

Removed barriers to data transparency and understanding outcomes for high school graduates

In 2022, Colorado Succeeds worked with the legislature to create the **“1215 Task Force.”** In 2023, the Task Force released a set of recommendations to simplify and expand access to opportunities that allow students to graduate with a path to economic mobility. The Task Force oriented around the goal of every student graduating high school with college credit, an in-demand industry credential, or a work-based learning experience.

The recommendations centered on simplifying the existing programs, aligning incentives, understanding impact, and developing and improving systems that better connect education and workforce efforts around the state.

The report recognized that while all recommendations need to be pursued, they also need to be scaffolded, beginning with creating an umbrella for the programs and developing a statewide longitudinal data system.

In 2024, the legislature took the first step towards addressing the Task Force’s recommendations by passing HB24-1364. This bill takes **two foundational steps:**

- 1** It helps us understand the **costs and opportunities for savings** to expand opportunities to college credit, industry credentials, or quality work-based learning experiences.
- 2** It also creates the infrastructure we need to **connect and make accessible education and workforce data** for learners, families, and decision-makers to know the value and impact of programs by establishing a state longitudinal data system.

Doing these two things together means that we are setting more Colorado learners up for success and putting our state on a path toward continued improvement of postsecondary and workforce readiness experiences.

The actions outlined on the following page are a critical next step toward helping Colorado transform the high school experience so that more learners can achieve their full potential and all Colorado businesses have the homegrown talent they need to thrive. Special thanks to the bill sponsors and champions: Speaker McCluskie (D), Representative Bacon (D), Senator Bridges (D), and Senator Lundeen (R).



UNDERSTAND THE COSTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SAVINGS BY ORIENTING AROUND OUTCOMES

HB24-1364 charges CDE with conducting a fiscal impact study of the 13 postsecondary and workforce readiness programs to better understand the costs to the state and districts to meet the goals of creating an umbrella program and a consistent funding stream.

This study will answer questions like:

- ▶ What are the costs to districts to provide college credit, industry credentials, and work-based learning experiences?
- ▶ Where can the state and districts save money by moving from many programs to one program that orients around college credit, industry credentials, and work-based learning experiences?
- ▶ Are there different funding mechanisms we should consider to expand access to college credit, industry credentials, and work-based learning experiences?
- ▶ How much will it cost to implement recommendations from the cost study by the 2025-2026 school year?

The study will be completed December 1, 2024 and will not require any additional data collection from school districts.



BUILD A TRANSPARENT AND SAFE DATA SYSTEM THAT WILL ALLOW STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND DECISION-MAKERS TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE PATHWAYS

HB24-1364 authorizes the creation of a statewide longitudinal data system and the governance structures needed to better understand the outcomes of our state's education and workforce investments.

This data system will:

- ▶ **Help decision-makers understand the impact of investments:** Colorado has data sitting in silos across state government, but we can't easily or efficiently connect the dots between education and workforce outcomes. A modern, independent system will link data securely and allow for comprehensive information to enable better decisions, particularly where there are equity and opportunity gaps.
- ▶ **Allow learners, families, and communities access to critical information:** When complete, learners and families will be able to more easily understand the outcomes of different education and workforce programs so that they can make more informed decisions.
- ▶ **Increase data privacy and security:** The bill assigns one agency to manage the data system and day-to-day responsibilities for keeping data safe and secure and cutting down on the number of times data is shared across agencies.
- ▶ **Be governed by a cross-agency data governance board, aligned with national best practice:** Agency leaders will have decision-making authority to protect privacy, ensure the system is sustainable, and that its work is aligned with its mission and vision.