

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

To: Legislative Council

Requested by: Representative Joseph
With support of: Representatives Bradley, Garcia, Martinez, and Pugliese

Re: Request for interim study committee to understand the concerns and barriers regarding students with disabilities in receiving a free and appropriate public education.

Date: 4/12/2024

Information Required Pursuant to Section 2-3-303.3, C.R.S.

I hereby request that an interim study committee be formed to study and understand concerns and barriers regarding students with disabilities in receiving a free and appropriate public education. The committee will review existing regulations and make recommendations for areas where state intervention and legislation could fill the unmet needs of students with disabilities. The interim study committee would be named the "Special Education Interim Study Committee".

The policy issues to be studied are:

- recruiting and retaining special education teachers and paraprofessionals;
- enhancing and empowering parent engagement in student success; and
- navigating changing requirements of federal law with existing state law and practices.

The interim study committee would need to meet 4 times to study the issues.

The interim study committee should consist of 6 members of the General Assembly selected as follows:

- 3 members of the Senate, with 2 members appointed by the President of the Senate and 1 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.
- 3 members of the House of Representatives, with 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and 1 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

Nonlegislative members will not have a role in the interim study committee, however the committee is encouraged to bring in community members and other stakeholders to present and participate.

A task force is not necessary to assist the interim study committee in studying the scope of policy issues described above.

The interim study committee will need 5 bills to address the issues it studies.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.