

CHAPTER 57

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOUSE BILL 13-1023

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Murray and Fields, Conti, Everett, Exum, Fischer, Gardner, Gerou, Ginal, Holbert, Hullinghorst, Humphrey, Lee, McLachlan, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Schafer, Scott, Stephens, Williams, Wilson, Court, Hamner, Moreno, Young;
also SENATOR(S) Balmer and Kerr, Carroll, Guzman, Heath, Kefalas, Newell, Nicholson, Todd.

AN ACT**CONCERNING POLICIES RELATING TO ACADEMIC ACCELERATION IN PRESCHOOL THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE.**

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

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds that:

(a) High-ability students who are above grade level in one or more subjects or who meet academic content standards at an accelerated rate should be challenged and supported to reach their full potential;

(b) School districts that have transparent, systemwide academic acceleration procedures for referring students, evaluating the academic needs of the students, and implementing appropriate acceleration interventions are more likely to provide these high-ability students with a challenging education;

(c) School district acceleration procedures may include, but need not be limited to, academic interventions such as accelerating a student in a single subject, compacting curriculum, concurrent enrollment, credit by examination, advanced placement or international baccalaureate programs, specialized advanced academic programs, independent academic studies, grade acceleration, grade telescoping, and early entrance to college; and

(d) Participation in academic acceleration interventions should not be limited to only those students who have been identified as gifted and talented, but to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from content acceleration or other acceleration interventions in their area or areas of strength.

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that each school district and each institute charter school shall review the systemwide academic acceleration procedures for referral, evaluation, and academic intervention for high-ability students enrolled in the school district or in the institute charter school.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1013, **add** (2.5) as follows:

22-7-1013. Local education provider - preschool through elementary and secondary education standards - adoption - academic acceleration.

(2.5) (a) EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL REVIEW ITS PROCEDURES CONCERNING ACADEMIC ACCELERATION FOR STUDENTS. ACADEMIC ACCELERATION ALLOWS A STUDENT TO PROGRESS THROUGH AN EDUCATION PROGRAM AT A RATE FASTER OR AT AGES YOUNGER THAN THE STUDENT'S PEERS. THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL CONSIDER PROCEDURES THAT MAY INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

(I) THE PROCESS FOR REFERRAL FOR ACADEMIC ACCELERATION AND PROCEDURES THAT ENSURE THE FAIR, OBJECTIVE, AND SYSTEMATIC EVALUATION OF THE STUDENTS REFERRED;

(II) A DECISION-MAKING PROCESS FOR ACCELERATED PLACEMENT THAT INVOLVES MULTIPLE PERSONS, INCLUDING A STUDENT'S PARENTS, RATHER THAN A SOLE DECISION-MAKER;

(III) GUIDELINES FOR THE PRACTICE OF ACADEMIC ACCELERATION, INCLUDING THE CATEGORIES, FORMS, AND TYPES OF ACADEMIC ACCELERATION AND THE AWARD OF CREDIT;

(IV) GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTING NONACADEMIC BARRIERS TO THE USE OF ACCELERATION AS AN EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION; AND

(V) AN APPEALS PROCESS FOR DECISIONS RELATED TO ACADEMIC ACCELERATION, AS WELL AS A PROCESS FOR EVALUATING THE ACADEMIC ACCELERATION PROCEDURES AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN SUCCESSFULLY ACCELERATING STUDENTS.

(b) IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE ACADEMIC ACCELERATION PROCEDURES, A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY UTILIZE ANY RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND ANY NATIONAL RESEARCH CONTAINING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPING SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC ACCELERATION PROCEDURES.

SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 7, 2013, if adjournment sine die is on May 8, 2013); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect

unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: March 22, 2013