



HB26-1282 | Eliminate Duplicative Regulation of School Child Care Centers

STATUS: Introduced in the House, assigned to Education.

SPONSORS: Rep. Goldstein (D), Rep. Phillips (D), Sen. Mullica (D)

SUMMARY: The bill exempts **school district-run preschool and before- and after-school programs** from several regulations normally enforced by the **Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC)**. Specifically, the bill states that **CDEC rules do not apply to school district programs** in several areas, including:

For School District Preschools and Before/After-School Programs

CDEC rules would **no longer apply** to requirements related to:

- Background checks
- Staff training
- Fire and health inspections and zoning compliance
- Documentation of student immunization status
- Administrative records related to staff supervision

Additional Exemptions for Before- and After-School Programs

School district before/after-school programs would also be exempt from rules governing:

- Playground equipment standards
- Documentation of immunization exemption certificates
- Reporting of student injuries
- Required staff supervision ratios/requirements
- Indoor learning space requirements
- Restrictions on flavored milk

Additional Preschool Exemption

School district preschools would also be exempt from **CDEC requirements for written attendance verification**.

FISCAL NOTES: The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis: minimal state workload, school districts. No appropriation is required.

SUPPORT: Adams 12 Five Star Schools, Boulder Valley School District, Colorado Rural Schools Alliance, Douglas County School District

AMENDING: Colorado Alliance of YMCAs, Colorado Children's Campaign, Early Care and Education Consortium,

OPPOSITION: Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC), Healthier Colorado

PROS

- School districts currently have to comply with both CDE and CDEC regulations. Eliminating duplication could reduce administrative burdens on school district-run preschool and before- and after-school programs.
- Eliminating regulatory duplication could expand program capacity by decreasing operational costs and complexity.
- Removing duplicate background checks and training requirements could shorten onboarding times for staff.
- De-duplication of regulations may reduce confusion for families enrolled in school district-based programs,

CONS

- Critics argue this bill will create unequal safety standards for private and public childcare centers, given that private childcare centers will still have to follow CDEC rules.
- Removing injury reporting, attendance verification, and supervision documentation could make it harder to detect safety issues or negligence.
- Critics argue that the bill could lead to real regulatory gaps rather than just removing duplication