

Amendment L002 – Rationale

- In the Colorado Preschool Program statute, there is a statewide cap that requires that no more than 5% of all CPP slots be used for full-day programs. This longstanding requirement was originally designed to ensure greater access to at least a half-day around the state before expanding access to a full-day.
- The ECARE program section of statute allows school districts to stack an unlimited number of ECARE slots into full-day programming.
- Questions have arisen from several school districts about the authority allowed in statute to stack a CPP slot with an ECARE slot to offer a child a full-day program and if this stacking is subject to the statewide 5% cap on CPP slots that can be used for a full-day.
- In conversation with the Colorado Department of Education, the interpretation of statute is that school districts can indeed, under current statute, stack a half-day CPP slot with a half-day ECARE slot without those positions being counted against the 5% cap. There was a request by a couple of districts, however, to make this policy abundantly clear in statute to avoid any confusion and to ensure that guidance provided to districts make clear that the ECARE slots many will be retaining from full-day kindergarten ECARE can indeed be combined with existing CPP slots to offer full-day programming without bumping up against the 5% cap on stacking CPP slots for full-day programming. The amendment simply clarifies that the combination of an ECARE slot and a CPP slot to offer a full-day program for an eligible child is permitted in statute and does not count against the statewide 5% cap in the CPP statute.