

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 26-0817.01 Conrad Imel x2313

HOUSE BILL 26-1175

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Brown and Sirota, Taggart

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Kirkmeyer, Amabile

House Committees
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING SPENDING FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND FOR
102 SPECIFIED EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, AND, IN CONNECTION
103 THEREWITH, PERMITTING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE STATE
104 EDUCATION FUND FOR THE COLORADO TEACHER OF THE YEAR
105 PROGRAM AND REQUIRING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE STATE
106 EDUCATION FUND FOR SPECIFIED PURPOSES IN SUPPORT OF THE
107 "COLORADO READ ACT", DISCONTINUING ANNUAL TRANSFERS
108 TO CASH FUNDS FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND FOR THE
109 SAME, AND REPEALING THE CASH FUNDS.

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

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.

HOUSE
2nd Reading Unamended
February 11, 2026

applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Joint Budget Committee. Under existing law, money is annually transferred from the state education fund to the Colorado teacher of the year fund for the Colorado teacher of the year program and to the early literacy fund to fund specified purposes in support of the "Colorado READ Act".

The bill discontinues the annual transfers and instead permits the general assembly to appropriate money from the state education fund for the Colorado teacher of the year program and requires the general assembly to appropriate at least \$34 million from the state education fund for the same specified purposes in support of the "Colorado READ Act". The bill repeals the Colorado teacher of the year fund and the early literacy fund, effective September 1, 2027.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-61.5-105, **amend**
3 (1)(a.5); and **add** (5) and (6) as follows:

4 **22-61.5-105. Colorado teacher of the year fund - created -**
5 **legislative declaration - repeal.**

6 (1) (a.5) In addition to any ~~moneys~~ MONEY credited to the fund
7 pursuant to ~~paragraph (a) of this subsection (1)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS
8 SECTION, beginning in the 2014-15 budget year and in each budget year
9 thereafter THROUGH THE 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR, the state treasurer shall
10 annually transfer from the state education fund created in section 17 (4)
11 of article IX of the state constitution to the fund twenty-four thousand
12 eight hundred dollars.

13 (5) (a) ON JULY 1, 2026, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER
14 ALL UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND THAT DOES
15 NOT ORIGINATE FROM GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS CREDITED TO THE
16 FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION TO THE STATE
17 EDUCATION FUND.

1 (b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ALL UNEXPENDED
2 AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND ON AUGUST 31, 2027, TO THE
3 STATE EDUCATION FUND.

4 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027.

5 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-61.5-104, **add** (4)
6 as follows:

7 **22-61.5-104. Colorado teacher of the year program - created**
8 **- administration - funding - legislative declaration - rules.**

9 (4) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE
10 MONEY FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN SECTION 17 (4) OF
11 ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION FOR THE PROGRAM.

12 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT, FOR PURPOSES OF
13 SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, THE COLORADO
14 TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN
15 PROVIDING PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES FOR TEACHERS AND MAY
16 THEREFORE RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND
17 CREATED IN SECTION 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

18 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1210, **amend**
19 (1) introductory portion and (1)(d)(I); and **add** (8) and (9) as follows:

20 **22-7-1210. Early literacy fund - created - legislative**
21 **declaration - repeal.**

22 (1) The early literacy fund is ~~hereby~~ created in the state treasury
23 and is referred to in this section as the "fund". The fund ~~shall consist~~
24 CONSISTS of:

25 (d) (I) For the 2013-14 budget year, an amount equal to sixteen
26 million dollars from the state education fund, and for the 2014-15 budget
27 year, and each budget year thereafter THROUGH THE 2025-26 BUDGET

1 YEAR, an amount equal to thirty-four million dollars from the state
2 education fund. On July 1, 2013, and on July 1 each year thereafter
3 THROUGH JULY 1, 2025, the state treasurer shall transfer the appropriate
4 amount from the state education fund to the early literacy fund.

5 (8) (a) ON JULY 1, 2026, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER
6 ALL UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND TO THE
7 STATE EDUCATION FUND; EXCEPT THAT THE STATE TREASURER SHALL NOT
8 TRANSFER THE MONEY IN THE FUND THAT REMAINS AVAILABLE FOR
9 EXPENDITURE THROUGH THE 2026-27 STATE FISCAL YEAR FOR THE
10 DEPARTMENT'S "COLORADO READ ACT" TARGETED TRAINING INITIATIVE
11 THAT PROVIDES LITERACY EDUCATION TRAINING FOR TEACHERS, READING
12 INTERVENTIONISTS, PRINCIPALS, AND ADMINISTRATORS.

13 (b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ALL UNEXPENDED
14 AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND ON AUGUST 31, 2027, TO THE
15 STATE EDUCATION FUND.

16 (9) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027.

17 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-7-1215 as
18 follows:

19 **22-7-1215. Funding for part - state education fund - legislative**
20 **declaration.**

21 (1) BEGINNING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27, THE GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY SHALL ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE AT LEAST THIRTY-FOUR
23 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN
24 SECTION 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION FOR THE
25 FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

26 (a) TO IMPLEMENT THE PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN TO
27 PROMOTE READING DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-7-1209 (7);

1 (b) TO CONTRACT WITH AND PAY THE DIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN
2 OVERSEEING AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR AS PROVIDED IN SECTION
3 22-7-1209 (8);

4 (c) TO IMPLEMENT THE EARLY LITERACY GRANT PROGRAM
5 CREATED IN SECTION 22-7-1211;

6 (d) TO ALLOCATE PER-PUPIL INTERVENTION MONEY TO LOCAL
7 EDUCATION PROVIDERS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 22-7-1210.5; AND

8 (e) TO PAY THE COSTS INCURRED IN PROVIDING TO LOCAL
9 EDUCATION PROVIDERS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN IMPLEMENTING THIS
10 PART 12, TRAINING TO TEACH READING FOR TEACHERS EMPLOYED TO
11 TEACH KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE AND FOR READING
12 INTERVENTIONISTS EMPLOYED TO TEACH FOURTH GRADE THROUGH
13 TWELFTH GRADE, TRAINING FOR PRINCIPALS AND ADMINISTRATORS
14 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1208 (6.5), AND TRAINING FOR
15 LIBRARIANS PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-90-121; MONITORING THE USE OF
16 MONEY RECEIVED AS PER-PUPIL INTERVENTION MONEY OR GRANTS
17 THROUGH THE EARLY LITERACY GRANT PROGRAM; AND FULFILLING THE
18 ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN THIS PART 12.

19 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT, FOR THE PURPOSES
20 OF SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, THE PURPOSES
21 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION ARE IN FURTHERANCE OF
22 PROVIDING STUDENTS ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN, FIRST, SECOND, OR
23 THIRD GRADE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING, INTERVENTION
24 INSTRUCTION, AND SUPPORT NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS, BY
25 THE COMPLETION OF THIRD GRADE, CAN DEMONSTRATE A LEVEL OF
26 COMPETENCY IN READING SKILLS THAT IS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THEM
27 IN ACHIEVING THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS APPLICABLE

1 TO THE FOURTH-GRADE CURRICULUM, WHICH IS A PROGRAM FOR
2 ACCOUNTABLE EDUCATION REFORM, AND MAY THEREFORE RECEIVE
3 FUNDING FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN SECTION 17 (4)
4 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

5 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1211, **amend**
6 (3) introductory portion as follows:

7 **22-7-1211. Early literacy grant program - created -**
8 **definitions.**

9 (3) Based on the recommendations of the department, the state
10 board shall award grants to applying local education providers or groups
11 of local education providers, which grants are paid from money in the
12 early literacy fund created in section 22-7-1210 OR FROM MONEY
13 APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1215 FOR THE EARLY
14 LITERACY GRANT PROGRAM. Of the money allocated OR APPROPRIATED
15 for the early literacy grant program, ~~pursuant to section 22-7-1210 (4)~~, the
16 state board shall annually:

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