

CHAPTER 19

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOUSE BILL 26-1175

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Brown and Sirota, Taggart, Clifford, Duran, Gonzalez R., Lieder, Nguyen, Slaugh, Stewart K., Weinberg, Winter T., McCluskie;
also SENATOR(S) Bridges and Kirkmeyer, Amabile.

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ALL UNEXPENDED AND

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND ON AUGUST 31, 2027, TO THE STATE EDUCATION FUND.

(6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) (I) For the 2013-14 budget year, an amount equal to sixteen million dollars from the state education fund, and for the 2014-15 budget year, and each budget year thereafter THROUGH THE 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR, an amount equal to thirty-four million dollars from the state education fund. On July 1, 2013, and on July 1 each year thereafter THROUGH JULY 1, 2025, the state treasurer shall transfer the appropriate amount from the state education fund to the early literacy fund.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT, FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION ARE IN FURTHERANCE OF PROVIDING STUDENTS ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN, FIRST, SECOND, OR THIRD GRADE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING, INTERVENTION INSTRUCTION, AND SUPPORT NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS, BY THE COMPLETION OF THIRD GRADE, CAN DEMONSTRATE A LEVEL OF COMPETENCY IN READING SKILLS THAT IS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THEM IN ACHIEVING THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE FOURTH-GRADE CURRICULUM, WHICH IS A PROGRAM FOR ACCOUNTABLE EDUCATION REFORM, AND MAY THEREFORE RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN SECTION 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

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

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

(3) Based on the recommendations of the department, the state board shall award grants to applying local education providers or groups of local education providers, which grants are paid from money in the early literacy fund created in section

22-7-1210 OR FROM MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1215 FOR THE EARLY LITERACY GRANT PROGRAM. Of the money allocated OR APPROPRIATED for the early literacy grant program, pursuant to section 22-7-1210 (4), the state board shall annually:

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

Approved: March 26, 2026