

About Colorado Succeeds

Colorado Succeeds is a nonpartisan network of business leaders representing companies of different sizes, sectors, and locations from across Colorado who have come together to ensure that all Colorado students are educated to their greatest potential and all Colorado businesses have the homegrown talent they need to thrive. Together, we are leading the way in the agile education movement, ensuring that today's students develop real world skills, have access to growth and development opportunities, and learn how to learn.

Colorado Succeeds believes education systems should respond to the diverse needs of learners as well as the dynamic skills changes occurring in the world around us. By focusing on outcomes and not inputs, we can equip all learners with the skills they will need to solve problems that have yet to be identified. Colorado Succeeds' members are business and community leaders who have united to change outcomes for kids, support in bringing more relevance to schools, and shape the future of Colorado's workforce. Our members have committed their networks and resources to help deliver on this mission through our strategic priorities: policy, practice, and philanthropy.

Our Mission: To apply our business expertise, influence, and capital to improve Colorado's schools.

Equity Rationale: Colorado Succeeds is committed to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as its core motivator, strategy, and value. Systemic inequities in education have for too long determined the type and quality of educational opportunities students can access and experience, and the Colorado Paradox is still very much a reality. While more than half of the state's residents have a postsecondary degree, only 22% graduated from Colorado's K-12 public schools. According to the Colorado Talent Pipeline Report, 97% of CO's top in-demand jobs require some level of formal postsecondary education or training, and only about 1 in 5 high school graduates obtain that type of credential.

Through strategies in policy, practice, and philanthropy that center students and families who face systemic inequities, Colorado Succeeds works to remove barriers to ensure equity in accessing experiences, opportunities, and resources they need to reach their greatest potential. Colorado Succeeds is committed to engaging the perspectives of diverse communities to learn, understand, and form the basis of our future actions. Colorado Succeeds is committed to finding ways to ensure these education stakeholders and their ideas are at the table, co-creating, supporting, and leading efforts that are best for Colorado's students and families.

Colorado Succeeds holds itself to continuous improvement, including advancing equitable policy agendas, more visibly and consistently sharing its commitment to equity, centering equity in decision-making and strategy development, and clearly defining and demonstrating progress towards equity outcomes.

Opportunity

This position offers the successful candidate an opportunity to have a profound impact on the direction of statewide education policy. The Vice President of Government Affairs serves as the primary driver of the policy agenda and government affairs strategy. The Vice President will collaboratively work with the President, leadership team, and the Board of Directors to set the overall organizational policy, research, and advocacy agenda. This position reports to the President. The roles and responsibilities of the position include:

Role & Responsibilities

This position will require the successful candidate to develop the Colorado Succeeds policy agenda, oversee the research and development of future policies, and draft initial legislative policy concepts with key coalition partners. The position will also oversee the Colorado Succeeds policy committee, ensuring strong engagement and retention of business members. The position requires the management of the Government Affairs team, including Government Affairs staff, policy fellows, and contract lobbyists. Other specific responsibilities of the Vice President include:

Government Affairs Expertise

- Review current and proposed laws and regulations and analyze the potential alignment with Colorado Succeeds core principles and priorities.
- Provide testimony, public statements, and presentations on education policy issues to the State Legislature, State Board of Education, business leaders, and other education partners and stakeholders.
- Develop and maintain professional relationships with leaders in the legislature, relevant state agencies, State Board of Education, Governor's office, and other key stakeholders and advocacy partners.
- Work collaboratively with the Colorado Succeeds communications and membership teams to educate and engage Colorado Succeeds members in our priorities.
- Engage, develop, and support partnerships with government agencies, school districts, schools, and community coalitions to effectively implement policy and advocacy priorities.
- Review and synthesize research, emerging trends, effective policy, evidence-based practices, and promising innovations at the international, national, state, district, and school levels to translate data into actionable initiatives.
- Serve as a content expert on public education issues, ensuring that Colorado Succeeds is a pre-eminent voice in the statewide discussion of legislation, regulations, and best practices.
- Write actionable policy reports, testimonies, blogs, briefing memos, fact sheets, talking points and other substantive communications materials that explain and advocate our priorities.

Business and Civic Leadership

- Exhibit executive presence and strong public speaking skills in public forums and all professional arenas.
- Recognized across Colorado as a business and civic leader with national expertise in education policy, practice, and philanthropy.
- Exemplify a nonpartisan commitment to cross ideological pursuit of solutions and pragmatically stay focused on what works and is guided by clear principles and non-partisan objectives.
- Effectively advance Colorado Succeeds perspective and objectives among the business, government, education, and nonprofit leaders.

Required Qualifications

- Strong writing skills including experience with summarizing difficult information in a concise manner.
- Experience navigating federal or state education policy, including an understanding of the agency rulemaking process.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills with experience in navigating complex relationships across multiple stakeholders with varied interests.
- Experience in Colorado and familiarity with education policy, experience in higher education/workforce a plus.
- Ability to influence and persuade and sell the Succeeds programmatic agenda to policymakers and members.
- Excellent project management skills, including experience managing multiple large projects at a time.
- Mastery of policy development, government affairs, lobbying, and issue advocacy.

Compensation:

Full-time position. Total compensation range: \$120,000 - \$180,000, depending on experience. Competitive benefits package available.

To Apply:

Please send a resume and cover letter to Shannon Nicholas at snicholas@coloradosucceeds.org and indicate the position title in the subject line of the email.

Colorado Succeeds is an equal opportunity employer, and in all its governance, operations, and services, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, or any other legally protected classes and characteristics. Colorado Succeeds commits to the principles of equal opportunity and places the utmost value on diversity.