



COLORADO
Department of
Higher Education

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Date: October 30, 2025

Office of the Secretary of State
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Denver, CO 80290

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 2-7-203(4), the Colorado Department of Higher Education respectfully submits the following regulatory agenda, which also includes items for the Division of Private Occupational Schools, the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative, and the State Historical Society.





2025 Regulatory Agenda of the Colorado Department of Higher Education

Department of Higher Education (DHE) (please see below for full rules draft)

Title/Description Proposed Rule	Basis and/or Statutory Authority	Purpose of Proposed Rule	Estimated Schedule for Rule-Making	Parties Potentially Affected
Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways Course Transfer Enforcement	CRS 23-1-108.5, as amended by SB24-164. CRS 24-4-101 State Administrative Procedure Act	Define institutional obligations for gtPathways courses and reporting. Establish investigation, notification, and enforcement procedures. Provide standardized student appeals mechanism for transfer denials. Clarify CDHE’s power to overturn institutional transfer credit decisions. Ensure transparency, accountability, and statewide consistency in transfer.	Draft rules – Fall 2025 Stakeholder engagement – Fall 2025 Notice of rulemaking & hearing – Early 2026 Final adoption by CDHE – Spring 2026	Public institutions of higher education Students transferring gtPathways courses between Colorado public institutions Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) and General Education Council (GE Council) CDHE staff administering enforcement and appeals Institutional registrars, transfer officers, and academic affairs units involved in credit evaluation and reporting.



State Historical Society (History Colorado)

Title/Description Proposed Rule	Basis and/or Statutory Authority	Purpose of Proposed Rule	Estimated Schedule for Rule-Making	Parties Potentially Affected
INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR QUALIFIED COSTS INCURRED IN PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES	8 CCR 1504-6 Relates to House Bill 90-1033, House Bill 99-1345, House Bill 08-1033	Outlines details of qualified costs for a commercial tax credit that sunset December 31, 2019, and was replaced with a different program statute. Requesting that the Rule be deleted.	June 30, 2026.	None. Credit has sunset and all projects are closed and complete. Removal will reduce confusion for projects eligible for the successor program.
INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR QUALIFIED COSTS INCURRED IN PRESERVATION OF QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES	8 CCR 1504-10 Relates to House Bill 14-1311, House Bill 18-1190, and House Bill 24-1314.	Provides detailed guidance for the residential preservation tax credit program, approved in 2014 and amended in both 2018 and 2024. Rules to be revised to include updates made through HB 24-1314, such as the removal of the disaster area bonus and the increase to the maximum credit to \$100,000 for projects after Jan. 1, 2025. Additional changes mandated by the 2024 legislation that will go into effect in 2027, and which can be anticipated in revisions in FY2026.	June 30, 2026	History Colorado (State Historical Society), Department of Revenue, owners of eligible residential properties, Certified Local Governments that process tax credit applications.



Division of Private Occupational Schools (DPOS)

Title/Description Proposed Rule	Basis and/or Statutory Authority	Purpose of Proposed Rule	Estimated Schedule for Rule-Making	Parties Potentially Affected
<p>REVISE: 8CCR 1504-1, Correct “Effective Date” on page 1 & 8</p> <p>Section I. Definitions (D and F) to include definitions for clarity</p>	<p>C.R.S. § 23-64-101 et seq.</p>	<p>Correct effective date of amended rules on page 1 & 8 from 2025 to 2026.</p> <p>Clarify and add definitions, I.D and I.F</p> <p>I.D: Add definition of “Advanced Training”</p> <p>I.F. Revision of definition of “Ancillary/ Supplementary Education”</p>	<p>1/27/2026</p>	<p>Private Occupational Schools will understand the terms as applied to Colorado’s Act and Rules; the Division of Private Occupational Schools and all other stakeholders will benefit from clarity as our rules protect members of the general public (including students and residents of Colorado). There is no fiscal impact.</p>
<p>ADD: 8CCR 1504-1 – General and Administrative Rule II.H Add (H) to clarify terms an applicant can submit a new application</p>	<p>C.R.S. § 23-64-101 et seq</p>	<p>Clarification of II.H. regarding applicant ability to submit or be associated with a new application after original application is denied or certificate is revoked</p>	<p>1/27/2026</p>	<p>Private Occupational Schools will understand the terms as applied to Colorado’s Act and Rules; the Division of Private Occupational Schools and all other stakeholders will benefit from clarity as our rules protect members of the general public (including students and residents of Colorado). There is no fiscal impact.</p>



Title/Description Proposed Rule	Basis and/or Statutory Authority	Purpose of Proposed Rule	Estimated Schedule for Rule-Making	Parties Potentially Affected
Revise: 8CCR 1504-1 Fee Schedule – Increase fees by 2.5% per OSPB request	C.R.S. § 23-64-101 et seq.	Adjust each fee listed on the fee schedule currently in rule by a 2.6% inflationary increase	1/27/2026	Private Occupational Schools must understand the terms as applied to Colorado’s Act and Rules. There will be fiscal impact for both the schools (negative) and the Division (positive)
Revise: 8CCR 1504-1 - Minimum Standards for clarification: Revise Rule III.H.1 & III.I.1 Delete Rule III.I.2 Revise Rule III.I.3	C.R.S. § 23-64-101 et seq.	III.H.1 Clarify rule regarding electronic signatures and authorized signatures for student enrollment agreements. III.I.1 Clarify rules regarding student records requirements to include addition of term “Educational Credential” to replace terms, “Diploma, Completion Certificates and Transcripts” and added term “Curriculum” to replace “Courses of Instruction” III.I.2 Delete for clarification of the above III.I.1 change III.I.3 change format from III.I.3 to III.I.2 and include, “(5) progression notes and grades” for clarification of requirements	1/27/2026	Private Occupational Schools will understand the terms as applied to Colorado’s Act and Rules; the Division of Private Occupational Schools and all other stakeholders will benefit from clarity as our rules protect members of the general public (including students and residents of Colorado). There is no fiscal impact.



Title/Description Proposed Rule	Basis and/or Statutory Authority	Purpose of Proposed Rule	Estimated Schedule for Rule-Making	Parties Potentially Affected
8CCR 1504-1, Rule IV Application for Certificate of Approval and Surety Requirements	C.R.S. § 23-64-101 et seq.;	Clarify in rule the requirements regarding Surety obligations of the schools	1/27/2026	Private Occupational Schools will understand the terms as applied to Colorado’s Act and Rules; the Division of Private Occupational Schools and all other stakeholders will benefit from clarity as our rules protect members of the general public (including students and residents of Colorado). There is no fiscal impact
8CCR 1504-1 Rule XI Disciplinary Actions Revise: XI.A.6 Add XI.A.7 to clarify the rule	C.R.S. § 23-64-101 et seq.;	XI.1.A.6 revise to increase number of days schools have to notify the Division of disciplinary action by U.S.D.O.E, accreditors and others XI.A.7 added to include reporting of disciplinary actions against school individuals including; owners, agents and instructors by any state or federal regulatory bodies	1/27/2026	Private Occupational Schools will understand the terms as applied to Colorado’s Act and Rules; the Division of Private Occupational Schools and all other stakeholders will benefit from clarity as our rules protect members of the general public (including students and residents of Colorado). There is no fiscal impact



Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI)

Title/Description Proposed Rule	Basis and/or Statutory Authority	Purpose of Proposed Rule	Estimated Schedule for Rule-Making	Parties Potentially Affected
Revise: 8 CCR 1504-9, 1.0 Definitions	23-3.3-1004(4)	Update definitions to align with rules changes.	September 2026	Public institutions of higher education and non-profits participating in the programs.
Revise: 8 CCR 1504-9,2.0 Grant Awards for Matching Student Scholarships	23-3.3-1004(4)	<p>Program Alignment: General updates to rules and procedures will be made to reflect the priorities and structure of the Achieve and Career Launch programs.</p> <p>Proposal Evaluation: The current cross-departmental competitive review process will be replaced with a panel of subject-matter experts whose expertise aligns with the program focus. These experts will receive an honorarium in recognition of their time and contributions.</p> <p>Subrecipient Monitoring: Agreements and related processes will be updated to align with subrecipient monitoring standards.</p>	September 2026	<p>Public institutions of higher education and non-profits participating in the programs.</p> <p>Current cross-department team members who support with the competitive review process.</p>



Title/Description Proposed Rule	Basis and/or Statutory Authority	Purpose of Proposed Rule	Estimated Schedule for Rule-Making	Parties Potentially Affected
Revise: 8 CCR 1504-9, 3.0 Grant Awards to Community Partner Programs	23-3.3-1004(4)	<p>Program Alignment: General updates will be made to rules and procedures to reflect the goals and structure of the Achieve.</p> <p>Proposal Evaluation: The current cross-departmental competitive review process will be replaced with a panel of subject-matter experts aligned with the program focus. These experts will receive an honorarium in recognition of their time and contributions.</p> <p>Subrecipient Monitoring: Agreements and related processes will be updated to meet subrecipient monitoring standards.</p> <p>Program Sunset: The focus on pre-collegiate programming will be removed, as these programs are scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2026.</p>		<p>Public institutions of higher education and non-profits participating in the programs.</p> <p>Current cross-department team members who support with the competitive review process.</p>



Title/Description Proposed Rule	Basis and/or Statutory Authority	Purpose of Proposed Rule	Estimated Schedule for Rule-Making	Parties Potentially Affected
Remove: 8 CCR 1504-9, 4.0 Use of American Rescue Plan funds to support student success in obtaining postsecondary credentials	23-3.3-1004 (4)(a)(III)(C) 23-3.3-1005 (6)(7) 23-3.3-1006	Repeal date for this program is July 1, 2026	September 2026	Public institutions of higher education participating in the programs.
Remove: 8 CCR 1504-9, 5.0 Student aid applications completion grant program	23-3.3-1007	Repeal date for this program is July 1, 2026	September 2026	Public institutions of higher education and non-profits participating in the programs.
Remove: 8 CCR 1504-9, 6.0 Youth Mentorship Assistance Grant Pilot Program	23-3.3-1010	Repeal date for this program is July 1, 2027, but the funds will be expended by June 30, 2026.	September 2026	Public institutions of higher education and non-profits participating in the programs.
Revise: 8 CCR 1504-9, 7.0 8 Evaluation of the effectiveness of the initiative in improving higher education outcomes in the state	23-3.3-1004(4)	Update evaluation criteria to align with rules changes.	September 2026	Public institutions of higher education and non-profits participating in the programs.



Continued from Above: Draft Rule Text - DHE

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Colorado Department of Higher Education
Transfer Credit Enforcement Rules

1.00 AUTHORITY

These rules are adopted pursuant to section 23-1-108.5, C.R.S., and grants the Department of Higher Education exclusive enforcement authority for the statewide guaranteed transfer pathway matrix under subsection (8). These rules are promulgated in accordance with the State Administrative Procedure Act, section 24-4-101 et seq., C.R.S.

2.00 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of these rules is to:

- A. Establish obligations of public institutions of higher education with respect to guaranteed transfer pathway matrix (GT Pathways) courses;
- B. Set forth procedures for identifying, investigating, and remedying violations;
- C. Provide for Final Agency Decisions (FADs) and appeals under the Administrative Procedure Act;
- D. Clarify the Department's authority to overturn institutional transfer credit decisions made in violation of law;
- E. Provide a clear process for student appeals; and
- F. Ensure transparency and accountability in Colorado's statewide transfer and articulation framework.

While not subject to enforcement through C.R.S. 23-1-108.5, the Student Bill of Rights within C.R.S. 23-1-125 and C.R.S. 23-5-150 on transfer credit review processes require that:

- A. Institutions shall publish on their website a description of their transfer credit evaluation process and timeline.
- B. Institutions must issue a decision on transfer credit acceptance and applicability or denial within thirty (30) calendar days of admission and submission of all official documentation required by the institution.
- C. Institutions must update their published policies within thirty (30) days of any change.

3.00 DEFINITIONS

For purposes of these rules:

- A. **Commission** means the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.
- B. **Council** or **General Education Council (GE Council)** means the body convened under C.R.S. 23-1-108.5(3) to review courses and advise on GT Pathways.
- C. **Department** means the Colorado Department of Higher Education.
- D. **Enforcement Action** means any formal action taken by the Department to compel compliance, including corrective orders, issuance of a Final Agency Decision.



- E. **General Education Course** has the meaning set forth in section 23-1-108.5(2)(c), C.R.S.
- F. **Guaranteed Transfer Pathway Matrix (GT Pathways)** means the statewide set of general education courses defined in section 23-1-108.5(2)(e), C.R.S.
- G. **Institution** means a public institution of higher education non-exempt from participation GT Pathways by the Commission as defined in section 23-4.5-102, C.R.S. Colorado School of Mines degree programs are not subject to GT Pathways.
- H. **Lower-Division Course** means a freshman or sophomore-level course numbered from one hundred to two hundred ninety-nine or one thousand to two thousand nine hundred ninety-nine.
- I. **Notice of Violation** means a formal written notice issued by the Department under Rule 5.02.
- J. **Remediation Plan** means a written proposal submitted by an institution to cure identified violations.
- K. **Student Appeal** means a written request filed by a student seeking review of an institution's denial of credit transfer under GT Pathways.
- L. **Upper-Division Course** generally means a junior or senior-level course numbered from three hundred to four hundred ninety-nine or three thousand to four thousand nine hundred ninety-nine.
- M. **Violation** means any failure by an institution to comply with statutory or regulatory requirements related to GT Pathways.

4.00 INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS SUBJECT TO ENFORCEMENT

4.01 Course Submission and Alignment

Institutions shall submit their list of GT Pathways courses, including course descriptions and, upon request, course syllabi, to the Commission and Department on March 1 of each odd-numbered year and at such other times as requested.

4.02 Disclosure of Course Offerings

Institutions shall clearly identify within published course catalogs and descriptions the assigned GT Pathways course category as applicable.

4.03 Automatic Transferability

- A. All credits earned with a C- or better in GT Pathways courses are automatically accepted in transfer and applied to the required and unfulfilled core course or major course components within a student's chosen program of study.
- B. If completed as part of an associate degree with designation, all GT Pathways credits earned through prior learning, including credits by exam (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, DSST, DLPT) are automatically accepted in transfer and applied to the required and unfulfilled core course or major course components within a student's chosen program of study.
- C. If GT Pathways course credits cannot be applied to major requirements, they must fulfill remaining free elective requirements if space exists within the degree program. If no free electives remain within the degree program, the credits must be considered acceptable for transfer and may be calculated in credit hour totals. Credits accepted but not applied may not be included on a student's transcript.
- D. Receiving institutions shall not require students to repeat the same or substantially similar courses without clear academic rationale.
- E. Institutions must re-evaluate applicability of transfer credits within 30 days of a student's official declaration of major change.



4.04 Compliance Checklist

To remain in compliance with C.R.S. 23-1-108.5, institutions must:

1. Use approved course category codes, titles, and descriptions in alignment with GT Pathways;
2. Accept and apply transfer credits for all GT Pathways courses in which a grade of C- or better is earned first to the relevant unfulfilled core course requirement, followed by unfulfilled but applicable major course requirements, and lastly applied to any remaining free electives where possible, unless there is a valid academic rationale which is recommended to be documented;
3. Provide students with a formal institutional appeal process prior to referral to the Department;
4. Disclose accurate information regarding transferability;
5. Participate in the GE Council and statewide review of GT Pathways courses;
6. Maintain documentation of compliance and respond promptly to Department audits or inquiries.

4.05 SMART Act Reporting

Institutions shall provide all data required for annual reporting under section 23-1-108.5(6.5), C.R.S., including enrollment, credit acceptance, credit application, and time-to-degree comparisons in a format provided by the Department.

5.00 STUDENT APPEALS

5.01 Right to Appeal

Students denied appropriate acceptance and/or application of transfer credit a GT Pathways course may appeal to the Department under section 23-1-108.5(8)(d), C.R.S.

5.02 Exhaustion of Remedies

Students must first exhaust their respective institution's internal appeal process before filing with the Department.

5.03 Filing Requirements

Appeals must be filed within 10 years of completion of the course, and within sixty (60) days of a student's final institutional denial via electronic form hosted on the Department's website and include:

1. Student's name and contact information;
2. Institution(s) involved;
3. Course(s) in dispute;
4. Documentation of denial;
5. Documentation that the institutional appeal process was completed.

5.04 Department Investigations of Student Appeals

- A. Upon receipt of a student appeal, Department staff shall conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether the appeal can be resolved without convening a Student Appeal Review Panel.
- B. The investigation may include:
 - a. Reviewing institutional documentation and prior appeal records;



- b. Requesting additional information from the student and the institution; and
- c. Facilitating voluntary resolution between the student and institution, if feasible.
- C. If Department staff determine that the matter lacks sufficient basis for further consideration, the Department shall issue notification to the student complainant.
- D. If Department staff determine a clear violation has taken place and grants the appeal, Enforcement Procedures will initiate with Informal Notification issued to the institution.
- E. If Department staff determine that the matter is complex, unresolved, or raises systemic concerns regarding compliance with section 23-1-108.5, C.R.S., the appeal shall be referred to the Appeals Review Panel under Rule 5.05.
- F. Department staff shall notify both the student and institution in writing of the outcome of the investigation and whether the appeal will proceed to panel review.

5.05 Appeals Review Panel

The Department shall convene an Appeals Review Panel consisting of one General Education Council member, one Academic Council member, and one Registrar Council member [\[BG1\]](#) to review appeals, institutional responses, and applicable statutory requirements. The panel shall issue a recommendation to the Department to grant, deny, or modify relief. The Department may consider the decision of the appeals review panel; however, such decision is not binding. The Department retains ultimate authority and responsibility for the final decision.

5.06 Effect of Decision

If the Department grants a student appeal, Enforcement Procedures will initiate with Informal Notification to the institution.

6.00 ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

6.01 Informal Notification

The Department may, but is not required to, issue an informal notification describing a potential violation, citing statutory or regulatory requirements, and requesting an institutional response within thirty (30) days indicating agreement, partial agreement, or rejection of recommended remediation. As a result of informal notification, the Department will consider the issue resolved to satisfaction, modify its recommended remediation in coordination with the institution, rescind the informal notification if the institution's original decision is found to be compliant, or proceed to a formal Notice of Violation if the issue is not resolved.

6.02 Notice of Violation

The Department may issue a Notice of Violation identifying any Violation, required corrective action, and a three-month cure period.

6.03 Notice of Enforcement Action

- A. If the Violation is not remedied, the Department may issue a Notice of Enforcement Action.
- B. A Notice of Enforcement Action constitutes a Final Agency Decision (FAD) unless appealed.
- C. A Notice of Enforcement Action may include:
 - a. An order directing corrective action;
 - b. Any other remedial measure authorized by law.



6.04 Institutional Appeals

Institutions may appeal a Notice of Enforcement Action through a hearing before an Appeals Review Panel, which will issue an initial decision, which may be adopted or modified by the Department in the form of a Final Agency Decision.

6.05 Judicial Review

An institution may seek judicial review of a FAD in Denver District Court under section 24-4-106, C.R.S. The court may affirm, reverse, or remand the FAD.

6.06 Enforcement Through Court Order

- A. If affirmed, the court's order is binding and enforceable.
- B. If an institution fails to comply, the Department may request the court to enforce its order.
- C. If overturned by the court, the Department will consult with the court regarding consequences which may include that the Notice of Enforcement Action is vacated.

7.00 TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING

- A. The Department may publish an annual summary of enforcement actions, including anonymized data and outcomes.
- B. Institutions shall provide information as requested to support enforcement, appeals, and reporting obligations.

8.00 SEVERABILITY

If any provision of these rules is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Verification is needed to determine whether individuals external to CDHE can serve in this capacity.

