



## Higher Education Legislative Agenda and Budget Requests

### Legislative Agenda

**SB20-006 Amend Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative** | This item revises COSI statute to remove certain caps on how money can be spent, change the definition of tuition assistance to cost of attendance, and revises other outdated language. Overall, these changes allow the COSI board to spend more money on wraparound support for students.

**SB20-158 Professional Training for Educators** | This item aligns educator preparation statute with best practices determined by the Department and the Department of Education in collaboration with the Deans of Education, as required by SB19-190 and amends certain educator preparation incentive programs in order to provide more support in the field.

**HB20-1280 CDHE Data for Student Return On Investment Metrics** | This proposal gives the Department authority to expand the Return on Investment annual report to include student outcomes from private occupational schools and non-profit, degree-granting institutions to provide policymakers and the public with a holistic view of Colorado's postsecondary system.

**Revising the Higher Education Funding Formula** | This proposal revises the funding allocation formula, which is the mechanism that DHE uses to distribute state investment to Colorado's public institutions of higher education. This revision will make the formula more performance and equity based, with alignment to the *Colorado Rises* master plan for higher education.

**Advancing the Use of Low-Cost Textbooks in Concurrent Enrollment** | This proposal saves students money on Concurrent Enrollment (CE), by advancing the use of open educational resources in CE courses when applicable.

### Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget Requests

*In priority order*

**R1 – State Funding Increase for Public Higher Education** | Appropriate an annualized increase of 2.5% for Colorado postsecondary institutions. This includes:

- \$20.4 million for institutional Governing Boards
- \$839,346 for Area Technical Colleges and Local District Colleges
- \$5 million for financial aid

**R2—Tuition Spending Authority** | Appropriate \$94.2 million in cash fund spending authority to reflect student tuition revenue. DHE requests to cap resident undergraduate tuition growth at 3% across the board.

**R3—Fort Lewis College Native American Tuition Waiver** | Appropriate an increase of \$1.9 million to fund the Fort Lewis College Native American Tuition Waiver, fully covering tuition costs for Native American and American Indian students at the college.

**R4 and HB20-1002—College Credit for Work Experience** | DHE requests \$204k for one FTE and contract funds to create a plan to evaluate and produce a statewide path to award college credit to students for prior work experience. This budget request is coupled with legislation to require the institutions to implement the plan created by DHE staff by academic year 2023.

**R5—Accountability Dashboard** | DHE requests \$165,436, and \$156,691 in FY 2020-22, to fund 1.5 term-limited FTE in the Department's Data, Research & Policy division. Staff will be responsible to develop public-facing data metrics and accompanying tools to improve institutional accountability and make higher education data more accessible to the public.

Building on last year's **unprecedented investment** of \$121M and Colorado's **nation-leading 47 percent increase in General Fund support over five years**, Governor Polis is requesting a **2.5% increase** to offset institutions' operating costs, while capping resident tuition growth at 3%.

For More Information

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**R6—Area Technical College Grant Program** | DHE requests a one-time appropriation of \$3.1 million to complete two single-phase capital expansion projects at Technical College of the Rockies and Emily Griffith Technical College. State funding will be matched with \$4,267,214 institutional cash funds and federal funds, which do not require spending authority appropriations.

**R7—Chief Educational Equity Officer (CEEEO)** | DHE requests a supplemental appropriation of \$55k, annualizing to \$150,950 in FY 2020-21 and beyond, for a new CEEEO position. The CEEEO will coordinate the Department’s efforts to erase educational equity gaps in Colorado.

**R8—Division of Private Occupational Schools (DPOS)** | DHE requests a \$200,000 increase in cash funds spending authority for the Private Occupational School Fund and \$100,000 for the subsequent three fiscal years. This request enables DPOS to implement a comprehensive IT solution to increase the quality and efficiency of the Division’s workflow both internally and with the schools that DPOS regulates.

**R9—Financial Incentives for Early Childhood Educators – Scholarship** | DHE requests \$4.3M to fund scholarships to address early childhood educator workforce shortages. This includes one FTE, ongoing, to lead research of the impact this scholarship program has on the ECE workforce. Students pursuing ECE certificates, associate, and bachelor’s degrees at Colorado’s public institutions of higher education are eligible. This item will require legislation.

**R10—Financial Incentives for Early Childhood Educators – Loan Forgiveness** | DHE requests \$544K to fund loan forgiveness to address early childhood educator shortages. This includes 1.5 FTE, ongoing, to administer the program. The program will support 50 current early childhood education associate degree holders and 50 bachelor’s degree holders currently employed as early childhood educators, who will be eligible for up to \$3,000 in loan forgiveness annually for up to four years and up to \$5,000 in loan forgiveness annually for up to five years, respectively. This item will require legislation.

**R11—Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI)** | DHE requests a \$3 million increase for COSI to increase state and local community investment in Colorado students’ higher education attainment and enhance support services to students.

**BA-01 and SB20-004—Get on Your Feet** | DHE requests \$14 million to pay for student loans for new graduates of Colorado two-and-four-year degree programs. This includes up to 24 months of loan repayment for an average of \$125 per month. An estimated 5,300 Coloradans who graduate from a state institution of higher education, live and work in Colorado, and participate in a federal income-based repayment plan benefit from this policy to get them back on their feet upon entering the workforce.

### Capital Investment

Governor Polis has requested **\$103.6 million** in state funding for higher education capital construction, IT, and controlled maintenance projects. This one-time money is set aside in the Governor’s budget, which the Capital Development Committee and Joint Budget Committee consider for the statewide capital budget.

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