

The Path4Ward program **rewards learners who complete high school graduation requirements in three years by providing those students a scholarship that can be used for postsecondary education or workforce training in what would have been their fourth year of high school.** The scholarship can also be leveraged to support the costs associated with these career exploration and postsecondary opportunities, such as textbooks and transportation.

Path4Ward is the pilot for this new program. The Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) is the state agency responsible for developing and implementing a five-year pilot with up to five school districts (or consortia of districts/schools) in the state to support high school students with early graduation, with an emphasis on low-income students.

This pilot was established by the Successful High School Transitions Bill ([SB21-106](#)) and moved Colorado closer to **blurring the lines between high school, postsecondary education, and career.**

What's in it for students?

- › **Explore options and opportunities after high school** - equip high school students with greater opportunities for success after graduation
- › **Save time and money** - help students to have meaningful opportunities to enroll in full time college coursework or career training in their fourth year of high school
- › **Facilitate transportation to college courses or career training** - many low income students can't participate in certain pathways or opportunities because they lack access to transportation
- › **Support low-income students** - complete high school graduation requirements early and receive a scholarship to help pay for career and postsecondary training and education

What's in it for districts?

- › Schools and districts continue to receive partial funding for a student who otherwise would have graduated early and left the system
- › Equity-centered pilot increasing access to career-exploration and concurrent enrollment for low-income students
- › Access to collaborative learning network of other pilot districts
- › Student-facing support from technical assistance providers to help pilot districts and students navigate options in using their scholarship funds
- › \$1,300 (25% of PPR) for each low-income early graduate reported to CDHE

What's in it for the state?

- › Develop a skilled workforce by addressing Colorado's leaky talent pipeline by smoothing the transition from high school to post-secondary opportunities, from college to industry certificates to careers

How can I apply?

- › The **application** and program information can be found on [CDHE's website](#)

