

Higher Education Bills of Interest Status Update as of February 6, 2020

Key: Blue denotes CDHE leg agenda item		Green denotes passed/for Governor's consideration		Red denotes failed
Bill #	Short Title	Sponsors	Bill Summary	Most Recent Status
HB20-1002	College Credit For Work Experience	B. McLachlan (D) M. Baisley (R) / R. Zenzinger (D) T. Story (D)	Making Higher Education Attainable Interim Study Committee. The bill requires an existing council charged with looking at general education courses to implement a plan for determining and awarding academic credit for postsecondary education based on work-related experience. Furthermore, state institutions of higher education are required to evaluate student learning from work-related experience and award appropriate academic credit for the experience. Also, institutions shall accept and transfer academic credit awarded for work-related experience as courses with guaranteed-transfer designation.	1/28/2020 House Committee on Education Refer Amended to Appropriations
HB20-1247	Department of Higher Education Supplemental	D. Esgar (D) / D. Moreno (D)	Supplemental appropriations are made to the department of higher education.	2/5/2020 House Second Reading Passed - No Amendments
HB20-1280	CDHE Data For Student Return On Investment Metrics	C. Kipp (D) C. Larson (R) / J. Bridges (D) J. Smallwood (R)	The bill authorizes the department of higher education to collect the data necessary to calculate return on investment metrics similar to the student cost and employment outcome information for certain higher education institutions not currently covered in the department's annual return on investment report. The department may include the information collected in its annual return on investment report.	2/3/2020 Introduced In House - Assigned to Education
SB20-004	Postsecondary Education Loan Repayment Assistance	S. Fenberg (D) / L. Herod (D) J. McCluskie (D)	The bill creates the "Get on Your Feet Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program" to provide no more than 24 monthly payments on a qualified loan on behalf of a qualified recipient. A qualified recipient is required to satisfy eligibility and program participation requirements. The department of higher education is required to administer the program pursuant to guidelines promulgated by the commission on higher education. A person who received a program award but did not satisfy all eligibility and program participation requirements may be required to fully or partially reimburse the state.	1/8/2020 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Finance
SB20-006	Amend Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative	R. Zenzinger (D) T. Story (D) / C. Kipp (D) M. Baisley (R)	The bill amends provisions relating to the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative, including: Removing the definition of "tuition assistance" and replacing it with a definition for "financial assistance" that is tied to cost of attendance, as defined in the bill, and making amendments throughout to reflect the changed terms; Removing the statutory restriction that not more than 10% of money in the fund in any fiscal year may be awarded to state agencies and nonprofit organizations for student success and support services and for other services, and the requirement that a certain percentage of the money awarded for student success and support services and for other services be awarded to nongovernmental entities; Removing the requirement that the initiative be administered from existing personnel; Changing the current provision that, to the extent practicable, scholarships must be equally distributed between students who are eligible for federal PELL grants and students within a certain range of income. Instead, the bill requires scholarships to be equitably distributed between students with an expected family contribution, as defined in the bill, of less than 100% of the annual federal PELL grant award and students with an expected family contribution between 100% and 250% of the annual federal PELL grant award. The bill appropriates \$5 million to the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative fund to implement the initiative.	1/22/2020 Senate Committee on Education Refer Amended to Appropriations

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SB20-158	Professional Training For Educators	N. Todd (D) / B. McLachlan (D) J. Wilson (R)	The bill makes changes to the assistance programs that are designed to increase the number of educators within the state, especially in rural school districts, by: Expanding the educator loan forgiveness program by making it available to individuals who graduate from any preparation program that leads to educator licensure and removing the limitation of no more than 100 new participants per year; Clarifying that a stipend provided to teacher candidates in rural areas does not constitute student financial assistance; and Clarifying that a teaching fellow may choose to have a teaching fellowship program stipend awarded as student financial assistance or wages for employment. The bill amends the program requirements that the department of higher education and the Colorado commission on higher education must review when approving educator preparation programs. Under existing law, following a review, the commission may approve a program, place the program on probation status, or terminate the program. The bill adds the option of granting the program conditional approval and directs the commission to adopt policies regarding how long a program may remain on conditional approval or probation and how a program is moved from one approval level to another.	2/4/2020 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Education
HB20-1007	Diverse Kindergarten Through 12th Grade Educator Workforce Report	J. Coleman (D) / R. Fields (D)	The bill directs the department of higher education and the department of education to convene and select members of a workgroup on diversity in the educator workforce. The workgroup shall investigate barriers to the preparation, retention, and recruitment of a diverse educator workforce and shall consider strategies to increase diversity in the educator workforce. The bill includes specific issues for the workgroup to consider. The workgroup shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the education committees of the general assembly. Under current law, the department of higher education reports annually concerning educator preparation programs, including enrollment, graduation rates, outcomes of graduates, and performance on assessments administered for licensure. The bill requires the department to include the required information disaggregated by the candidates' or graduates' gender, race, and ethnicity. Further, the information contained in the annual report must be posted on the department of higher education's and the department of education's websites.	1/28/2020 House Committee on Education Refer Amended to Appropriations
HB20-1015	Future Educator Pathways Grant Program	B. Buentello (D) J. Wilson (R) / J. Bridges (D)	The bill creates the future educator pathways grant program in the department of education to provide grants to local education providers to create future educator pathways programs. Future educator pathways programs prepare future educators, including future educators in early childhood education, by providing students with opportunities for concurrent enrollment and apprenticeships that lead to college credit toward degrees and credentials as educators. The bill specifies that the state board is required to ensure that grants are awarded to geographically diverse local education providers and to a mix of rural, urban, and suburban local education providers. In addition, the state board shall award at least 20% of the total amount awarded in grants to eligible rural local education providers, as defined in the bill, and at least 70% of the total amount awarded in grants to future educator pathways programs that provide apprenticeships.	1/28/2020 House Committee on Education Refer Amended to Appropriations
HB20-1034	Income Tax Deduction For 529 Account K-12 Kindergarten Through 12th-grade Expenses	C. Larson (R)	Current law allows contributions to a qualified state tuition program, also known as a 529 account, so long as the distributions are used for qualified higher education expenses, with some exceptions, but not for elementary and secondary tuition expenses. The federal "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act", which became law in December 2017, qualified distributions for elementary or secondary public, private, or religious school tuition expenses. On the federal level, this allowed income tax-free distributions for certain elementary and secondary education expenses in addition to already authorized income tax-free distributions for higher education expenses. The bill makes similar changes to Colorado law to allow a deduction for contributions to qualified state tuition programs for elementary or secondary public, private, or religious school tuition expenses. Designating such expenses as qualified distributions ensures that a taxpayer does not encounter tax recapture of any claimed deductions when such contributions are distributed for elementary or secondary public, private, or religious school tuition expenses.	1/8/2020 Introduced In House - Assigned to Education + Finance

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HB20-1053	Supports For Early Childhood Educator Workforce	E. Sirota (D) J. Wilson (R) / T. Story (D)	The bill directs the state board of human services in the department of human services to establish licensing standards that will allow an early care and education program to be licensed for a period of time determined by the state board if one or more early childhood educators have pursued DHS-approved early childhood credentials but have not yet completed the credential and other state-board-determined quality, safety, and supervision conditions are met. The bill directs DHS and the department of education to streamline and align the early childhood professional credential, child care program licensing, and educator licensing to make requirements clear and consistent and to reduce the administrative burden and paperwork burden relating to credentialing and licensing of early childhood educators. The bill creates the early care and education recruitment and retention grant and scholarship program in DHS which they shall administer directly or by contract.	2/4/2020 House Committee on Education Refer Amended to Appropriations
HB20-1067	Managment Of Property Held By Certain Junior College Districts	D. Roberts (D) P. Will (R) / T. Story (D) R. Fields (D)	Current law includes ambiguities regarding the existence and powers of the Moffat County Affiliated Junior College District and the Rangely Junior College District. The statutes do not allow the ownership or transfer of certain real estate held by the districts. Prior statutes that granted the districts broad authority, including the authority to own and convey real estate, were inadvertently repealed in 2009. The bill authorizes the transfer of the Rangely and Craig campuses to the state board for community colleges and occupational education consistent with the original plan and statutory authority of the RJCD and the MCAJCD prior to the inadvertent repeal of statutes.	2/3/2020 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Agriculture & Natural Resources
HB20-1082	State Historical Society Authority To Sell Property	J. Rich (R) A. Valdez (D) / T. Story (D) R. Fields (D)	The bill grants the state historical society the authority to sell a vacant lot located in Georgetown, Colorado. The bill specifies that the proceeds of the sale are to be credited to the state museum cash fund to be used for capital outlay, capital construction, or controlled maintenance at museums statewide.	1/30/2020 House Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations
HB20-1108	Fort Lewis College Board Of Trustees	B. McLachlan (D) / D. Coram (R)	The bill adds 2 voting members to the board of trustees of Fort Lewis college. Of the 9 voting members of the board: No more than 5 members may be from one political party; At least one member must be an enrolled member of a federally recognized Native American tribe; and At least 2 members must reside in Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, or San Juan county, or on the Ute Mountain Ute or Southern Ute reservation.	2/5/2020 House Second Reading Passed - No Amendments
HB20-1109	Tax Credit Employer Contributions To Employee 529s	K. Van Winkle (R) A. Garnett (D) / B. Gardner (R)	The bill extends the income tax credit for employer contributions to employee 529 qualified state tuition programs for an additional 10 years.	1/30/2020 House Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations
HB20-1110	Higher Education Student Emergency Assistance Grants	B. McLachlan (D) T. Exum (D)	The bill creates the emergency completion and retention grant program in the department of higher education. The department implements the grant program by annually distributing an amount to each state institution of higher education to use in awarding emergency assistance grants to eligible students who are experiencing qualifying financial emergencies. The bill describes minimum procedures an institution shall adopt for the financial aid director at the institution to award the emergency assistance grants. The department is required to include in the annual financial aid report submitted to the joint budget committee a summary of the implementation of the grant program and an evaluation of its effect in increasing the retention and completion rates at institutions.	1/15/2020 Introduced In House - Assigned to Education + Appropriations

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HB20-1128	Educator Education Requirements Special Education	B. Buentello (D) J. Wilson (R) / R. Zenzinger (D) K. Priola (R)	For renewal of an educator license, the bill requires teachers, special services providers, principals, and administrators to complete 10 clock hours of professional development during the term of the license relating to increasing awareness of laws and practices relating to the education of students with disabilities in the classroom, including but not limited to child find and inclusive learning environments. The bill also requires each educator preparation program, alternative teacher program, and alternative principal preparation program to include course work that provides educator candidates or alternative teacher or principals with an overview of federal laws relating to the education of students with disabilities, individualized education programs, and child find and that teaches educators effective special education classroom practices, including but not limited to inclusive learning environments.	2/4/2020 House Committee on Education Refer Amended to Appropriations
HB20-1231	Amend Programs Addressing Educator Shortages	J. Wilson (R) / N. Todd (D)	The bill amends and repeals, in part, the existing grow your own educator program to authorize local education providers, including school districts, charter schools, and boards of cooperative services, to establish local grow your own educator programs. This will give high school students the opportunity to participate in a teacher preparation pathway in which they can receive college credit for course work that leads to an education or related degree or credential at a 2- or 4-year institution of higher education. As part of the grow your own educator program, the bill creates a grow your own educator scholarship to award \$5,000 to students in higher education preparation programs who have completed not less than the final 24 credit hours required for an education or related degree or credential and agree to work as an educator in a Colorado public school upon completion of the degree or credential. In awarding scholarships, the state board shall prioritize students who participated in a local education provider's grow your own educator program while in high school and who complete their final field work in a school of the local education provider. Next, the state board shall prioritize scholarships to students who participated in a local education provider's grow your own educator program while in high school and who commit to teaching in a content shortage area or in a rural area.	1/31/2020 Introduced In House - Assigned to Education + Appropriations
HB20-1240	Early College Program And P-tech School Expansion	J. McCluskie (D) P. Will (R) / K. Donovan (D) B. Rankin (R)	The bill creates the early college policy development advisory group to design and recommend policies and changes to law to support the statewide development of and funding for early college programs and p-tech schools. The bill specifies the membership of the advisory group, which is appointed by the governor and must include members of the education leadership council, and the specific duties of the advisory group. In completing its duties, the advisory group must coordinate with the education leadership council. The advisory group must prepare an interim report and a final report of its findings and recommendations, and submit the reports to the governor, the education leadership council, the state board of education, the Colorado commission on higher education, and the education committees of the general assembly. The bill expands the existing concurrent enrollment expansion and innovation grant program to include grants for specified purposes related to providing opportunities for students to simultaneously enroll in postsecondary courses or engage in work-based learning opportunities while enrolled in high school.	1/31/2020 Introduced In House - Assigned to Education + Appropriations
HB20-1241	Issue Professional License Lawful United States Presence	A. Benavidez (D) C. Kipp (D)	The bill requires the Colorado supreme court to issue a license to practice law and the department of education to issue a teacher license if, in either situation, the license applicant otherwise meets the licensing requirements and: the person has a current and valid employment authorization document issued by the United States citizenship and immigration services; the person is lawfully present in the United States; and the person was issued a social security number by the United States social security administration.	1/31/2020 Introduced In House - Assigned to Judiciary
HB20-1275	In-state Tuition At Community College For Military	B. Buentello (D) / D. Hisey (R)	The bill allows an active or honorably discharged member of the armed forces of the United States or a dependent of said member eligibility for in-state tuition status at a community college regardless of whether the person satisfies Colorado domicile or residency status.	2/3/2020 Introduced In House - Assigned to Education

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HB20-1276	Individualized Student Degree Programs	T. Geitner (R)	The bill creates the Colorado individualized combined degree pilot program that the department of higher education must administer, working with the department of education. The pilot program is designed to assist school districts and charter schools in providing individualized degree programs that enable a participating student to design and complete an educational program that is unique to the student and results in the simultaneous completion of a high school diploma and a baccalaureate degree during the 4 years in which the student is enrolled in high school. A school district or charter school may apply to participate in the pilot program by submitting an application to the department of higher education, which shall select up to 10 participants.	2/3/2020 Introduced In House - Assigned to Education + Appropriations
SB20-009	Expand Adult Education Grant Program	R. Zenzinger (D) B. Rankin (R) / B. McLachlan (D) M. Catlin (R)	Under existing law, the adult education and literacy grant program is focused on workforce development partnerships to provide adult education that leads to increased levels of employment. The bill expands the grant program to provide grants to adult education providers that enter into an education attainment partnership with elementary and secondary education providers or higher education providers to assist adults in attaining basic literacy and numeracy skills that lead to additional skill acquisition, that may lead to postsecondary credentials and employment, and that assist adults in providing academic support to their own children or to children for whom they provide care. The bill allows the state board of education, in awarding grants, to give preference to adult education programs that serve populations that are underserved by federal funding.	1/29/2020 Senate Committee on Education Refer Amended to Appropriations
SB20-031	Improve Student Success Innovation Pilot	T. Story (D) / C. Kipp (D)	The bill creates the improve student success innovation pilot program in the department of higher education to implement a program designed to incentivize collaboration among multiple institutions of higher education to improve student success and increase the number of students who complete postsecondary education. When selecting a program or programs for the pilot program, the department and commission on higher education shall prioritize program proposals that address common barriers to student success and the completion of postsecondary education, as well as other factors. The general assembly shall appropriate \$20 million each year for the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 fiscal years, from the general fund to the department to distribute to the state institutions of higher education selected to implement their projects. The pilot program repeals on July 1, 2024.	1/8/2020 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Education
SB20-073	No 529 Account Income Tax Deduction for K-12 Expenses	B. Pettersen (D) T. Story (D) / B. Buentello (D) L. Cutter (D)	The federal "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act", which became law in December 2017, added distributions for elementary or secondary school expenses as qualified distributions from a qualified state tuition program, also known as a 529 account, thereby allowing, on the federal level, income tax-free distributions for elementary and secondary school expenses in addition to already authorized income tax-free distributions for higher education expenses. The bill amends Colorado law to ensure that a taxpayer may not claim a deduction for contributions to qualified state tuition programs for elementary or secondary school expenses and clarifies that such expenses are not qualified distributions.	1/22/2020 Senate Committee on Education Refer Amended to Appropriations
SB20-095	Middle School Students Concurrent Enrollment Information	C. Holbert (R) L. Garcia (D) / R. Bockenfeld (R)	The bill directs the community college system to work with school districts and charter schools to provide information to the parents of students enrolled in grades 6 through 8 concerning concurrent enrollment opportunities available in grades 9 through 12.	1/13/2020 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Education
SB20-112	College Trust Scholarship For Early Graduation	K. Priola (R) / B. Buentello (D)	The bill creates the college trust scholarship program in the department of higher education to disburse scholarship awards to institutions of higher education on behalf of eligible graduates who are awarded a high school diploma from a Colorado public high school prior to enrolling in the fourth year of high school. The savings to the state due to the student graduating high school early is used for the scholarship award and to add money to the state education fund to eliminate the budget stabilization factor applied to total program funding under the public school finance formula. The scholarship award is equal to the greater of a portion of the average state share amount of the statewide average per pupil funding for public elementary and secondary schools or \$3,000.	2/4/2020 Senate Committee on Finance Lay Over Amended

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SB20-123	Compensation And Representation Of Student Athletes	R. Fields (D) J. Bridges (D) / J. Coleman (D) L. Herod (D)	The bill states that, except as may be required by an athletic association, conference, or other group or organization with authority over intercollegiate athletics, including the National Collegiate Athletic Association, an institution of higher education shall not uphold any rule, requirement, standard, or other limitation that prevents a student athlete of the institution from earning compensation from the use of the student athlete's name, image, or likeness. A student athlete's earning of compensation may not affect the student's scholarship eligibility. An association shall neither prevent a student athlete from earning compensation nor prevent an institution from participating in intercollegiate athletics because a student athlete receives compensation. Neither an institution nor an association shall: Provide compensation or remuneration to a prospective student athlete; nor Prevent a student athlete from obtaining professional representation in relation to contracts or legal matters, including representation provided by athlete advisors and legal representation provided by attorneys.	1/24/2020 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Education
SB20-131	Reimbursement To P-tech Schools For College Costs	M. Foote (D) C. Holbert (R) / K. Mullica (D) M. Soper (R)	Beginning in the 2020-21 budget year, the bill allows a school district, a board of cooperative services, a charter school, or the state charter school institute that operates a pathways in technology early college high school to apply to the department of education for reimbursement for the amount of tuition and fees and the costs of books and materials incurred in enrolling p-tech school students in postsecondary courses. The amount of the reimbursement is based on the average of the in-state tuition for local district colleges or community colleges, depending on the type of institution that provides the course, and is payable only for each successfully completed course credit hour.	1/27/2020 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Education
SB20-143	Funding Higher Education Student Transition Programs	T. Story (D) / M. Young (D)	The bill establishes the higher education student transition pilot program in the department of higher education to provide grants to partnering 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher education that establish a transition program that allows students to enroll in courses and access student services at both of the partnering institutions. Grants are awarded for one year and are renewed annually if the partnering institutions continue to operate a transition program. The pilot program is repealed, effective June 30, 2026. In order to be eligible for a grant, a 2-year institution and a 4-year institution must enter into a memorandum of understanding to establish a transition program. An individual institution is not eligible for a grant. Participation in the transition program must be free for each student, though students are responsible for tuition and fees for enrolling in courses and using student services.	1/27/2020 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Education