


2021 Legislative Wins for Colorado Students

Through strong leadership by the Governor's office, policymakers, state agency leaders, and advocacy partners, Colorado made great strides towards a more agile education system that meets the needs of all learners.

BY THE NUMBERS

14/14 **BILLS**
WE SUPPORTED
passed




2/2

bills we opposed
were defeated or
AMENDED FAVORABLY



76,000+

3- and 4-year-old students now
eligible for free preschool

24,757
credentials

completed through

**THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT
INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CDIP)**



\$13M



directed to new educator
pathways, supporting
recruitment, preparation,
AND NON-TRADITIONAL
ROUTES TO THE PROFESSION



\$200M+ *in federal stimulus dollars*
STEERED TOWARDS COLORADO SUCCEEDS
education and workforce priorities

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POLICY HIGHLIGHTS



Students Provided Expanded Access to a Relevant & Engaging Educational Experience

- ▶ **High schoolers are given the flexibility and resources to personalize their fourth year to achieve their post-secondary goals.** Successful High School Transitions (SB21-106) will connect high school students—especially those furthest from opportunity—to high quality career pathways and other postsecondary opportunities in Colorado.
- ▶ **Students are given expanded opportunities to engage in learning outside of the traditional classroom.** Through SB21-106, the number of districts eligible for valuable seat time flexibility through the Innovative Learning Opportunities Program (ILOP) will double, increasing the size of the network to 40 districts and schools.
- ▶ **Students are given critical information on pathways to high-demand careers.** Strengthening Opportunities for Students to Participate in Quality Career Connected Learning (SB21-119) will improve the Career Development Incentive Program (CDIP) by identifying the 10 most in-demand, highly utilized programs of study that lead to an industry-recognized credential with labor market value.
- ▶ **Students are connected with opportunities to learn everywhere on the fifth day of the school week.** 110 of Colorado's districts are on a four-day school week. This new grant program (HB21-1006) will help students from these districts enroll in high quality programming on the fifth day of the week that complements classroom learning and develops life and career skills critical to future success.



Youngest Learners are Prioritized Through the Creation of a New Department of Early Childhood

- ▶ **New state department is created to oversee the implementation of Colorado's incoming universal preschool program.** HB21-1304 creates the Department of Early Childhood and directs the state to engage multiple stakeholders in developing a plan to transition universal preschool governance to the new department.
- ▶ **Investments are made to support the workforce and capacity of the early childhood education sector.** SB21-236 creates four new grant programs to increase capacity for early childhood education and care, and improve recruitment, retention, and salaries of early childhood educators.



Student Needs are Centered by Protecting Public School Choice and Measuring Learning

- ▶ **Families will continue to have the right to pursue a variety of high-quality public school options.** Legislation (HB21-1295) designed to remove a charter school's right to a fair appeal was defeated.
- ▶ **Understanding student learning was prioritized.** HB21-1161 required the state to administer student assessments in English/Language Arts in grades 3, 5, and 7, and Math assessments to grades 4, 6, and 8, to assess learning loss and connect resources to students that need them most.
- ▶ **Ensuring students have the opportunity to succeed remains a goal of the accountability system.** HB21-1294 was amended to ensure the statewide audit of the accountability system focuses on opportunities to reduce gaps in educational achievement.