

Summary of Legislation

2026



K-12 Education

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During the 2026 legislative session, the General Assembly considered a wide range of measures pertaining to K-12 education in Colorado. The legislature adopted bills related to school funding, governance and administration, student success, and teacher licensure.

School Funding

[Senate Bill 26-023](#), the annual School Finance Act, increases the statewide base per pupil funding amount for the 2026-27 school year and outlines revisions to funded pupil count calculations under both the old and new formulas. The act modifies charter school funding, repeals specific supplemental aid, and allows for contingency reserve payments for rural districts. It also prohibits Boards of Cooperative Education Services from being statewide authorizers and appropriates funds for various educational initiatives from the State Education Fund. [House Bill 26-1174](#) makes mid-year adjustments to the 2025 School Finance Act to account for changes in enrollment and assessed local property values. The bill reflects lower than expected student enrollment, and higher than expected local share revenue. The bill clarifies the hold harmless provision of the 2025 School Finance Act by specifying that

for FY 2025-26, if a district's total program under the new formula is less than under the old formula, a district receives the old formula total program amount or their FY 2024-25 total program amount, whichever is greater.

[Senate Bill 26-135](#) submits a ballot measure to the voters during the November 2026 election to allow the state to retain and spend additional revenue above the Taxpayer Bill of Rights limit beginning in FY 2026-27. If approved by voters, the state will be able to retain and allocate the additional revenue to reimburse local governments for lost property tax funds and then towards a new "positive factor" for K-12 education, which will increase education funding and support child-oriented programs. From FY 2026-27 to FY 2034-35, the positive factor will increase by two percent annually and will direct resources to raising teacher pay, teacher retention, reducing class sizes, and providing career and technical education courses.

Governance and Administration

[House Bill 26-1282](#) outlines new provisions for child care centers that serve only school-aged children and are located on a school property. It allows these centers to fulfill staff training and space requirements

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by showing compliance with similar Colorado Department of Education (CDE) rules as long as the rules meet federal child care requirements. Additionally, the bill requires the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) to annually review its waiver and appeal processes for child care centers to use certain materials in programs and curriculum, and allows local public health agencies to conduct annual playground inspections.

[Senate Bill 26-151](#) changes the composition of the Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA) Board of Trustees by replacing the current non-voting representative from Denver Public Schools (DPS) with an elected and voting member. It also affiliates DSST Public Schools with the DPS Division of PERA, allowing DSST employees to buy service credit for their years worked at the charter school without limitation if the purchase is completed before employment termination. Any purchase for service credit exceeding ten years must be initiated by July 1, 2029.

[House Bill 26-1141](#) amends the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act to broaden the definition of discriminatory practices in educational settings, including higher education. It defines discriminatory practices as excluding students from programs, denying benefits, and failing to address hostile environments, and allows the Colorado Civil Rights Commission to adopt rules for filing school discrimination complaints. Additionally, the bill adds

pregnant or parenting students as protected classes and requires Institutions of Higher Education to create grievance procedures for Title VI violations, appoint a Title VI coordinator, and provide relevant training and data regarding discrimination and harassment.

Student Success

Under current law, local education providers (LEPs) can grant diploma endorsements in biliteracy to students proficient in English and a foreign language. [House Bill 26-1028](#) expands this by allowing alternative methods to demonstrate proficiency. It creates a separate diploma endorsement for bilingualism, defined as proficiency in speaking, listening, and understanding English and another language. Students must prove oral proficiency through a nationally recognized test or equivalent evidence. If an LEP does not offer these endorsements, a student can seek one from an institution of higher education or an educational nonprofit.

[Senate Bill 26-103](#) requires that school districts and charter schools implement an Achieving Community Commitment to Equitable School Success (ACCESS) policy aimed at supporting at-risk students. The policies must be posted online and accessible to the public and can include integrated student support services, community partnerships, extended learning programs, teacher retention strategies, and family engagement strategies. Schools with

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specific performance plans for at-risk students already fulfill the bill's requirements.

Under current law, LEPs must provide individualized readiness plans (IRPs) to all incoming preschool or kindergarten students. [House Bill 26-1050](#) removes this requirement for students who show proficiency in kindergarten assessments across various developmental domains. If an LEP does not provide an IRP for a student who demonstrates proficiency, it must notify the student's parent or guardian in writing, and include assessment results and information on how to request an IRP.

Teacher Licensure

The legislature adopted two bills focused on teacher licensure. Under current law, applicants for a teacher license must disclose any misdemeanor convictions that occurred during the last seven years, except for misdemeanor traffic offenses. [House Bill 26-1090](#) revises these requirements, mandating applicants to disclose all convictions for crimes against at-risk individuals or children regardless of the conviction date and any misdemeanor convictions within the last seven years that CDE determines to be grounds for denial, annulment, suspension, or revocation of a license, certificate, endorsement, or authorization.

Under current law, CDE can issue professional teacher licenses to applicants

from other states who have at least three years of evaluated teaching experience within the past seven years. [Senate Bill 26-126](#) removes the requirement that the three years of experience must be within the past seven years and directs the State Board of Education to enter into reciprocal agreements with states participating in the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact. CDE must issue an initial license within 30 days of receiving a complete application from an applicant licensed in a compact state, without requiring additional coursework or examinations. The CDE will publish a table annually, correlating licenses from reciprocal states to Colorado endorsement areas. The requirement for reciprocal agreements will end if the compact commission adopts new rules, effective from the date specified in the commission's notice.