

Legislative Summary 2023



June 2023

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Introduction

This summary provides an overview of the actions impacting K-12 education during the second regular session of Colorado's 74th General Assembly. This summary discusses what did and did not happen and presents issues and priorities for the November 2023 election and the next legislative session.

CASB's legislative priorities are established through CASB's Resolutions Process:

- Each summer, CASB issues a Call for Resolutions request to every member school board as an opportunity to provide input on public education issues for the next legislative session; this year's deadline is Thursday, August 17, 2023 by 5:00 pm. CASB compiles the proposed resolutions, prepares research data, and distributes the information to the Legislative Resolutions Committee (LRC).
- 2. The members of CASB's Legislative Resolutions Committee (LRC) review the submitted resolutions and develop recommendations to be considered at CASB's Annual Delegate Assembly.
- 3. The CASB Delegate Assembly will meet on Saturday, October 7 during CASB's Fall Conference and Delegate Assembly where delegates will adopt resolutions. The Delegate Assembly is the foundation of CASB's governance structure, provides critical direction to CASB when it represents members' interests before state and national policymakers, and is the official body that establishes CASB's legislative "roadmap" for issues critical to public education for the foreseeable future.

Please contact <u>Matt Cook</u> if you have suggestions, concerns, or other ideas on how the presentation of this information could be helpful to you as an advocate for Colorado's children. Thank you for your support and advocacy on behalf of the students in Colorado public schools.

Key Terms & Concepts

Appropriation	The amount of money made available to the various departments of state government from a specific source such as the General Fund, the Highway Users Tax Fund, etc., and for a specific purpose.
Appropriation Bill/Long Bill	The bill that allocates funding for state departments.
Budget Stabilization Factor (Negative Factor)	In FY 2009-10, Colorado's legislature created a new factor in the school finance formula due to the Great Recession and economic downturn that put pressure on the state's budget. The factor is a state budget tool that proportionally reduces the amount of total funding for each school district. The factor reduces state aid to districts.
C.R.S.	Colorado Revised Statutes, the compilation of Colorado laws.
Gallagher Amendment	Enacted in 1982 as an amendment to the Colorado Constitution, it previously set forth guidelines for determining the actual value of property and the valuation for assessment of such property and was repealed in 2020.
General Fund	The primary operating fund of the state. By law, all state monies are required to go into the General Fund unless otherwise specified. Also, all interest derived from monies in a fund is to be credited to the General Fund unless specified otherwise.
Joint Budget Committee (JBC)	The General Assembly's permanent fiscal and budget review agency, which writes the annual appropriations bill, called the Long Bill, for the operations of state government. The JBC has six members: the Chairman and one majority and one minority member of the House Appropriations Committee, and the Chairman and one majority and one minority member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Mill	One-thousandth of a dollar, a mill is a rate similar to a percentage (a percentage is one hundredth). One mill = \$0.001, or one-tenth of one penny.
Mill levy	A tax rate, measured in mills, representing the portion of a property's value collected by a government entity's tax (called a levy) to fund its budget. One mill produces \$1 in tax income for every \$1,000 of assessed value.
Postpone indefinitely (PI)	A motion to postpone indefinitely is a subsidiary motion used to kill a main motion (or bill) without taking a direct vote on it.
School Finance Act	The Public School Finance Act is a formula used to determine state and local funding amounts for the state's 178 school districts and the Charter School Institute. Total Program is a term used to describe the total amount of money each school district receives under the School Finance Act.
Tax Incremental Funding (TIF)	An economic development funding program that permits municipalities to use tax revenues resulting from economic development to fund new public construction.
Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR)	A provision in Colorado's Constitution limiting revenues and requiring voters to approve tax increases.

2023 Legislative Bill Summary

Below is a list of bills in which CASB was engaged on behalf of its members. Please note the following process CASB uses to <u>register on bills</u> and what our registration means:

1. Why do we register? Colorado law requires that a professional lobbyist registers with the Secretary of State on a bill before speaking to legislators about a specific piece of legislation. The options for registration include: "support," "monitor," "amend," or "oppose." CASB complies with that law by ensuring that its lobbyist, Matt Cook, is registered before advocating a position with legislators.

2. What do the different terms mean? Individual organizations with a lobbying presence may interpret these terms differently, but from CASB's standpoint, we define these terms when registering on legislation as follows:

- **Support:** CASB registers in support of bills that promote the beliefs and resolutions as adopted by the CASB Delegate Assembly. Registration in support of a bill does not mean that the bill cannot be improved, or that we do not have concerns about some provisions. It does mean that, on balance, we believe the positives outweigh any concerns. A registration in support of a bill means that CASB may continue to work with legislators to improve the bill.
- Monitor: CASB takes a monitor position on bills for three possible reasons. First, CASB is truly neutral on the bill. This could mean that while the bill impacts school boards and the districts they serve, we do not have strong guidance on a position to take. Second, CASB could decide to monitor a bill because the motivation or underlying reason for the bill is unclear. In this case, CASB registers in order to permissibly ask questions about legislative intent. Finally, CASB could take a monitor position on a bill because the bill needs some work before CASB could determine whether to take a position of support or oppose.
- **Amend:** CASB takes an amend position on bills that need some work before CASB could determine whether to take a position of support or oppose. By taking a position of amend, CASB may work with legislators to make changes or amendments that would change our position.
- **Oppose:** CASB takes a position of oppose on bills that clearly contradict the beliefs and resolutions adopted by the CASB Delegate Assembly. By taking a position of oppose, CASB may work with legislators to make changes or amendments that would change our position.

3. How does CASB decide its position on specific bills? The beliefs and resolutions adopted by the <u>CASB Delegate Assembly</u> guide the internal decision-making process for CASB's positions on bills. Each day, CASB staff review the bills introduced and offer feedback on the

position that the organization should take to <u>CASB's Legislative Resolutions Committee (LRC)</u>. The CASB Legislative Resolutions Committee reviews resolutions presented by CASB members and develops recommendations to be considered at CASB's Annual Delegate Assembly. It also meets during the legislative session for a briefing on legislative issues and to determine CASB's position on individual pieces of legislation. The committee is made up of at least one school board member from each <u>CASB region</u>.

In the political process, registering "support," "monitor," "amend," or "oppose" is a required gateway for your CASB lobbyist to engage with legislators and represent the needs of members. We may initially take a monitor position on a bill that addresses an issue our members widely support, but is poorly worded or has problematic or concerning provisions. Some bills offer easy decisions of support or opposition, but others are written in a way that requires a judgment call on how to navigate the political process and best represent member needs.

Our members play a critical role in advocacy and helping determine CASB's legislative platform and priorities and in advocating to further these priorities. We welcome questions about bills or our position on a bill throughout the legislative session and encourage members to get involved in our advocacy efforts.

2023 Legislative Summary

Passed/Enacted

BOARD OF EDUCATION

HB23-1025: Charter School Application Timeline

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill adjusts charter school application deadlines for applications submitted to a local school board on or after December 31, 2023. Under the bill, the charter school application process each year is as follows:

- Between February 1 and April 1, charter school applicants must file an application with a local school board (under current law, the filing deadline is between August 1 and October 1). This new application period is eighteen months prior to the start of the school year the charter applicant desires to open.
- By June 30, local school boards must rule on charter school applications in a public hearing.
- By September 30, or 90 days after a school board approves a charter school application by resolution, whichever is later, the contract negotiations between the charter school and the school board must be concluded.
- The charter school is required to use the school and fiscal year, July 1 to June 30, following the submission of their charter application as a planning year, in which they prepare for serving students the next school year.

The bill allows the charter applicant and the local school board to jointly waive or extend the timelines. The school board may also apply to the State Board of Education for a modification or waiver. If granted, the school board must publish notice of the waiver on the board's website within thirty days after the approval, and the new timeline only applies to applications submitted after the date of the public posting of the waiver.

Rural schools may choose to follow an optional alternative timeline if they give notice to the department and the public. The timeline above would be modified as follows:

- Between June 1 and August 1, the initial charter application is due.
- By August 15, a school board must notify an applicant if their application is incomplete.
- By October 15, the school board must rule on the application.
- Within 30 days after the date a notice of appeal is filed, the state board of education must hear appeals (the state board is already required to review appeals within 60 days).

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policies LBD*: Relations with District Charter Schools and accompanying regulation LBD*-R, and ADE-R: Innovation in Education, will be reviewed and revised as necessary to reflect the bill's changes.

HB23-1241: Task Force to Study K12 Accountability Systems

Effective Date: May 24, 2023

Summary: This bill creates a task force in CDE to study and make recommendations concerning best practices and improvements to the public school accountability and accreditation system. The 26 members of the taskforce will be representative of a variety of groups and districts, and must be appointed by July 1, 2023. The task force must first meet by September 1, 2023, and must meet at least four times in 2023 and six times in 2024 to complete its duties. An interim report is due by March 1, 2024, and a final report is due by November 15, 2024.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-286: Access to Government Records

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill updates various provisions of the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA):

- **Inspection and transmission of records.** Under the bill, someone requesting a public record cannot be required to provide identification with their request. Additionally, records that are available digitally must be sent via e-mail or another mutually-agreed upon method. Further, a digital record cannot be converted into a non-searchable or non-sortable format prior to transmission.
- **Records withheld from inspection.** CORA currently allows a custodian to deny a requester's right to inspect certain records if disclosure of the record would be contrary to the public interest. This includes email addresses provided by a person to an agency, institution, or political subdivision of the state. The bill adds to this category telephone numbers and home addresses.
- **Records subject to inspection**. Under the bill, the final report of a governmentauthorized investigation of an elected official for sexual harassment in the workplace is requestable as a public record if the investigation concludes that the elected official is culpable for any act of sexual harassment. However, identifiable characteristics of the accuser(s) must be redacted unless all accusers are already known to the public.
- **Electronic mail policy.** The bill requires state agencies and certain state officials to submit a report to the staff of the legislative council outlining their email retention policy.
- Fee restrictions. This bill states that a per-page fee cannot be charged for providing records in a digital or electronic format. Additionally, requestors of the public record must be allowed to pay any fee with a credit card or via electronic payment, as long as the public body already allows members of the public to pay for any other service or product with a credit card or electronic payment.

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policies KDB: Public's Right to Know/Freedom of Information and accompanying regulation KDB-R, and GBJ: Personnel Records and Files, will be reviewed and revised as necessary to reflect the bill's changes.

HB23-1306: Public Use of Elected Officials' Social Media

Effective Date: June 5, 2023

Summary: This bill allows a state or local elected official to block other individuals on their private social media account. The social media account must be the official's private account that is not supported by state government resources nor required by state law to be used by a state elected official.

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policy BC: School Board Member Conduct, will be reviewed and may be revised as necessary to reflect the bill's changes.

SB23-076: Sunset Continue CO Youth Advisory Council Effective Date: June 2, 2023

Summary: The Colorado Youth Advisory Council (COYAC), which examines issues affecting Colorado youth, including education, the environment, substance abuse, and poverty, is set to repeal September 1, 2023. This bill continues COYAC until September 1, 2028, and appropriates funds from the general fund to the advisory council.

This bill also makes several modifications to COYAC, including changing its process for contracting with a nonprofit to provide staffing, operational, and custodial services for the advisory council, and changing the timeline for the appointment of members of the COYAC review committee.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-094: School Transportation Task Force

Effective Date: May 16, 2023

Summary: This bill creates a Colorado school transportation modernization task force to create a report containing findings and recommendations to improve public school transportation services for students. The bill specifies task force membership, which includes parents, school transportation directors, special education directors, superintendents, representatives from advocacy organizations, charter schools, labor organizations, businesses that provide career pathway programs, and public transportation providers. The commissioner of education must make task force appointments by June 30, 2023. The task force must meet at least two times from August 2023 through December 2023, and four times from May 2024 through November 2024. The final report is due by December 1, 2024.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

CHILD WELFARE & PROTECTION

HB23-1058: Child-occupied Facility Lead-based Paint Abatement Effective Date: March 31, 2023

Summary: Current law defines child-occupied facility for the purposes of lead-based paint abatement as a building or portion of a building that is visited by a child on 2 or more days within any week, with each visit totaling six or more hours. The bill aligns Colorado and federal law definitions of "child-occupied facility" so that a child-occupied facility is any building or portion of a building that is visited by a child two or more days a week with each visit totaling three or more hours.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1191: Prohibit Corporal Punishment of Children

Effective Date: April 20, 2023

Summary: The bill prohibits a person employed by or volunteering in a public school, a statelicensed child care center, a family child care home, or a specialized group facility from imposing corporal punishment on a child. The bill also requires school districts to include the prohibition of corporal punishment in their conduct and discipline code.

The bill defines corporal punishment as the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a child. Corporal punishment does not include an amount of force that is reasonable and necessary to quell a disturbance that threatens physical injury to persons or damage to property, necessary for purposes of self-defense, or used to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within the control of a child; or physical pain or discomfort caused by athletic competition or other similar physical activity in which a child is voluntarily engaged.

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policies JKA: Use of Physical Intervention and Restraint and accompanying regulation JKA-R, and JK: Student Discipline, will be revised as necessary to reflect the bill's changes.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

HB23-1235: Technical Modification to Department of Early Childhood Effective Date: June 7, 2023

Summary: This bill makes technical changes to the Department of Early Childhood, established by HB22-1295. Changes include updating language regarding gifts, grants, and donations to achieve uniformity; allowing the department to enter into a contract with an organization to

provide early literacy programming and related supports and whole-child services; clarifies the department's responsibilities concerning child abuse or neglect records checks; and clarifies reporting dates to ensure the department and complete and report data in a timely manner.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-269: Colorado Preschool Program Provider Bonus Payments Effective Date: June 2, 2023

Summary: The bill creates the Colorado preschool program provider participation bonus program. The program provides a one-time bonus payment to any eligible preschool provider that participates in the preschool program established in the Department of Early Childhood. The bonus program can also award additional bonus payments if the eligible recipient maintains or increases the eligible recipient's licensed capacity to serve infants and toddlers between April 1, 2022, and April 1, 2024.

The purpose of the bonus program is to:

- Increase provider participation in the Colorado universal preschool program to ensure that all children have access to a universal preschool classroom in their communities;
- Strengthen the mixed delivery system by supporting providers that have not previously participated in the Colorado state-run preschool program; and
- Preserve access to infant and toddler care.

Providers are required to use the bonus payments to implement or support the preschool program or maintain or expand infant and toddler care. The department is required to report to the joint budget committee on or before September 1, 2024, on the number and types of providers that receive bonus payments and the number and types of bonus payments awarded. The bonus program is repealed, effective July 1, 2025. The bill makes an appropriation of \$2.5 million to the department of early childhood for purposes of the program.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

ELECTIONS

HB23-1185: Requirements for Recall Elections and Vacancies Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill makes changes to requirements for recall elections and filing municipal government vacancies. Its changes include the following:

- standardizes the process to replace city council members, mayors, and public trustees when a vacancy occurs or a municipal official is removed or recalled from office;
- requires city clerks to call special elections to fill municipal vacancies if the city council lacks a quorum to appoint a replacement; and

• makes several changes to the requirements for municipal recall elections, including clarifying signature requirements and deadlines.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-276: Modifications to Laws Regarding Elections

Effective Date: June 6, 2023

Summary: The bill makes multiple changes to the uniform election code and the conduct of elections, including changing the method for the state to reimburse counties for a portion of the cost to conduct elections. Changes include the following:

- **Elections generally.** The bill allows any form of identification currently specified in the code to be presented in digital format.
- Qualification and registration of electors. The bill repeals certain criteria for determining residence; and facilitates voter registration for people who live on Indian reservations.
- **Political party organization.** The bill modifies the meeting dates on which a judicial district central committee holds its organizational meetings.
- Access to ballot by candidates. The bill eliminates the option for all active electors in a county who have not declared an affiliation to specify a party preference and specifies that all such electors will receive a mailing that contains the ballots of all of the major political parties; clarifies who can challenge a candidate's eligibility for office; modifies notice requirements for candidates for designation for nomination by assembly; modifies the standards for a petition entity to operate in the state; and creates a process for a candidate to protest when the secretary of state has determined that a petition is insufficient.
- Notice and preparation of elections. Changes the requirements the number and location of voter service and polling centers (VSPCs) and drop boxes;
- **Election judges.** The bill allows counties with fewer than 15,000 active voters to have 2, rather than 3, election judges at each VSPC.
- **Conduct of elections.** Changes requirements for the number and conduct of election judges and watchers;
- **Mail ballot elections.** Makes changes to updates to voter registration, and ballot collection
- **Recounts.** The bill modifies deadlines and the process for testing voting systems in connection with a mandatory recount of votes cast, and-modifies recount timelines and payment requirements.
- **Recall elections.** The bill clarifies how the date of a recall election is determined.
- Election offenses. The bill specifies that it is not electioneering for a person to incidentally display apparel that supports political issues on the campus of any institution of higher education, rather than just a state institution of higher education, where a VSPC is located.

- **Initiative and referendum.** The bill prohibits a petition entity from circulating ballot petitions if the entity or a principal of the entity has been convicted of certain crimes; and increases penalties for petition entities that violate state law regarding petition circulation.
- Fair campaign practices. The bill specifies that a candidate committee is prohibited from knowingly accepting contributions from certain entities and making contributions to certain entities; specifies the time frame for the termination of candidate committee accounts; limits the amount of unexpended campaign contributions that may be transferred from one candidate committee to another for a different office sought by the same candidate; clarifies that an elected official may use unexpended campaign contributions for child care costs; clarifies when a referred measure is submitted to the voters by the general assembly; requires the electronic filing of candidate disclosure statements; states that a candidate may be disqualified if the secretary of state finds that the candidate willfully filed a false or incomplete disclosure statement; and states that any candidate who willfully files a false or incomplete disclosure statement or other document required by law is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- **Public official disclosure law.** The bill specifies that the information included in the public disclosures filed by certain public officials must include information for the previous calendar year under certain circumstances; and requires the person making the disclosure to include certain information about the sources of compensation the person received.
- **Use of state money.** The bill prohibits a clerk who is administering an election and the department of state from using an appropriation of state or federal money to pay for advertising expenses that feature a person who is a declared candidate for a federal, state, or local office.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies, but CASB's election resources will be updated to reflect the changes in this bill.

FINANCE

SB23-115: Department of Education Supplemental

Effective Date: February 28, 2023

Summary: This bill outlines the supplemental appropriations made to the Department of Education.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-136: Adjustments to School Funding Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Effective date: March 3, 2023 **Summary:** This bill made mid-year adjustments to the 2022 School Finance Act and maintained the budget stabilization factor as the amount of the original appropriation for the 2022-2023 school year. Enrollment for the actual funded pupil count was lower and the at-risk pupil count was higher than expected when the appropriation amount for the state share of total program funding was established during the 2022 legislative session, resulting in an overall increase in total program funding for the 2022-23 budget year. In addition, the local property tax revenue and specific ownership tax revenue were higher than anticipated, resulting in an increase in the local share of total program funding. This bill therefore decreased the state share of total program funding.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-214: 2023-2024 Long Bill

Effective date: July 1, 2023

Summary: The 2023-2024 Long Bill allocates funding for state departments.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-221: Healthy School Meals for All Program Fund

Effective date: April 20, 2023

Summary: The bill implements several measures related to revenue and expenditures for the Healthy School Meals for All Program, approved by voters through Proposition FF in November 2022. The bill creates a general fund exempt account for the program. The department of revenue will deposit the revenue from the tax increase in Proposition FF into the account. CDE may use the tax revenue in the account to implement the program. If there is not enough money in the account for the department to implement the program, CDE may use the general fund to pay for meal and wage reimbursements, local food purchasing and technical assistance grants, and administrative expenses.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-287: Public School Finance

Effective date: May 15, 2023

Summary: This bill is the 2023 School Finance Act that sets funding levels for Colorado's 178 school districts. Total program funding for the 2023-2024 year is \$9.10 billion, the average per pupil funding is \$8,076.41, and \$30 million is appropriated for rural and small rural school districts. The bill also repeals the budget stabilization factor, effective July 1, 2024, and includes the following:

- **Native American Mascot funding.** Appropriates \$300,000 total to assist schools required to replace Native American mascots pursuant to C.R.S. 22-1-133.
- **Mill Levy Override Matching Funds.** Appropriates \$23.3 million to override matching fund.
- **Public School Finance Task Force.** This task force will examine and make recommendations concerning making the school finance formula simpler, less regressive, more adequate, understandable, transparent, equitable, and student centered, and provide a report to the General Assembly by January 31, 2024.
- Screening for gifted children. Provides that funds will be set aside in the budget to be able to provide universal screening for gifted children through second grade by budget year 2027-28.
- **At-risk formula updates.** Delays the new at-risk formula until budget year 2024-25. In the interim, CDE must model the impact of potential changes and submit a summary report and recommendations by January 5, 2024.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-220: Public School Capital Construction Assistance Grants Effective Date: May 12, 2023

Summary: In previous fiscal years, school districts were awarded Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grants, but were unable to complete their projects due to inflation. This bill provides funding for these schools to be used for BEST grant funding for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1290: Proposition EE Funding Retention Rate Reduction

Effective Date: June 2, 2023

Summary: The bill refers a ballot issue to voters at the November 2023 statewide election to retain excess revenue collected from Proposition EE that otherwise would be refunded, and to maintain the tax rates that were approved in Proposition EE. Proposition EE, passed in 2020, increased cigarette and tobacco product taxes and partially funds universal preschool. If voters approve the ballot issue, the excess money set aside for the potential refund related to proposition EE will instead be transferred to the preschool programs cash fund and the general fund, and the tax on nicotine products and increased taxes on cigarettes and tobacco products in proposition EE will stay at the rates required by proposition EE. If voters reject the ballot issue, the state will refund \$23.65 million to distributors and wholesalers and reduce tax rates on cigarettes, tobacco products, and nicotine products by 11.53%. Conditional upon voter approval, the bill increases state revenue, which is transferred to and spent from a cash fund. Regardless

of voter approval, the bill creates a one-time transfer of the excess revenue to a holding fund.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-099: Special Education Funding

Effective Date: May 15, 2023.

Summary: This bill increases funding for special education by \$40.2 million per year. The impact on any individual school district will depend on the number of Tier B special education students served.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-303: Reduce Property Taxes and Voter-approved Revenue Change Effective Date: May 24, 2023

Summary: The bill refers a ballot issue to voters at the November 2023 election with the below provisions. Most provisions of the bill take effect only with approval of the ballot issue.

- **Property classes.** Creates new subclasses of real property, including three subclasses of single-family residential, a multi-family primary residence subclass, and a renewable energy agricultural land subclass.
- **Property taxes and local government backfill.** Reduces property taxes on non residential and residential properties by reducing certain assessment rates, which will remain reduced for ten years. It also reduces assessed values on certain property types by \$30,000. Additionally, the bill would backfill the lost revenues to local governments by increasing the cap on tax revenues the state may retain (by reducing TABOR refunds to taxpayers).
- **Rental assistance.** Allocates up to \$20 million in funds, if available after other allocations, toward rental assistance.
- Local government property tax revenue limit. Beginning in the 2023 property tax year, establishes a limit on specified property tax revenue for local governments, except home rule and school districts, that is equal to inflation added to the property tax revenue from the prior tax year. A local government may establish a temporary property tax credit to prevent exceeding this limit, or or they may approve a mill levy that would cause the local government to exceed the limit, if the governing board approves the mill levy at a public meeting that meets certain criteria.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-304: Property Tax Valuation

Effective Date: May 24, 2023

Summary: The bill specifies factors that assessors must consider when valuing property, including current use, existing zoning and other land use regulations or restrictions, multi-year leases or other contractual agreements, easements, and covenants. It also requires counties with a population of at least 300,000 people to use the alternative protest and appeal procedure, and requires assessors to provide certain information to taxpayers upon request.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1311: Identical Temporary TABOR Refund

Effective Date: May 24, 2023, but certain provisions are not effective until January 1, 2024, only if the ballot issue in SB 23-303 is approved by voters

Summary: The bill adjusts the mechanisms used to refund the state TABOR refund obligation collected in the current FY 2022-23. If the ballot issue referred in Senate Bill 23-303 is approved by voters, then this House Bill 23-1311 permits each qualified individual to receive an identical refund payment from the remaining excess state revenues after refunds are made through the county reimbursement mechanisms. The amount of the refund is equal to the remaining excess state revenues divided by the number of qualified individuals, and is a refund from all sources of state fiscal year spending.

If the ballot measure referred in SB 23-303 is not referred or is not approved by voters, then the substantive provisions of this bill do not become law.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HIGHER EDUCATION

HB23-1007: Higher Education Crisis and Suicide Prevention Effective Date: March 17, 2023

Summary: The bill requires public and private higher education institutions to print Colorado and national crisis and suicide prevention contact information on student identification cards issued after August 1, 2023. If an institution does not use student identification cards, the bill requires the school to distribute Colorado and national crisis and suicide prevention contact information to the student body each semester or trimester.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1001: Expanding Assistance for Educator Programs Effective Date: April 10, 2023 **Summary:** The bill makes changes to the Temporary Educator Loan Forgiveness Program, Educator Test Stipend Program, and Student Educator Stipend Program administered by the Department of Higher Education (DHE). These programs are intended to support new and preservice educators.

For the Temporary Educator Loan Forgiveness Program, the bill modifies the prioritization of applicants, adds principals and special services providers to the definition of eligible educator, expands the program to include an eligible educator in any educator position in a Colorado public school, and extends the application deadline by a year, until July 1, 2023.

The bill raises the income threshold for student eligibility for stipend programs (the Educator Test Stipend Program and the Temporary Educator Loan Forgiveness Program) as well as allowing a student teacher to be eligible for the Student Educator Stipend Program if they teach either in Colorado, or within 100 miles of the state border, among other changes to the stipend programs.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-205: Universal High School Scholarship Program

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill creates the Universal High School Scholarship program in the Office of Economic Development and International Trade to provide scholarships to students for postsecondary education, apprenticeships, or training related to an in-demand or high-priority postsecondary pathway, and appropriates \$25 million for implementation. Scholarships will be awarded for the 2024-2025 academic year, are up to \$1,500 per student and may be used for tuition, fees, books, and equipment.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-258: Consolidate Colorado Educator Programs in Colorado Department of Education

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: Under current law, educator preparation programs offered by public and private institutions of higher education are jointly authorized by the Department of Higher Education and the Colorado Department of Education. The bill consolidates the authorization of educator preparation programs under the State Board of Education in CDE.

The State Board must adopt rules establishing the program requirements and review processes, including the same components as are currently required to be in DHE policies. The bill makes modifications to align with CDE structure and recent changes to teacher licensure, and extends the number of years that program may exist without graduating a student from four years to five.

CDE may establish a fee for authorization in order to cover administrative costs and must convene an advisory committee to provide input on topics related to educator preparation programs.

The bill repeals the authority of the Commission on Higher Education and DHE to approve educator preparation programs, and requires that the State Board consider any recommendations by the CCHE when considering approval or continuation of a program. DHE must continue to share data as needed with CDE. The bill also repeals an annual survey of superintendents regarding licensed principals and principal licensure standards.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-302: Colorado Veterans' Service-to-career Program

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill modifies the Veterans' Service-to-career program in the Department of Labor and Employment. It extends the repeal of the program from January 1, 2024 to July 1, 2024, and provides flexibility for the program by no longer requiring that career development services for eligible participants be paid from available federal funding before state funding.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

INSTRUCTION

HB23-1231: Math In Pre-kindergarten Through Twelfth Grade Effective Date: May 15, 2023

Summary: The bill makes changes related to math education, including establishing educator training, technical assistance, strategies for improvement, and a grant program to support math education.

- Educator training. By January 2024, the bill requires that CDE provide free, optional trainings for K-12 educators in math education using a train-the-trainer model. The training must include interventions and strategies to improve student proficiency and assist students who are below grade level or struggling in mathematics. CDE must create and maintain a list of evidence-based curricula and assessment options for math, and provide interventions for improving math achievement, including options that may be available to parents remotely. If requested, CDE must provide technical assistance to rural and small rural districts and schools, including interventions to help students struggling in math.
- Adopting Procedures. The bill strongly encourages local boards of education to adopt procedures to provide support to students in Pre-K through twelfth grade and their families to improve math outcome, which could include identifying students who are

below grade level in math, notifying parents if a student is below grade level in math, and providing parents with a list of interventions and acceleration strategies to assist with math at home, among other supports.

- **Requirements for local education providers on accountability plans.** The bill requires local education providers that are on an improvement plan, priority improvement plan, or a turnaround plan to identify strategies to assist the needs of students who are below grade level in math and set targets for increasing overall student achievement in math as part of the LEP's annual improvement plan.
- **Grant program.** The bill creates the Colorado Academic Accelerator Grant Program in CDE to create community learning centers that provide free academic enrichment and support activities to help students in science, technology, engineering, and math. Eligible grantees are local education providers, community-based organizations, Indian tribes, or another public or private entity. The bill establishes prioritization criteria for applicants and allowable uses for the funds. CDE must administer the grant program based on rules adopted by the State Board of Education. By July 1, 2024, CDE must contract with a third-party evaluator to review and report on the impact of the grant program. The report must be submitted to the General Assembly by January 1 each year.
- **Grant program funding.** For FY 2023-24, the bill requires that the General Assembly appropriate \$24.5 million to CDE for the grant program, with continuous spending authority through FY 2026-27. CDE may use up to five percent for monitoring and evaluation programs, and providing training and technical assistance.
- Ninth Grade Success Program. The bill changes the prioritization criteria for awarding grants from the Ninth Grade Success Grant Program to include applicants with consistently low ranking performance or that propose math-focused intervention strategies. For FY 2023-24, the bill requires that the General Assembly appropriate \$1.6 million from the General Fund to CDE for the program.
- Early childhood education. The bill adds early numeracy to the continuing professional development required of licensed preschool teachers, and requires the Department of Early Childhood to include early numeracy in the department's resource bank of preschool curricula.
- **Higher education.** The bill requires that the Colorado Commission on Higher Education require educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education to train teacher candidates in mathematics education, including interventions for students who are below grade level, who have disabilities, or who are English language learners.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies, however, CASB may draft an optional sample policy and regulation for the highly recommended procedures to provide support for students to improve their math skills.

SB23-003: Colorado Adult High School Program Effective Date: June 6, 2023 **Summary:** This bill creates the Colorado adult high school program for adults without a high school diploma to attend high school and earn a diploma, industry certificate, or college credit at no cost. The bill requires CDE to award a grant to a Colorado community-based nonprofit organization to operate the program. The rules for the grant application process must be established by CDE before September 15, 2023, and CDE must select a grant recipient by November 1, 2023. The organization may enroll up to 400 students annually and must comply with requirements listed in the bill, including securing a building, establishing minimum graduation requirements, hiring educators, and other requirements in order to implement the program.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-007: Adult Education

Effective Date: June 2, 2023

Summary: This bill modifies the Adult Education Grant Program in the Colorado Department of Education, including adding digital literacy to skills that must be offered. Additionally, it allows community colleges, local district colleges, and area technical colleges to award high school diplomas.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

LEGAL

HB23-1135: Penalty for Indecent Exposure in View of Minors Effective Date: June 7, 2023

Summary: Under current law, indecent exposure is a class 1 misdemeanor; but, if the perpetrator has two prior indecent exposure convictions, it is a class 6 felony. This bill makes the perpetrator's first indecent exposure offense a class 6 felony if committed in the view of a child under fifteen years old, when the perpetrator is more than eighteen years of age and more than four years older than the child, and knew there was a child in view of the act. It also appropriates funds to the judicial department from the general fund.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1168: Legal Representation and Students with Disabilities Effective Date: May 25, 2023

Summary: The bill requires CDE to enter a five-year contract with a nonprofit organization to create and maintain a list of attorneys qualified to represent the parents of children with disabilities in due process hearings brought under the federal Individuals with Disabilities in

Education Act. If a local education provider or other special education provider initiates a due process complaint concerning issues disputed in a state complaint in which the parent prevailed, and the parent requests an attorney from the nonprofit, the organization shall appoint an attorney to represent the parent. CDE must provide \$20,000 annually to the organization to pay attorneys and to manage the list of attorneys, and any unspent money shall be returned to CDE at the end of the five-year service agreement. CDE must also update materials regarding availability of these attorneys on CDE's website.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

PERSONNEL

HB23-1006: Employer Notice of Income Tax Credits Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: Current law requires an employer to provide its employees with an annual statement showing the total compensation paid and the income tax withheld for the preceding calendar year. This bill requires an employer to also provide written notice of the availability of the federal and state earned income tax credits and the federal and state child tax credits at least once annually. This notice may be sent electronically. It must be written in English and any other language the employer typically uses to communicate with employees and must comply with any rules prescribed by the department of revenue.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1064: Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: The bill enacts the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact. The compact would allow licensed teachers in a member state to more easily obtain a teacher's license from another member state. It includes additional provisions regarding obtaining equivalent licenses for active military members and eligible military spouses. The compact is conditional upon adoption by nine other states.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1198: Teacher Externship Program For Science Technology Engineering and Math Disciplines

Effective Date: May 22, 2023

Summary: The bill establishes a teacher externship program for K-12 teachers to participate in experiential learning in science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines with employers to

gain knowledge and improve their classroom curriculum. The Department of Labor and Employment will administer the program and establish and develop at least one externship program model that offers K-12 teachers the ability to participate in the program and apply for graduate credits, professional development credits, and/or career and technical education credits. CDLE must collaborate with CDE to determine minimum standards for the program and to select employers that can offer training and experience that will provide value to the school. Teachers may be compensated, and CDE may allocate funds directly to local education providers or the participating employer to account for compensation.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1246: Support In-demand Career Workforce

Effective Date: May 16, 2023

Summary: This bill creates two new programs to encourage the completion of credentials for specific in-demand Colorado occupations: the "in-demand short-term credentials program," and the "construction registered apprenticeship grant program." The short-term credentials program provides funding to certain community and technical colleges to cover tuition, fees, books, and supplies for students pursuing short-term credentials in early childhood, education, law enforcement, firefighting, forestry, construction, and nursing. The apprenticeship program provides grants such that apprenticeship programs in construction trades can provide training to apprentices at no cost. The bill also provides funding for new short-term nursing programs. Finally, the bill appropriates funds for facilitation of the programs and makes other appropriations changes.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-004: Employment of School Mental Health Professionals Effective Date: May 4, 2023

Summary: This bill allows school districts and BOCES to employ certain school-based therapists who are not licensed by CDE but who hold a Colorado license for their profession. The school-based therapists may be supervised by either a special services provider with a school counselor endorsement or by a school district administrator. School districts must conduct a fingerprint based criminal history background check of these additional employees. If the therapist will be providing services to a student with an IEP, the therapist must have qualifications consistent with the IEP. Additionally, school districts should ensure that any therapist hired under this bill has background and expertise working with children and adolescents.

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policy GCE/GCF: Professional Staff Recruiting/Hiring will be reviewed and revised as necessary to meet the bill's requirements.

SB23-053: Restrict Governmental Nondisclosure Agreements

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill prohibits governments, including school districts, from requiring an employee or applicant to sign a nondisclosure agreement that prohibits or restricts the employee from disclosing factual circumstances regarding their employment, with some exceptions.

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policy CBD: Superintendent's Contract will be reviewed and revised as necessary to meet the bill's requirements.

SB23-058: Job Application Fairness Act Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill prohibits employers from inquiring about a job applicant's age, date of birth, dates of attendance at an educational institution, or date of graduation from an educational institution on an employment application, beginning July 1, 2024. Several exceptions are defined in the act. The bill specifies that it does not create a private cause of action for violations. The Department of Labor and Employment will enforce the requirement, issue warnings, and impose civil penalties upon second or subsequent violations.

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policies GCE/GCF: Professional Staff Recruiting/Hiring and accompanying regulation GCE/GCF-R, GDE/GDF: Support Staff Recruiting/Hiring and accompanying regulation GDE/GDF-R, and GBA: Open Hiring/Equal Employment Opportunity will be reviewed and revised as necessary to meet the bill's requirements.

SB23-087: Teacher Degree Apprenticeship Program Effective Date: May 15, 2023

Summary: This bill creates the Teacher Degree Apprenticeship Program and requires CDE to promulgate rules for the program by January 1, 2024. The program will include training for mentor teachers, a wage scale, and a bachelor's degree program with on-the-job training. The bill also establishes a teacher apprenticeship authorization that allows program participants to be employed by a school or a school district in roles of increasing responsibility, including working as a substitute teacher and a teacher of record. The authorization is valid for four years while the teacher apprentice completes a degree and on-the-job training through the program. The State Board's rules must include qualifications and competencies of levels of authorization, including substitute teaching, student teaching, and working as a teacher of record.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-111: Public Employees' Workplace Protection

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

Summary: The bill specifies that public employees have the right to: discuss or express views on workplace issues and employee rights and representation; engage in protected, concerted activity for the purposes of mutual aid or protection; participate in the political process while offduty without discrimination, intimidation, or retaliation; speak with members of the public employer's governing body about conditions of employment; and form or join, or refrain from participating in, an employee organization. A public employer must not discriminate against an employee for engaging in the rights listed in the bill, dominate or interfere with the administration of an employee organization, or discharge or discriminate against an employee who has joined an employee organization or has filed a complaint related to the bill.

The bill also requires the Division of Labor Standards and Statistics to create a process to review and investigate complaints. Final decisions may be appealed to the Colorado court of appeals. Aggrieved parties are unable to file a claim that alleges violations until it has been six months from the date the aggrieved party knew of the alleged violation. The bill does not codify the right to recognize or negotiate a collective bargaining agreement.

Governor Jared Polis released a <u>signing statement</u> regarding his direction for future rulemaking and legislation related to this bill.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no present impact on CASB's sample policies, but CASB will monitor the rulemaking process for any potential impact.

SB23-172: Concerning Protections for Colorado Workers Against Discriminatory Employment Practices

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill enacts the "Protecting Opportunities and Workers' Rights (POWR) Act," which makes a variety of changes to workplace employment practices. It adds protections from discriminatory or unfair employment practices for individuals based on their "marital status." Additionally, the bill adds a new definition of "harass" or "harassment" and repeals the previous definition of "harass" that requires creation of a hostile work environment. It also specifies that in harassment claims, the alleged conduct does not need to be severe or pervasive to constitute a discriminatory or unfair employment practice.

The bill also prohibits nondisclosure provisions between an employer and employee that limit the ability of the employee to disclose discriminatory or unfair employment practices, with some exceptions. Finally, it requires an employer to maintain personnel and employment records for at least five years, and have a designated place to store written or oral complaints of discriminatory or unfair employment practices. **CASB Policy Impact:** CASB sample policies GBA: Open Hiring/Equal Employment Opportunity, GBAA: Sexual Harassment, and GBJ: Personnel Records and Files will be reviewed and modified as necessary to meet the bill's requirements.

SAFETY & HEALTH

HB23-1071: Licensed Psychologist Prescriptive Authority

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill will allow psychologists to prescribe some medications to patients. It allows a licensed psychologist to prescribe and administer psychotropic medications if the licensed psychologist holds a prescription certificate issued by the State Board of Psychologist Examiners. In order to receive the certificate, the psychologist must meet a variety of requirements, including completion of a doctoral program, completion of a M.S. degree in a psychopharmacology program, passage of the psychopharmacology examination, and certification of relevant clinical experience. Once issued the certificate, the licensed psychologist must maintain professional liability insurance and complete continuing education requirements, and is required to disclose to all patients that they are not a licensed physician, among other requirements regarding treatment of patients.

The bill also permits the board to issue a prescription certificate by endorsement for out-of-state licensed applicants with unrestricted prescriptive authority if their state imposes the same requirements as the Colorado law and regulations.

The bill makes other changes to the internal structure and procedures of the State Board of Psychologist Examiners, including the ability to create rules for implementation of this bill.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-023: CPR Training in High Schools

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill requires schools that participate in the Colorado comprehensive health education program to include a curriculum on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for grades 9 through 12. The curriculum must include a training and education program included on the list maintained by the Office of Cardiac Arrest Management, and must incorporate the psychomotor skills necessary to perform CPR and use a defibrillator.

If a school does not participate in the Colorado comprehensive health education program, they are "strongly encouraged" to provide the same curriculum for students in grades 9 through 12.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-070: Mandatory School Resource Officer Training

Effective Date: April 27, 2023

Summary: This bill requires the Department of Education to annually convene a training meeting for school resource officers and school officials to discuss best practices in responding to safe2tell reports, including defining roles, communication about a report, outcome reporting, and training resources to improve school resource officers' support of students and school staff. Safe2tell may conduct a survey to collect data and discussions regarding its operations. The first training meeting must be held by August 1, 2024.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-085: Sunset Continue Sexual Misconduct Advisory Committee Effective Date: August 7, 2023.

Summary: The sexual misconduct advisory committee (advisory committee) repeals September 1, 2023. This committee makes recommendations to the General Assembly and to institutions of higher education concerning sexual misconduct policies and methods to reduce sexual misconduct at higher education institutions. The bill implements the department of regulatory agencies' recommendation to continue the advisory committee indefinitely.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-170: Extreme Risk Protection Order Petitions

Effective Date: April 28, 2023

Summary: This bill repeals and reenacts state law regarding extreme risk protection orders (ERPOs), under which people can petition a judge to order a gun seizure of an individual. Under current law, a family or household member and a law enforcement officer or agency can petition for an ERPO. This bill extends eligible petitioners to include licensed medical care providers, licensed mental health care providers, educators, and district attorneys.

This bill includes a liability section, which states that criminal, administrative, or civil liability is not imposed on any person or entity for acts or omissions made in good faith related to obtaining an ERPO or a temporary ERPO. This includes reporting, declining to report, investigating, declining to investigate, filing, or declining to file a petition. Additionally, the bill does not require any parties to file a petition for an ERPO. However, a person who files a malicious or knowingly false petition for an ERPO may be subject to liability.

This bill also requires the office of gun violence prevention to create a public education campaign regarding the availability of, and the process for requesting, an ERPO. It also creates an extreme risk protection order information hotline to assist the public regarding this topic.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies, but CASB may develop an optional sample policy or guidance if needed.

HB23-1003: School Mental Health Screening Effective Date: June 5, 2023

Summary: This bill creates the sixth through twelfth grade mental health screening program. In participating schools, the program will utilize an evidence-based screening tool for early identification of student mental health concerns.

Within the first two weeks of the school year, participating schools must provide written notice to parents that a mental health screening will be conducted at school and include required information regarding the screening. A parent may opt out of their child's participation. Upon screening, if the screener believes a student is at risk of attempting self-harm or harming others, the bill includes provisions for immediate notification of the student's parents, school, section 504 coordinator, and special education director. If the screener believes the student has a mental health concern and is in need of additional services, the screener must notify the parents within 48 hours and provide information on behavioral health resources and services. The bill imposes other requirements on the screener, including reporting suspected child abuse or neglect if they believe a child is a victim.

The Behavioral Health Administration in the Department of Human Services will consult with certain Colorado departments to determine priority counties and districts for the program. To participate, a public school must notify the BHA before May 1 in the year before the school year that the public school wishes to participate.

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policy JLDAC: Screening/Testing of Students and accompanying exhibit JLDAC-E, will be reviewed and may be updated as needed to reflect the bill's changes.

SB23-249: False Reporting of an Emergency Effective Date: June 7, 2023

Summary: This bill makes falsely reporting a mass shooting or active shooter a class 6 felony when the report causes an evacuation, shelter-in-place order, disruptions to regular activities, or the initiation of a standard response protocol. It also expands the crime of false reporting of an emergency to include when a threat causes a shelter-in-place order or results in disruptions or

impacts to regular activities or the initiation of a standard response protocol. Finally, the bill adds false reporting of an emergency that is a bias-motivated crime to the Victim's Rights Acts.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-241: Creation Of Office of School Safety

Effective Date: April 27, 2023

Summary: This bill creates the Office of School Safety. Among other responsibilities, the office will oversee the Colorado School Safety Resource Center, which assists schools in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and crisis situations by offering training and other supportive services. The center provides information and resources related to school safety, school emergency response planning and training, and interoperable communications to the division of fire prevention and control in the department of public safety for distribution to school districts and schools. The bill clarifies that this responsibility does not permit the provision of firearms to school districts or schools.

Within the office, this bill creates a crisis response unit to assist schools in responding to a crisis or emergency event. It also moves the administration of the school access for emergency response grant program (SAFER) to this office, from its previous administration in the Department of Public Safety.

This bill also creates the youth violence prevention grant program to provide grants to eligible entities of up to \$100,000 to develop strategies for youth violence intervention. Finally, the bill specifies that eligible entities that receive money from the school security disbursement program may use the money to implement school resource officer programs and co-responder programs.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1009: Secondary School Student Substance Use

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill creates a secondary school student substance use committee in the Department of Education. The committee will develop a practice for secondary schools to implement that identifies a student's substance use, offers a brief intervention with information regarding substance use and consequential health risks, and refers the students to substance use treatment resources. The committee report shall be submitted by January 5, 2024.

Committee appointments must be made by September 1, 2023, and the bill provides requirements for committee membership selection, including students, teachers, counselors, and administrators. Members of the committee shall be equally from rural areas and non-rural areas and include racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity to the extent practicable.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1213: Stop the Bleed School Training and Kits

Effective Date: May 15, 2023

Summary: "Stop the Bleed" is a program administered by the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma which aims to educate individuals regarding how to stop bleeding when a person has suffered a traumatic injury. This bill allows K-12 schools to opt-in to receiving "Stop the Bleed" training materials and bleed control kits. This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Public Health and Environment for the next three fiscal years to distribute the kits. Schools will receive a certain amount of bleed control kits based on the school's population. Additionally, the bill requires CDE to submit a report regarding the implementation of the bill by July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter until July 1, 2026.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-014: Disordered Eating Prevention

Effective Date: May 30, 2023

Summary: This bill creates the Disordered Eating Prevention Program and a research grant program within the Department of Public Health and Environment to better understand the risk factors, impacts, and interventions associated with disordered eating. The prevention program must be established by July 1, 2024. It must include an annually updated resource that includes key information about disordered eating, including risk factors and prevention factors, that is culturally sensitive and available in both English and Spanish. It must also collaborate with other departments, including CDE, to increase awareness and inform teachers, administrators, school staff, students, and parents on disordered eating prevention. The grant program will provide financial assistance for applicants to conduct research on the causes of disordered eating and other analysis, and guidelines for the grant program must be adopted by October 1, 2024.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

STUDENTS

HB23-1089: Special Education Services for Students in Foster Care Effective Date: April 25, 2023

Summary: This bill changes the residency status of students in foster care in an out-of-home placement. Currently, a student in an out-of-home placement is considered to be a resident of the school district where the placement is located, even if that student continues to attend a school in another school district. The bill designates students in out-of-home placements as

residents of the school district of their school of origin as long as the student attends the school of origin, with some exceptions. The bill also requires the state department of human services to organize a working group to identify and address issues related to foster youth education, transportation, and stability and to provide written recommendations on the topic to the general assembly before the 2025 legislative session.

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policy JFABE*: Students in Foster Care, and accompanying regulation JFABE*-R, will be reviewed and may be modified as necessary based on the bill's changes.

SB23-008: Youth Involvement Education Standards Review Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: The bill creates several opportunities for youth to be involved in the review of the state's education standards. The commissioner will be required to appoint youth representatives from nominations submitted by Colorado schools to participate in the standards development process and to attend regional educator meetings. Representatives shall be from rural, small rural, and urban areas.

Additionally, each local education provider is required to appoint 2 youth representatives to participate in the districts' review of their own elementary and secondary education standards. Local education providers are already required to review their standards every 6 years. Youth representatives must be selected from the local education provider's range and, if possible, one shall be from a rural district and one shall be from an urban district.

The bill also requires CDE to promote the opportunities for youth involvement and request that schools nominate youth to participate.

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policy AEA: Standards Based Education will be reviewed and may be updated to reflect the bill's changes.

SB23-086: Student Leaders Institute

Effective Date: June 30, 2023

Summary: Under current law, the Colorado Student Leaders Institute Program in the Department of Higher Education repeals on July 1, 2024. This bill continues the program indefinitely and moves it from DHE to CDE. It changes oversight of the program from a Governor-appointed executive board to the state board of education. Finally, it requires CDE to promote involvement of students in the institute who are eligible for free or reduced lunch or would be the first in their immediate families to attend college, as well as promote gender, ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic diversity.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1291: Procedures for Expulsion Hearing Officers

Effective Date: June 1, 2023

Summary: The bill modifies the school expulsion hearing process, and other changes associated with expulsions and denials of admissions. The bill's changes are as follows:

- **Burden of proof.** Prior to implementing an expulsion, a school district has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that a student violated one of the grounds for suspension or expulsion in state law and the school district's policy.
- **Supporting evidence.** If an expulsion or denial of admission hearing is requested by a student, a school district is required to provide all records that the school district intends to use as supporting evidence to the student or student's parent at least 2 business days that are also school days prior to the hearing. Additional records must be provided immediately upon discovery.
- **Reports and written opinions.** Requires hearing officers to include in their findings of fact and recommendations specific findings regarding the factors set forth in Section 22-33-106 (1.2), including age, disciplinary history, disability status, seriousness of the violation, whether the violation threatened the safety of others, and whether a lesser intervention would address the violation. Additionally, an executive officer acting as a hearing officer must provide their written opinion to the student or their parent/guardian.
- **Conflict of interest.** Prohibits a hearing officer from having a conflict of interest regarding a student under consideration for expulsion or denial of admission, or towards any alleged victim. An executive officer involved in investigating or reporting an incident that leads to a hearing shall not act as a hearing officer, and shall delegate the responsibility to a designee who is not involved.
- **Policy requirement.** Requires school districts to adopt a policy that states a student must not be expelled or denied admission unless the school district considers whether alternative remedies are appropriate and whether excluding the student from school is necessary to preserve the learning environment.
- Judicial proceedings process. Clarifies the judicial proceedings process available to a student or the student's parents, guardians, or legal custodians to set aside the school district board of education's decision to expel or deny admission to the student.
- **Training.** By June 30, 2024, requires CDE to create an online training program for hearing officers who conduct expulsion hearings, but districts may also develop their own training programs that meet or exceed the requirements of the CDE's training program. The bill requires certain content of the training program, including restorative justice, avoiding conflicts of interest, and alternatives to expulsion. Starting January 1, 2025, hearing officers must complete the training program within 30 days after the date the hearing officer starts work.
- **Appropriation.** The bill appropriates \$162,720 from the general fund to the department for hearing officer training and support.

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policies JKG*: Expulsion Prevention, and JKD/JKE: Suspension/Expulsion of Students and accompanying regulation JKD/JKE-R will be reviewed and updated as needed to meet the bill's changes.

SB23-296: Prevent Harassment and Discrimination in Schools

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill makes changes to public schools' harassment and discrimination investigation process.

- **Definition of Harassment or Discrimination**. The bill creates a definition of "harassment or discrimination" for the purposes of the bill, meaning to engage in unwelcome physical or verbal conduct that is directed at a student because of their membership in a protected class, and that the conduct or communication is objectively offensive to a reasonable individual who is a member of the same protected class. The bill includes further description of the definition harassment or discrimination.
- **Reports.** Schools must accept formal reports of harassment or discrimination in writing in person, by phone, email, or online form. Reports are to be kept confidential to the extent practicable and records must be maintained for seven years.
- **Notices.** Schools must post notices in multiple places in the school describing how a student can report harassment or discrimination.
- Accommodations and Supportive Measures. The bill requires schools to provide accommodations and supportive measures for students who have experienced harassment or discrimination, including granting excused absences, counseling, extra time for homework, and other accommodations.
- **Training and Reporting.** The bill requires public schools to provide training to all employees about harassment and discrimination, and includes requirements for how often training must be completed. It also imposes reporting requirements regarding the reports received by the school.
- **Policy protecting students from harassment or discrimination.** Before July 1, 2024, each local education provider must adopt a written policy that protects students from harassment or discrimination, separate from any Title IX policy. The new policy must be annually distributed, prominently displayed on the home page of the school's website, and include the following:
 - Reporting options available to a student
 - Name and contact information for the person designated to receive reports of harassment or discrimination
 - Explanation of the school's role in responding to reports of harassment or discrimination, preventing recurrence of harassment or discrimination, and remedying effects of the harassment or discrimination
 - The contact information for resources for victims of violence, including a twentyfour-hour helpline for domestic violence and sexual violence support

- Prohibiting using the report of harassment or discrimination as a consideration in investigating disciplinary response against the reporting student related to the reported incident
- Information about available accommodations and supportive measures
- The protocol for employees to respond to reports of harassment or discrimination, including:
 - The procedures required by the bill for investigating reports of harassment or discrimination and making findings
 - Prohibiting reliance solely on a criminal investigation by a law enforcement agency instead of a school investigation
- **Procedures.** The bill also requires school districts to adopt procedures regarding harassment or discrimination investigations. Procedures must include the following:
 - Schools must make a good faith effort to complete an investigation within sixty days after the report, with the possibility for extensions
 - The preponderance of the evidence standard must be used during the investigation
 - All questions related to the investigation are to be directed to the individual conducting the investigation
 - The individual conducting the investigation shall consider patterns of misconduct as relevant evidence
 - Parties involved in the investigation have the opportunity to have an advisor or other person present during the investigation process.
 - Written updates about the status of an investigation or proceeding to the parties and the parties' parents must be sent at each stage of the investigation, at least every fifteen business days
 - Concurrent notification must be provided to the parties of the outcome of the investigation and findings
 - Schools must prohibit retaliation against a student who makes a report or participates in an investigation

CASB Policy Impact: CASB will draft a new sample policy and regulation to comply with the changes in this bill. Other policies that may be affected include AC: Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and accompanying regulations and exhibits AC-R-1 (Option 1), AC-R-2 (Option 2), AC-R-2*, AC-E-1, and AC-E-2; GBAA: Sexual Harassment; JB: Equal Educational Opportunities; and JBB*: Sexual Harassment.

HB23-1263: Translating Individualized Education Programs

Effective Date: May 25, 2023

Summary: This bill requires local education providers to translate IEPs into the primary language spoken in the home of a special education student. LEPs must also consider the student's specific communication needs when developing the IEP. LEPs may choose to contract with a translation service provider to complete the translation. Additionally, the bill permits the

IEP team to translate draft IEP documents into the child's dominant language. Finally, the bill requires the IEP team to verbally inform the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the right to request translation services.

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policy IHBA: Special Education Programs for Students with Disabilities will be reviewed and may be modified as needed to meet the bill's requirements.

SB23-029: Disproportionate Discipline in Public Schools

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill creates a school discipline task force to study and make recommendations regarding school district discipline policies and practices, state and local discipline reporting requirements, and local engagement. The bill specifies the composition of the task force and that members serve without compensation, but may receive reimbursement for expenses. The task force is required to meet by October 15, 2023, and must meet at least six times between then and the first Colorado Youth Advisory Review Commission meeting in 2024. The final report will be due by August 1, 2024.

The bill also requires school districts to consider a list of factors prior to suspending or expelling a student. Previous law encouraged school districts to consider the same factors.

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policy JKD/JKE: Suspension/Expulsion of Students will be reviewed and may be modified as needed to meet the bill's requirements.

SB23-065: Career Development Success Program Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill increases overall funding for the Career Development Success Program and adds boards of cooperative services to the program. This program provides financial incentives to schools to encourage secondary students to enroll in qualified industry-credential programs, internships, or construction industry apprenticeship programs. The bill also modifies definitions related to construction industry apprenticeships, and allows schools to contract with third parties to administer CDSP programs, among other changes.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

MISCELLANEOUS

SB23-244: Technology Accessibility Cleanup Effective Date: April 20, 2023 **Summary:** This bill modifies the terminology and scope of HB 21-1110, which requires certain public entities to develop a web accessibility plan and fully comply with web accessibility guidelines established by the Office of Information Technology by July 1, 2024.

The bill requires the Office of Information Technology to adopt rules regarding accessibility standards for IT systems employed by state agencies, clarifies that a claim brought for a violation of accessibility standards constitutes a single claim for each digital product, and repeals obsolete provisions.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact to CASB's sample policies.

SB23-175: Financing of Downtown Development Authority Projects Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: The bill allows municipalities to adopt 20-year extensions for property tax increment financing (TIF) arrangements for downtown development authorities (DDA), if approved by the governing board of the municipality. TIF is used to generate capital by dedicating growth in tax revenue to finance projects within the authority's boundaries. The bill requires that a representative from a school district board of education be included in a downtown development authority's board. The bill also requires that the base value of the DDA advance by one year during each year of the automatic and recurring 20-year extension periods. Lastly, the bill allows a municipality and a DDA to enter into an intergovernmental agreement that allows a municipality to delegate the power to incur debt to the DDA, and enable the DDA to pledge money for the payment of the debt.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1249: Reduce Justice Involvement for Young Children

Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: This bill modifies a previously-created working group for criteria of placement of juvenile offenders, modifies provisions and funding for collaborative management programs, and makes other changes including training and reporting requirements.

DHS provides an annual report to the working group. This bill requires DHS to include data on the number of youth who, at the time they received services from a county department, had an open delinquency case, were on juvenile probation, had a juvenile deferred sentence, and were in an out of home placement.

The bill modifies provisions related to interagency oversight groups that allows school district and county departments of human services to coordinate services for children and families. The interagency oversight group may include a representative or practitioner from local, regional, or statewide restorative justice programs. DHS no longer needs to develop performance measures for collaborative management programs. Additionally, the local collaborative management program will be required to create at least one individualized service and support team. Finally, the child's records with the program cannot be used as evidence in a hearing in which the child is accused.

Under the bill, DHS is required to create a model information form for children for a party to use to refer a child to a local collaborative management program before December 1, 2023, and adds requirements to already-required training development. The bill also makes changes to required reporting by the district attorney of each judicial district and by interagency oversight groups.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1026: Family Time for Grandparents

Effective Date: May 23, 2023

Summary: Under current law, grandparents and great-grandparents can seek a court order for visitation rights in child custody cases or in cases that concern the allocation of parental responsibilities. The bill allows a court to appoint a child's legal representative to represent the child's best interests in these cases. The bill clarifies that in determining the best interests of a child for the purpose of family time, the court shall presume that any parental determination regarding family time is in the best interests of the child, but that a grandparent can overcome this presumption by providing clear and convincing evidence. The bill also changes the term "visitation rights" to "family time".

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1027: Parent and Child Family Time Effective Date: June 1, 2023

Summary: This bill enacts new requirements for family time during dependency and neglect proceedings and extends the task force on High-Quality Family Time by one year to commission and evaluate a study. The bill also requires a permanency hearing to be held within 12 years after a child enters foster care. It also changes the term "visitation time" to "family time".

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1095: Prohibited Provisions In Rental Agreements Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: The bill prohibits written rental agreements from including the following:

- a waiver of the right to a jury trial unless agreed upon in a hearing to determine possession of a dwelling unit;
- a waiver of the ability to bring, join, litigate, or support collective claims and actions;
- a waiver of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing;
- a waiver of the implied covenant of quiet enjoyment, except that an agreement may specify that a landlord is not responsible for violations by a third party acting beyond landlord control;
- a provision that purports to affix fees, damages, or penalties for tenants' failure to provide notice of nonrenewal of a rental agreement, except for actual losses incurred by a landlord;
- a provision that defines any amount or fee other than the set monthly payment for occupancy, including utilities and service charges, as "rent," and would allow landlords to collect such fees through rental collection remedies, including eviction;
- a provision that requires tenants to pay for a service billed to landlords by third-party in an amount greater than 2 percent or \$10, but not both; and
- a provision that allows a provider operating under any local, state, or federal voucher or subsidy program to pursue an action for possession based solely on the nonpayment of utilities.

The bill applies to agreements executed on or after the effective date, does not apply to occupancy of a mobile home in a mobile home park, does not apply all requirements to duplexes or triplexes or to accessory dwelling units in certain cases, and does not exclude utility costs from inclusion in the calculation of housing costs eligible for reimbursement under any local, state, or federal voucher or subsidy program.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1100: Restrict Government Involvement in Immigration Detention Effective Date: August 7, 2023

Summary: Beginning January 1, 2024, the bill prohibits state and local governments from:

- entering into an agreement to detain individuals in an immigration detention facility operated by a private entity;
- selling property for the purpose of establishing an immigration detention facility operated by a private entity;
- paying a private entity for the operation of an immigration facility;
- receiving payment related to the detention of individuals in an immigration detention facility from a private entity; or
- giving financial incentive or benefit to a private entity or person that operates an immigration detention facility.

On January 1, 2024, any entity that has an agreement must terminate the agreement as soon as possible within the terms of the agreement.

The bill does not prohibit a state or local government from providing health and safety resources to individuals who are being detained, nor does it prohibit them from contracting for health, utility, and sanitation services to immigration detention facilities.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

HB23-1120: Eviction Protections for Residential Tenants

Effective Date: June 6, 2023

Summary: The bill requires mediation in eviction proceedings when the tenant qualifies for certain types of financial assistance. It requires most landlords to include in their lease agreements a statement that the law prohibits source of income discrimination and requires a landlord to accept any lawful and verifiable source of money paid.

The bill also specifies that it is not a violation of the bill for a landlord to ask a residential tenant whether they receive certain types of financial assistance.

The bill also requires that any written demand regarding unlawful detention of real property includes a provision stating that a residential tenant who receives certain types of financial assistance has a right to mediation prior to the landlord filing an eviction complaint. The bill makes other changes regarding writs of restitution and the execution of the writ, which will allow tenants receiving certain kinds of financial assistance to have at least thirty days to vacate the premises after a writ is entered evicting a tenant.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-005: Forestry and Wildfire Mitigation Workforce

Effective Date: May 12, 2023

Summary: This bill creates and expands timber, forest health, and wildfire mitigation workforce development and education programs.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-056: Compensatory Direct Distribution to PERA

Effective Date: June 2, 2023

Summary: This bill requires a payment to be made to the Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA) to recompense PERA for the cancellation of a previously scheduled July 1, 2020 direct distribution. The amount of the payment is the balance of the PERA Payment Cash

Fund, plus \$10 million in General Fund, which will recompense PERA for interest earnings on the July 1, 2020 payment, in addition to partial recompensation provided in previous legislation.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

SB23-202: Wearing of Native American Traditional Regalia Effective Date: May 4, 2023

Summary: The bill requires school districts and institutions of higher education to allow qualifying students to wear traditional Native American regalia at a graduation ceremony. Qualifying students are members of a tribe or are of Native American descent.

CASB Policy Impact: CASB sample policy JICA: Student Dress Code, will be reviewed and modified as needed to reflect the bill's changes.

HB23-1298: Earlier Funding for Middle School Lead Testing Effective Date: June 1, 2023

Summary: The bill allows the Department of Public Health and Environment to begin providing reimbursements to middle schools for lead testing costs on June 1, 2023, instead of March 15, 2024.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies.

2023 Bills that Died

Failed or Lost Bills:

These are the bills that were postponed indefinitely (failed/lost), or were laid over (rescheduled), until after the end of the legislative session, effectively letting the bills die on the calendar due to the time constraints of this year's legislative session:

- <u>HB23-1029</u>: Prohibit COVID-19 Vaccine To Minor Without Consent
- <u>HB23-1054:</u> Property Valuation
- <u>HB23-1063:</u> Reduction Of State Income Tax Rate
- <u>HB23-1079</u>: Income Tax Credits For Nonpublic Education
- HB23-1092: Limiting Use Of State Money
- HB23-1098: Women's Rights In Athletics
- <u>HB23-1109:</u> School Policies And Student Conduct
- HB23-1118: Fair Workweek Employment Standards
- <u>HB23-1176:</u> PERA Defined Contribution Plan School Personnel
- <u>HB23-1177:</u> Cameras On School Buses For Student Safety
- HB23-1211: Collect Data Language Translation Services Special Education
- HB23-1239: Local Innovation For Education Assessments
- <u>HB23-1308:</u> Access To Government By Persons With Disabilities
- <u>SB23-030</u>: Eligible Educator Classroom Expenses Tax Credit
- <u>SB23-071:</u> Education Accountability Act
- SB23-080: Tax Credit Parental Engagement In Schools
- <u>SB23-104:</u> Public Employees' Retirement Association True-up Of Denver Public Schools
 Division Employer Contribution
- <u>SB23-181:</u> Dyslexia Screening In Schools

Vetoed Bills:

These are the bills that were approved by both the House and the Senate, but were vetoed by Governor Jared Polis during the period after the legislative session concluded.

- <u>HB23-1259</u>: Open Meetings Law Executive Sessions Violations
 - For more information on this veto, please review the <u>Governor's veto letter</u> and CASB's <u>June 6, 2023 legislative update</u>.

The November Election

2023 is a biennial election year. School districts may submit tax and revenue measures to voters during this year's state election on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. Visit CASB's <u>Elections</u> <u>website</u> for information and resources on ballot elections. Visit the Secretary of State's <u>website</u> for updates to initiative filings following the date of publication of this Legislative Summary.

Ballot Measures

There are several ballot issues that voters may be considering in Colorado this fall. Here are the ones impacting education:

Statewide Ballot Initiatives			
<u>#3</u>	Establishment of a new Attainable Housing Fee	Would create a new housing fee paid for the purchaser of property, (.1% for property over \$200,000) which would be deposited into a Colorado attainable housing fund and used to fund new programs to support affordable housing in Colorado.	Title set
<u>#15</u>	Reduction in State Income Tax Rate	Asks voters to reduce state income tax rate from 4.40% to 4.35%, which will reduce state revenue used for funding for the department of revenue and department of personnel by \$1.55 million.	Title set
<u>#16</u>	Reduction in State Income Tax rate	Asks voters to reduce the state income tax rate from 4.40% to 4.25%, which will reduce state revenue by \$4.67 million.	Title set
<u>#17</u>	Reduction in State Income Tax Rate	Asks voters to reduce the state income tax rate from 4.40% to 4.25%, which will reduce state revenue used for funding used for expenditures that include higher education, human services, and judicial branch operations by \$467,200,000.	Title set
<u>#19</u>	Student Funding for K- 12 Education	Asks voters to approve adding an amendment to the Colorado Constitution concerning the right to school choice, creating a right for parents and guardians to direct per pupil funding to schooling of their choice that includes public and private schooling, home schooling, and open enrollment.	Title set

<u>#21</u>	Limitation on Property Tax Increases	This measure would reduce local property tax revenue by limiting annual growth in property taxes to 3%, excluding cases in which the property is substantially improved in certain ways, and allow the state to retain and spend up to \$100 million of excess state revenue (that it would otherwise be required to refund to residents under the <u>Colorado Taxpayer's Bill</u> <u>of Rights (TABOR)</u>) to offset reduced property tax revenue and give to local governments for fire protection.	Title set
<u>#35</u>	Limitation on Increases in Property Tax Revenue	This measure would reduce property tax revenue by limiting annual growth in property taxes to 3%, excluding certain high-value properties, and allow the state to retain excess state revenue (that it would otherwise be required to refund to residents under the <u>Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR)</u>) to offset reduced property tax revenue and give to school districts and local governments for fire protection	Title set
<u>#36</u>	Limitation on Increases in Property Tax Revenue	This measure would reduce the property tax rate, and allow the state to retain and spend revenues (that it would otherwise be required to refund to residents under the <u>Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights</u> (<u>TABOR</u>)) to offset reduced property tax revenue and give to school districts and local governments for fire protection.	Title set
<u>#39</u>	Authorization to Retain Excess State Revenue	This allows the state to retain and spend excess state revenue if there is a reduction in property tax revenue resulting from a statewide limitation of property taxes, and requires that retained state revenue is used to offset funding for school districts and local governments for fire protection or water conservation.	Title set

<u>#40</u>	Authorization to Retain Excess State Revenue	This allows the state to retain and spend excess state revenue if state law revises property taxation laws, and requires that retained revenue be used to offset funding for school districts and local governments for fire protection or water conservation.	Title set	
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