

2022 Legislative Recap

Highlights



Postsecondary & Workforce

- ▶ Members championed various bills aimed at innovating higher education and expanding work-based learning. Business advocated for federal stimulus dollars to prioritize learner access and acceleration through career pathways linked to high-wage, high-growth careers.



K-12

- ▶ Members supported legislation that increases the number of high-quality public schools. Business advocated for improved educator evaluations, more equitable funding of charter schools, and application of the state performance framework.



Early Childhood Education

- ▶ Members informed legislation that implements the new Department of Early Childhood and universal preschool. Business advocated for increased choice and access for families and high transparency and accountability structures for the new state agency.



Visit our blog for a more detailed summary ▶



Business Voices at the Capitol

Excerpts from Testimony



“Research has consistently shown that the economic return on investment in quality preschool is significant—at least a 500% return for every dollar invested. Business leaders know a good investment when they see it, which is why implementing universal preschool and aligning all early childhood governance and programs is a priority for me and many of my colleagues in the business community.”

*Adeeb Khan, Chief Brand & Impact Officer,
Delta Dental Colorado*

“The employer incentive legislation supports connections between employers, K-12, and higher education. As an employer, I run into numerous obstacles: who will manage the interns, how do we train our staff to effectively work with young people, scheduling, coordinating transportation, just to name a few barriers. This legislation helps to address some of these obstacles.”

*Jonathan Steenland, Co-Founder & Partner,
ForceNow*



“Apprenticeship programs are a way to allow individuals to earn credentials while still receiving a paycheck for their work. Centura has many partnerships with community colleges to help grow their apprenticeship program across the state. This bill allows programs to be creative in addressing staffing needs and supports individuals that want to pursue these types of programs.”

*Jaime Pearson, Talent Partnership & University
Relations Consultant, Centura Health*

“Colorado needs new and innovative paths for learners to become earners. These business incentives will create new partnerships and learning pathways that provide a critical pipeline of talent for employers.”

*Debbie Brown, President,
Colorado Business Roundtable*



“The employer incentives bill exemplifies innovation and how the state can support businesses in Colorado. Businesses want skilled talent to support the state’s economy and are asking for support to expand skill-based hiring and work-based learning. The state must invest in expanding these types of career-connected learning opportunities and should become the first state in the nation to truly invest in these learning models with intentional strategies.”

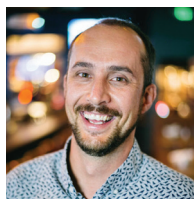
*Raymond Gonzales, President, Metro Denver
Economic Development Corporation*

Members Shaping Policy



Tom Brinegar

Served on Early Childhood Transition Advisory Group



Mark Tapy

Served on Reimagining High School Taskforce, informed policy development



Dave Eddy

Served on Student Success & Workforce Revitalization Taskforce

By the Numbers



16/17 **BILLS**
WE SUPPORTED
PASSED



300+
HOURS
AT THE
CAPITOL



13 **BUSINESS**
LEADERS
testified on Colorado
Succeeds priorities



92,000+
Colorado 4-year-olds will receive
at least 10 hours of free preschool



6,709
INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS
earned by students in 2021

\$4.5
MILLION

for Career Development
Incentive Program (CDIP)



\$17 **MILLION**

for state authorized charter
schools, nearly doubling the
equalization funding available

\$95 MILLION secured for innovations in higher education
and workforce development pathways

\$91 MILLION
for regional grants that
will bring industry and
higher education together

\$3 MILLION
to help employers initiate
or scale high quality
work-based learning

\$1 MILLION
invested in the creation
of high-demand
postsecondary pathways

41 **BUSINESS, CIVIC, &**
ADVOCACY GROUPS

signed onto letter co-developed by
Colorado Succeeds advocating for
stimulus dollars to be spent in ways
that benefit business and learners

