



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

2018 Legislative Session Recap

Of More Than \$105 Million Investment in Colorado's Talent Development

Background

The Colorado Legislature has made a significant investment in Colorado's 32 public colleges, universities and technical colleges by increasing higher education funding by more than **\$105 million**. These dollars support the state's goals to make higher education more affordable, supporting the state's 66 percent by 2025 attainment goal.

More than
\$105 million
IN NEW HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

Invest in Affordability and Innovation

The Colorado General Assembly made a significant investment in higher education by approving a **\$75.7 million budget increase in 2018-19, boosting need-based aid and funding for higher education institutions. This includes an additional 2.6 million specifically for rural serving institutions. With this investment, Colorado's institutions aim to keep tuition increases at or below 3 percent.**

SENATE BILL 18-262 gives an additional \$16.8 million to Colorado's institutions of higher education to help them meet the master plan goals.

HOUSE BILL 18-1217 provides an income tax credit for employers that make contributions to 529 qualified state tuition program accounts owned by their employees.

HOUSE BILL 18-1226 requires CDHE to publish a report that provides more information to students and families about the return on investment of degree programs at Colorado's institutions.

Colorado also passed a bill that will spur innovation and control costs:

HOUSE BILL 18-1331 allows CDHE to explore recommendations set forth by the Open Education Resource Council (OER).

Increasing Credential Completion

Concurrent Enrollment (CE) allows high school students to take college courses and even earn a credential. Two bills expand CE opportunities:

HOUSE BILL 18-1005 requires districts and school to notify students of available concurrent enrollment courses.

HOUSE BILL 18-1052 allows for exemptions to two-year higher education service areas so districts can offer courses that meet student needs.

HOUSE BILL 18-1266 extends the career development success programs which provides incentives for students to successfully complete industry certified credentials while in high school.

In partnership with the Colorado Department of Education, CDHE issued a report and action plan to significantly increase the number of teachers trained in the state—particularly in rural areas.

HOUSE BILL 18-1332 gives \$2 million in Collaborative Educator Preparation Grants to award to educator preparation programs to grow the rural teacher ranks in innovative ways.

Four more bills will provide an additional \$2.55 million to fund programs that support new teachers and educational service providers:

HOUSE BILL 18-1002 – Rural School District Teaching Fellowship Programs

HOUSE BILL 18-1189 – Expanding Effective Teacher Residency Programs

HOUSE BILL 18-1309 – Programs Addressing Educator Shortages

SENATE BILL 18-085 – Financial Incentives for Education in Rural Areas

Erasing Equity Gaps

Colorado has some of the largest equity gaps in the nation. To address this, the Joint Budget Committee changed the state’s funding formula to allow institutions to receive more state funds for admitting and graduating Pell-eligible students. In addition:

HOUSE BILL 18-1437 allows members of the corrections population to take advantage of financial resources, including grants and scholarships, to fund their education.

SENATE BILL 18-087 will provide in-state tuition for foreign nationals making college more affordable for refugees and other foreign nationals pursuing a degree in Colorado.

Improve Student Success

To improve student success, the General Assembly increased funding to the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) by \$2 million. In addition:

SENATE BILL 18-262 provides an additional \$1.5 million as a one-time investment to COSI.

SENATE BILL 18-069 ensures that students who graduate with degrees of designation from a two-year institution will be able to graduate in two years and with 60 credits when they transfer to a four-year institution.

HOUSE BILL 18-1228 consolidates all higher education programs for veterans and military members in statute to make information on programs more accessible.

SENATE BILL 18-101 makes it possible for traditional age students to attend CSU Global, the state’s first all-online university.

The Colorado Department of Higher Education thanks the Governor and the General Assembly for supporting Colorado’s students and families.

