

2024 LEGISLATIVE RECAP



The Education to Employment Alliance is a coalition of business leaders invested in improving outcomes for Colorado learners and shaping the future of Colorado's workforce.



We represent all 64 Colorado counties and thousands of member companies from diverse sectors, geographies, and sizes. Together, our alliance is working to build a talent development system that is learner-centered and responsive to the changing dynamics of our economy and businesses.

This legislative session, the Education to Employment Alliance supported key bills, ensuring progress toward the five outcomes outlined in our 2023 report, *Maximizing Human Potential & Economic Mobility*.



Ensure education providers are focusing on the skills employers need.

SB 24-143: Credential Quality Apprenticeship Classification will make it easier to identify qualified employees by using international standards to create and adopt a quality credential framework.



Create regional talent-development goals and action plans overseen by a workforce intermediary.

HB 24-1365: Opportunity Now Grants & Tax Credit will create a grant program to support regional talent planning summits and tax credits for businesses investing in training facilities and equipment.



"It is vital that local business and economic development organizations be able to work with local educational institutions to ensure

that students are graduating with the skills they need to land sustainable and satisfying jobs. This will help existing businesses to grow and can aid economic developers in attracting new companies that create new jobs and help graduates decide to build a career locally rather than moving out of state for work."

—DUANE NAVA, President & CEO,
Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce



Measure outcomes and direct funding to education and training programs that help graduates achieve sustainable careers.

HB 24-1364: Education-Based Workforce Readiness will start building a state longitudinal data system and take steps towards better, more efficient, career-connected programming in Colorado.



Realign the pathways offered in schools with the needs of employers.

SB 24-104: Career & Technical Education & Apprenticeships will help high school and community college students receiving career and technical training to find jobs in which they can use that training more easily.



“As a leader in the workforce development space who has proudly employed over 70 apprentices in the last seven years, we see the value of

apprenticeship not only for the learners but also for the employers. Our model has shown that melding the line between education and employment prepares employees for the workplace better than education alone.”

—JULIE WILMES, Apprenticeship Program Manager, Pinnacol Assurance



Streamline and incentivize employer participation in career-connected learning opportunities.

HB 24-1439: Financial Incentives Expand Apprenticeship Programs will create tax credits for employers who offer apprenticeships and provides support for intermediaries that offer technical assistance for creating apprenticeships.



“The partnership has a seven-year history of being an intermediary and convener to work with the school system and business community for

job shadows-apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities, so we know how important this is to help our students and our learners achieve their full potential and help our businesses address the significant skilled labor gaps. This program will help more businesses participate because small businesses need that incentive and this would break down the barriers.”

—CHRIS ROMER, President & CEO, Vail Valley Partnership