE CALCULATORS AND INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO
3 USE CALCULATORS TO OUTLINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE BASED ON
4 FINANCIAL NEED;

5 (II) SUPPORTS FOR POPULATIONS OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE
6 ACCOMMODATIONS AS OUTLINED BY THE FAFSA OR YOUTH WHO MAY BE
7 CONSIDERED INDEPENDENT ACCORDING TO FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF
8 EDUCATION POLICIES, INCLUDING:

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

11 (B) EMANCIPATED MINORS;

12 (C) YOUTH UNDER A LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP; AND

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

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

18 (IV) PUBLIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH STATE OR
19 FEDERAL ENTITIES.

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

21 (I) OFFERED IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES; AND

22 (II) UPDATED ANNUALLY FOR EDUCATORS AND NONPROFIT
23 ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES IN DEVELOPING
24 INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND EDUCATION PLANS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS
25 22-32-109 (1)(OO) AND 22-30.5-525 AND CAREER-CONNECTED
26 STRATEGIES, SUCH AS WORK-BASED LEARNING IN SUPPORT OF FINANCIAL
27 LITERACY EDUCATION AND COMPLETION OF THE FINANCIAL AID FORMS.

1 (c) THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONSIDER AVOIDING DUPLICATION
2 OF EFFORTS BY LEVERAGING EXISTING RESOURCES IN CREATING THE TOOL
3 KIT.

4 (3) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), ON OR
5 BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2023, AND ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15 EACH YEAR
6 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE EDUCATION
7 COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR
8 ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, A REPORT CONCERNING:

9 (a) THE STEPS THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE TO IMPROVE THE
10 TOOL KIT;

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

13 (c) SUBJECT TO DATA AVAILABILITY AND DATA PRIVACY
14 REQUIREMENTS, DATA INDICATING THE FAFSA AND CASFA COMPLETION
15 RATES BY HIGH SCHOOL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT AND, WHERE AVAILABLE,
16 DISAGGREGATED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, FIRST-GENERATION STATUS, AND
17 PELL GRANT ELIGIBILITY FOR:

18 (I) ADULTS BY COUNTY; AND

19 (II) HIGH SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND

20 (d) OTHER INFORMATION AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR
21 PARTNER AGENCIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE COLORADO
22 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COLORADO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
23 COUNCIL, COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, OR
24 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADES IN
25 SUPPORT OF COLORADO'S ECONOMIC AND JOB NEEDS.

26 (4) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO ITS
27 WEB-BASED FINANCIAL AID COMPLETION TOOL TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS AND

1 SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS COLORADO IN DETERMINING WHICH STUDENTS
2 HAVE COMPETED FINANCIAL AID FORMS BY:

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

5 (II) DISPLAYING THE INFORMATION FOR FAFSA AND CASFA
6 COMPLETION AND VERIFICATION STATUS ON A LOCAL LEVEL TO SHOW HOW
7 MANY STUDENTS IN A HIGH SCHOOL HAVE COMPLETED AN APPLICATION
8 FORM AND MAKE THE INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE BY SCHOOL OR DISTRICT
9 ADMINISTRATORS IN ALIGNMENT WITH STATE DATA PRIVACY
10 REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

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

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

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

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

20 (c) PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE APPLICATION AND
21 FINANCIAL AID PROCESSES ASSOCIATED WITH ACCESSING POSTSECONDARY
22 EDUCATION;

23 (d) SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES IN COMPLETING
24 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS; AND

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

1 (I) DEGREE PROGRAMS;
2 (II) CREDENTIALS;
3 (III) APPRENTICESHIPS;
4 (IV) WORK-BASED LEARNING; AND
5 (V) SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND OTHER FINANCIAL TOOLS TO
6 SUPPORT POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

7 (6) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE SIX HUNDREDEIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS
9 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS
10 SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY REMAINING AT THE END OF THE
11 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR:

12 (a) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER
13 FUND;

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

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

18 **23-3.3-107. Improvements to CASFA - definitions - repeal.**

19 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
20 REQUIRES:

21 (a) "CASFA" MEANS THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE
22 FINANCIAL AID.

23 (b) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
24 EDUCATION.

25 (c) "FAFSA" MEANS THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL
26 STUDENT AID.

27 (2) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE

1 THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CASFA:

2 (a) IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND EASE OF USE IN COMPLETING
3 THE CASFA FORMS;

4 (b) IMPROVE THE FORM AND APPLICATION BY CONDUCTING FOCUS
5 GROUPS AND CONSULTING ORGANIZATIONS SERVING CASFA-ELIGIBLE
6 STUDENTS AND FAMILIES, INCLUDING STREAMLINING TO MIRROR
7 MODERNIZATIONS IN THE FAFSA APPLICATION;

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

10 (d) IDENTIFYING AND IMPROVING WEBSITE FUNCTIONALITY; AND

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

13 (3) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND
15 DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE
16 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY REMAINING AT THE
17 END OF THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR:

18 (a) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER
19 FUND;

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

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

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

25 **SECTION 9. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2022-23 state fiscal
26 year, \$1,625,000 is appropriated to the department of education. This
27 appropriation is from the general fund. Any money appropriated in this

1 subsection (1) not expended prior to July 1, 2023, is further appropriated
2 to the department for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 state fiscal years for the
3 same purpose. To implement this act, the department may use this
4 appropriation as follows:

5 (a) \$1,150,000 for the postsecondary, workforce, career, and
6 education grant and readiness program, which amount is based on an
7 assumption that the department will require an additional 0.9 FTE; and

8 (b) \$475,000 for financial aid training stipends and resource bank,
9 which amount is based on an assumption that the department will require
10 an additional 1.0 FTE.

11 (2) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$1,000,000 is appropriated
12 to the department of higher education. This appropriation is from the
13 general fund. Any money appropriated in this subsection (2) not expended
14 prior to July 1, 2023, is further appropriated to the department for the
15 2023-24 and 2024-25 state fiscal years for the same purpose. To
16 implement this act, the department may use this appropriation as follows:

17 (a) \$680,000 for a financial aid toolkit, which amount is based on
18 an assumption that the department will require an additional 2.0 FTE; and

19 (b) \$320,000 for financial aid assessment tool improvements,
20 which amount is based on an assumption that the department will require
21 an additional 1.0 FTE.

22 (3) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$250,000 is appropriated to
23 the department of higher education. This appropriation is from the general
24 fund and is based on an assumption that the department will require an
25 additional 2.0 FTE. To implement this act, the department may use this
26 appropriation for Colorado commission on higher education and higher
27 education special purpose program administration.

1 **SECTION 10. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
2 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
3 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.