

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-1084.01 Jacob Baus x2173

HOUSE BILL 24-1393

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bird and Taggart, Sirota

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer, Bridges

House Committees
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO REDUCE THE COST OF THE ACCELERATING**
102 **STUDENTS THROUGH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAM,**
103 **AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AND REDUCING AN**
104 **APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. Under current law, the accelerating students through concurrent enrollment (ASCENT) program is available to all qualified students who are designated to participate by their local

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

education provider. The bill:

- Starting in the 2025-26 state fiscal year, caps the number of qualified students who participate in the ASCENT program at the number of qualified students who participated in the ASCENT program in the 2024-25 state fiscal year; and
- Creates additional eligibility requirements to participate in the ASCENT program.

The bill requires the department of education to submit a report to the education committees of the house and the senate and the joint budget committee regarding the ASCENT program.

Under current law, the district's total program formula includes funding for a district's extended high school pupil enrollment, determined by the district's number of pupils who are concurrently enrolled in a postsecondary course multiplied by a dollar amount that annually increases. Starting in the 2024-25 state fiscal year, the bill amends the district's extended high school funding formula to cap the dollar amount that is multiplied by the district's ASCENT program students within the district's extended high school funding formula.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-108, **amend**
3 (1)(a) introductory portion, (1)(b), (2)(a)(III), (3), and (4); and **add**
4 (2)(a)(V), (2)(a)(VI), (2)(c), and (7) as follows:

5 **22-35-108. Accelerating students through concurrent**
6 **enrollment program - objectives - non-tuition expenses - rules.**

7 (1) (a) There is established the accelerating students through concurrent
8 enrollment program, which is available to all qualified students who are
9 designated by their enrolling local education providers pursuant to
10 subsection (2)(a) of this section. The objectives of the ASCENT program
11 are to:

12 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this article 35 to the
13 contrary, a qualified student who is designated by a THE STUDENT'S local
14 education provider to be an ASCENT program participant pursuant to
15 subsection (2) of this section may concurrently enroll in postsecondary

1 courses, including academic courses and career and technical education
2 courses, in the year directly following the year in which the qualified
3 student was enrolled in the twelfth grade of the local education provider.

4 (2) (a) A local education provider may designate a qualified
5 student as an ASCENT program participant if the qualified student:

6 (III) Has been accepted into a postsecondary degree program at an
7 institution of higher education; and

8 (V) HAS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED A FREE APPLICATION FOR
9 FEDERAL STUDENT AID OR A COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE
10 FINANCIAL AID; AND

11 (VI) HAS SATISFIED ANY OTHER SELECTION CRITERIA ESTABLISHED
12 BY THE BOARD'S GUIDELINES, PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS
13 SECTION.

14 (c) FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR, AND EACH STATE FISCAL
15 YEAR THEREAFTER, THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL NOT
16 DESIGNATE A TOTAL NUMBER OF ASCENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS THAT
17 IS GREATER THAN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ASCENT PROGRAM
18 PARTICIPANTS THAT IT DESIGNATED IN THE 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR.

19 ~~(3) A local education provider may include each qualified student~~
20 ~~whom the local education provider designates to participate in the~~
21 ~~ASCENT program pursuant to this section~~ THE LOCAL EDUCATION
22 PROVIDER OF A QUALIFIED STUDENT WHO IS DESIGNATED BY THE LOCAL
23 EDUCATION PROVIDER AS AN ASCENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT MAY
24 INCLUDE THE STUDENT in the district's funded pupil count, or, in the case
25 of a qualified student enrolled in an institute charter school, in the funded
26 pupil count of the school's accounting district, as provided in section
27 22-54-103 (7).

1 (4) The board shall establish guidelines as necessary for the
2 administration of the ASCENT program, INCLUDING SELECTION CRITERIA
3 THAT THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY USE TO DESIGNATE
4 QUALIFIED STUDENTS AS ASCENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

5 (7) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
6 SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES,
8 AND THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE, CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS TO
9 IMPROVE THE ASCENT PROGRAM. AT A MINIMUM, THE REPORT MUST
10 INCLUDE:

11 (a) A SAMPLE-BASED ANALYSIS OF THE EXPENDITURES REQUIRED
12 OF LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO OFFER THE ASCENT PROGRAM,
13 INCLUDING INFORMATION REGARDING THE AMOUNT PAID FOR STUDENT
14 TUITION; FEES; TEXTBOOKS; TRANSPORTATION; STUDENT SUPPORT
15 SERVICES, INCLUDING COUNSELING; AND ANY OTHER EXPENDITURES
16 REQUIRED OF LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS FOR GENERAL OVERHEAD.
17 THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE INFORMATION FROM A SAMPLE OF SCHOOLS
18 THAT DESIGNATED ASCENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS DURING THE
19 2023-24 BUDGET YEAR AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE DATA
20 COLLECTIONS REGARDING ASCENT PROGRAM EXPENDITURES.

21 (b) INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DISTRICTS TO THE DEPARTMENT
22 REGARDING ASCENT PROGRAM SERVICES AND EXPENDITURES THAT HAVE
23 THE GREATEST EFFECT; AND

24 (c) RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO IMPROVE THE ASCENT
25 PROGRAM, INCLUDING AN ESTIMATE OF HOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS
26 WOULD IMPROVE OUTCOMES BASED ON THE OBJECTIVES STATED
27 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

1 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-104, **amend**
2 (4.7)(b); **repeal** (4.7)(c); and **add** (4.7)(d) as follows:

3 **22-54-104. District total program - definitions - repeal.**

4 (4.7) (b) (I) ~~Subject to the provisions of paragraph (c) of this subsection~~
5 ~~(4.7), for~~ FOR the 2010-11 budget year and budget years thereafter
6 THROUGH THE 2023-24 BUDGET YEAR, the dollar amount set forth in
7 ~~paragraph (a) of this subsection (4.7) shall~~ SUBSECTION (4.7)(a) OF THIS
8 SECTION MUST be increased by the percentage by which the statewide base
9 per pupil funding for that budget year, as specified in ~~paragraph (a) of~~
10 ~~subsection (5)~~ SUBSECTION (5)(a) of this section, is increased over the
11 statewide base per pupil funding for the 2007-08 budget year, as specified
12 in ~~subparagraph (XIV) of paragraph (a) of subsection (5)~~ SUBSECTION
13 (5)(a)(XIV) of this section. The amount ~~shall~~ MUST be rounded to the
14 nearest dollar.

15 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (4.7)(b) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
16 2026.

17 (c) ~~In any budget year in which the provisions of subsection (5)(g)~~
18 ~~of this section apply, the department of education shall calculate a~~
19 ~~district's reduction amount for extended high school funding by~~
20 ~~multiplying the budget stabilization factor calculated for the applicable~~
21 ~~budget year pursuant to subsection (5)(g)(II)(A) of this section by the~~
22 ~~amount of the district's extended high school funding calculated pursuant~~
23 ~~to subsection (4.7)(b) of this section for the applicable budget year. A~~
24 ~~district's extended high school funding for the applicable budget year~~
25 ~~shall be the greater of:~~

26 (I) ~~The district's extended high school funding calculated for the~~
27 ~~applicable budget year pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (4.7)~~

1 minus the district's reduction amount calculated for the applicable budget
2 year pursuant to this paragraph (c) for extended high school funding; or
3 ~~(H) An amount equal to the base per pupil funding amount~~
4 ~~specified in paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of this section for the~~
5 ~~applicable budget year multiplied by the district's extended high school~~
6 ~~pupil enrollment for the applicable budget year.~~

7 (d) FOR THE 2024-25 BUDGET YEAR AND EACH BUDGET YEAR
8 THEREAFTER, THE DOLLAR AMOUNT SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (4.7)(a) OF
9 THIS SECTION MUST BE INCREASED BY THE PERCENTAGE BY WHICH THE
10 STATEWIDE BASE PER PUPIL FUNDING FOR THAT BUDGET YEAR, AS
11 SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION, IS INCREASED OVER THE
12 STATEWIDE BASE PER PUPIL FUNDING FOR THE 2007-08 BUDGET YEAR, AS
13 SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (5)(a)(XIV) OF THIS SECTION; EXCEPT THAT THE
14 DOLLAR AMOUNT THAT IS MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME
15 EQUIVALENT STUDENTS INCLUDED IN THE DISTRICT'S EXTENDED HIGH
16 SCHOOL PUPIL ENROLLMENT WHO ARE THE DISTRICT'S ASCENT PROGRAM
17 PARTICIPANTS MUST NOT INCREASE OR EXCEED THE DOLLAR AMOUNT
18 DURING THE 2023-24 BUDGET YEAR. THE AMOUNT MUST BE ROUNDED TO
19 THE NEAREST DOLLAR.

20 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-104, **amend**
21 (4.7)(a) as follows:

22 **22-54-104. District total program - definitions - repeal.**

23 (4.7) (a) For the ~~2009-10~~ 2024-25 budget year and budget years
24 thereafter, a district's extended high school funding shall be determined
25 in accordance with the following formula:

26 (District extended high school pupil enrollment x \$6,135,
27 or an amount determined pursuant to ~~paragraph (b) of this~~

1 ~~subsection (4.7)~~ SUBSECTION (4)(d) OF THIS SECTION).

2 **SECTION 4. Appropriation - adjustments to 2024 long bill.**

3 (1) To implement this act, the cash funds appropriation from the state
4 education fund created in section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of the state
5 constitution made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2024-25
6 fiscal year to the department of education for extended high school is
7 decreased by \$1,081,762.

8 (2) For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, \$45,600 is appropriated to
9 the department of education. This appropriation is from the general fund.
10 To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for an
11 ASCENT program study.

12 **SECTION 5. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
13 except that section 3 of this act takes effect July 1, 2024.

14 **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
15 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
16 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
17 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
18 institutions.