

Preparing our students for success



Universal Preschool Program

Streamlines access to early childhood care for families and provides 10 hours per week of free, high-quality preschool to every four-year-old in Colorado, saving families thousands of dollars and preparing our youngest learners for life-long success (HB22-1295).

Annual School Finance Act

Increases funding for public schools by \$545 per student - \$431 million total - in order to reduce class sizes and increase teacher pay; reduces the Budget Stabilization Factor by over \$180 million to the lowest level since it was created; and includes additional funding for more students to take advantage of the ASCENT program, where they can earn college credit for free while still in high school or the year following (HB22-1390).

Funding for At-risk Students

Modernizes the way Colorado identifies at-risk students to include socioeconomic factors that may impact academic success, increasing the number of students identified for support and providing additional funding for their schools (HB22-1202).

Special Education Funding

Invests an additional \$80 million per year into special education, serving more than 100,000 Colorado students and helping schools provide tailored assistance, decrease class sizes and bring down student-teacher ratios (SB22-127).

Access to Student Financial Aid

Trains counselors to support students in applying for financial aid and improves the accessibility of the state financial aid application in order to increase the number of eligible students who complete applications (HB22-1366).

In-state Tuition for Colorado High School Graduates

Changes residency requirements to allow any student who graduates from a Colorado high school and has resided in the state for one year to receive in-state tuition, saving students money as they pursue higher education degrees (HB22-1155).

Opportunities for Credential Attainment

Expands educational pathways to help Coloradans count on-the-job training and previous experience toward their degrees or credentials, allowing them to enter the workforce or change careers more quickly and affordably (SB22-192).

Regional Talent Development

Invests \$91 million in regional workforce development by promoting partnerships between employers and postsecondary institutions to fill high-paying jobs in growing industries across the state, especially in industries with staffing shortages (HB22-1350).

Removing Barriers to Educator Preparation

Tackles critical teacher shortages exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic by investing \$50 million into loan forgiveness, student educator stipends and covering the costs of license exams so that talented educators can enter the profession without facing undue financial burdens (HB22-1220).

Clean Water in Schools & Child Care Centers

Ensures every Colorado child has safe drinking water in their learning environments by providing \$18 million to school districts and child care centers to test for lead, install filters and replace outdated fixtures, thereby mitigating the life-long impact on learning outcomes that can come from exposure to elevated levels of lead (HB22-1358).

