

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 24-0066.01 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL 24-069

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kolker and Kirkmeyer, Bridges, Coleman, Cutter, Exum, Fenberg, Fields, Gonzales, Marchman, Priola, Rodriguez, Winter F., Zenzinger

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Young and Garcia,

Senate Committees

Education
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO CLARIFY INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION**
102 **PROGRAM INFORMATION THROUGH A PUBLICLY AVAILABLE**
103 **TRAINING PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING**
104 **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>.)

On or before July 1, 2026, the bill requires the department of education to:

- Create and deliver a training program, in plain and

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

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 17, 2024

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 16, 2024

- easy-to-understand language, regarding individualized education program laws and procedures for special education advocates and parents; and
- Make certain training program information publicly available on its website, in plain and easy-to-understand language.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-20-122 as
3 follows:

4 **22-20-122. Special education parents - training program -**
5 **publish materials - legislative declaration - definition.** (1) (a) THE
6 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

7 (I) IN THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR, TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND ONE
8 HUNDRED NINE STUDENTS IN COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS WERE ELIGIBLE
9 TO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL
10 "REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 701 ET SEQ.;

11 (II) IN THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR, TWELVE PERCENT OF STUDENTS
12 IN COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS WERE IDENTIFIED AS HAVING A DISABILITY
13 THAT QUALIFIED THOSE STUDENTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES
14 PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION
15 ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ. AND THIS ARTICLE 20;

16 (III) APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN PERCENT OF STUDENTS IN
17 COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE CHILDREN WHO HAVE AN
18 INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM OR A SECTION 504
19 ACCOMMODATION; AND

20 (IV) FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS, AND RELATED PROCESSES
21 REGARDING INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS, ARE COMPLEX AND
22 CHALLENGING TO NAVIGATE.

1 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS AN
2 IMPORTANT PRIORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PARENTS AND THE
3 PUBLIC TO HELP PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF INDIVIDUALIZED
4 EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATION OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.

5 (2) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
6 CREATE, DELIVER, AND MAKE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE A TRAINING PROGRAM.
7 THE TRAINING PROGRAM MUST PRESENT COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION,
8 IN PLAIN AND EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE, REGARDING FEDERAL
9 AND STATE LAWS AND PROCEDURES REGARDING INDIVIDUALIZED
10 EDUCATION PROGRAMS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PARENT AND
11 STUDENT RIGHTS. THE DEPARTMENT MAY INCLUDE INTERPERSONAL AND
12 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY EXERCISES IN THE TRAINING PROGRAM.

13 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DELIVER THE TRAINING PROGRAM IN
14 PERSON AND MAKE THE TRAINING ACCESSIBLE ONLINE. THE GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY ENCOURAGES ANYONE WHO WISHES TO PARTICIPATE TO
16 COMPLETE THE TRAINING PROGRAM IN PERSON, IF PRACTICABLE, IN ORDER
17 TO BENEFIT FROM ANY INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY
18 EXERCISES OFFERED DURING THE TRAINING PROGRAM.

19 (c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS
20 TO CREATE THE TRAINING PROGRAM. AT A MINIMUM, THE DEPARTMENT IS
21 ENCOURAGED TO COLLABORATE WITH PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE
22 AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM, TEACHERS, PERSONS WITH
23 DISABILITIES, SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES, AND MEMBERS OF THE
24 PUBLIC.

25 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
26 PUBLISH, AND UPDATE AS NECESSARY, THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS ON THE
27 DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE:

1 (I) A RECORDING OF THE TRAINING DELIVERED PURSUANT TO THIS
2 SECTION; AND

3 (II) ANY RESOURCES OR MATERIALS DEVELOPED TO ACCOMPANY
4 THE TRAINING PROGRAM CREATED AND DELIVERED PURSUANT TO THIS
5 SECTION.

6 (b) THE MATERIALS AND RESOURCES PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO
7 SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION MUST BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC
8 AND IN PLAIN AND EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE.

9 (3.5) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR PURPOSES
11 OF THIS SECTION IN STATE FISCAL YEARS 2024-25 AND 2025-26. FOR
12 STATE FISCAL YEAR 2026-27, AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
13 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT APPROPRIATE MONEY TO THE
14 DEPARTMENT FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, AND THE DEPARTMENT
15 SHALL PERFORM ANY DUTIES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION
16 WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES.

17 (4) UPON THE REQUEST OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, SCHOOL, STATE OR
18 LOCAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, OR COMMUNITY
19 GROUP, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TRAINING PROGRAM MATERIALS
20 TO THE REQUESTOR.

21 (5) UPON THE REQUEST OF ANY PERSON, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
22 PROVIDE ANY RESOURCES OR MATERIALS DEVELOPED TO ACCOMPANY THE
23 TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE LANGUAGE REQUESTED BY THE PERSON.

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25 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2024-25 state fiscal year,
26 \$75,288 is appropriated to the department of education for use by student
27 learning. This appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an

1 assumption that the division will require an additional 0.4 FTE. To
2 implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for
3 individualized education plans training program.

4 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
5 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
6 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
7 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
8 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
9 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
10 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
11 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
12 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.