

HB 1319 – GUIDING DIRECTIVES LISTED IN THE BILL

- **Higher education is an economic engine for Colorado**, helps to create an informed citizenry, and contributes significantly to Colorado’s superior quality of life;
- In order to ensure the state's ongoing social, cultural, and economic vibrancy, funding for **higher education should be based on the needs of the state, the people of Colorado, and the Students**;
- **Colorado currently ranks third in the United States in the percentage of its citizens between the ages of twenty-five and sixty-four with a college degree**, largely due to the migration of college-educated adults from other states and countries;
- In order to ensure that Colorado students have access to a postsecondary education that will allow them to compete for jobs in Colorado’s increasingly high-tech economy and the global economy , **it is essential that Colorado make wise use of its investment in higher education to increase the number of Coloradans who have earned a high-quality postsecondary credential**;
- It is important that the state of Colorado **ensures that all Coloradans have access to affordable higher education**, regardless of income, race, gender, age, or academic preparation, and that higher education services are available **in all geographic areas of the state**, including rural areas, historically underserved areas, and areas with low educational attainment;
- In particular, it is critical that the **rate of postsecondary participation by low-income Coloradans and minorities, who are currently under-represented, be increased** at Colorado's institutions of higher education; and
- **Colorado’s limited state resources must be used in a way that provides incentives for state institutions of higher education to achieve the policy goals** adopted by the General Assembly and the Colorado commission on higher education.
- In order for the general assembly to perform its duty to exercise oversight and ensure that tax dollars are being used to achieve stated policy goals, **higher education must be funded in a manner that is transparent and understandable**;
- These goals can be accomplished by the general assembly **establishing performance metrics that are consistent and predictable** but that may be amended, as appropriate, to reflect the changing goals of the state and of institutions;
- With a **consistent and predictable funding model** for higher education, state institutions of higher education will be able to engage in long-term financial planning that will benefit students through more predictable tuition and fees; and
- If higher education is **funded in a manner that is transparent and understandable**, Coloradans, and especially Colorado taxpayers, will more easily understand the benefit realized from Colorado’s investment in its higher education system.

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For more details, please refer to your bill synopsis or the actual bill language contained in your HB 1319 binder.