



Colorado Association
of School Boards

Legislative Summary 2024



June 2024

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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 2024 election and the 2025 legislative session.

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

1. 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 29, 2024 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 19, 2024 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 [Matt Cook](#) 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.

2024 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 [register on bills](#) and what our registration means:

1. Why do we register? Colorado law requires that a professional lobbyist register 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 [CASB Delegate Assembly](#) 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 [CASB’s Legislative Resolutions Committee \(LRC\)](#). 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 [CASB region](#).

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. For example, 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, helping determine CASB's legislative platform and priorities, and 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.

2024 Legislative Summary Passed/Enacted

BOARD OF EDUCATION

[HB24-1154: Institute Charter Schools & Bond Indebtedness](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: The bill allows a board of education to ask voters to approve bonded indebtedness for the capital construction, land, or facility needs of a charter school authorized by the state Charter School Institute (CSI school). The bill specifies the process for a school district that decides to include a CSI school in a ballot measure, which requires that the CSI school submit a capital construction plan, and that the school district and CSI school enter into a written agreement to address the allocation of costs, investment earnings, and debt recovery if the CSI school ceases to operate.

CASB Policy Impact: DEA—Funds from Local Tax Sources, LBDA*—Facilities Planning and Funding for District Charter Schools, and FD—Facilities Funding will be reviewed and revised as necessary to comply with this bill.

CHILD WELFARE & PROTECTION

[HB24-1017: Bill of Rights for Foster Youth](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: The bill establishes statutory rights for foster care youth, requires county human service departments to provide written notice to foster youth about their rights, and clarifies the authority of courts to enforce these rights. The bill includes many rights for foster youth, which include freedom from discrimination or harassment; freedom of thought, culture and religion, freedom to express gender identity; access to services, placements, and programs they are eligible for; notification of the benefits they are eligible for; and education. Education includes receiving a free and appropriate education, access to transportation to schools, and the opportunity to participate in sports and activities consistent with the youth's age and developmental level. It also includes access to computer technology and the internet as needed for educational purposes. Additionally, a foster youth is entitled to school stability that presumes the child or youth will remain in the school of origin in which the child or youth is enrolled in at the time of placement, unless remaining in that school is not in the child's or youth's best interest. The bill also includes a mechanism to enforce these rights or report denials of the rights.

CASB Policy Impact: JJJ—Extracurricular Activity Eligibility, JFABE*—Students in Foster Care, associated regulation JFABE*-R, and associated exhibit JFABE*-E will be reviewed and revised as necessary to comply with the bill.

[HB24-1038: High-Acuity Crisis for Children and Youth](#)

Effective Date: June 6, 2024

Summary: The bill creates and expands programs for youth who are in, or at risk of being placed in, out-of-home care, such as psychiatric residential facilities and residential treatment programs. The bill directs the

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, the Behavioral Health Administration, and the Department of Human Services to create a system of care for the youth populations they deem appropriate, which must include youth covered by Medicaid. The system must implement a needs assessment tool, provide intensive care coordination, and expand access to treatment foster care and supportive services under the Children’s Habilitation Residential Program Waiver. The BHA must promulgate rules to implement the program by October 1, 2024. The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing may promulgate rules and must implement the expanded access to treatment foster care under Medicaid by January 1, 2025. The bill also creates a residential child care provider training academy for residential child care providers, and requires the State Department to create rules for the administration of this academy by September 15, 2025.

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

HB24-1216: Supports for Youth in Juvenile Justice System

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: This bill establishes rights for justice-engaged students related to education. This includes having the right to alternative solutions for general education; prompt enrollment with a local education provider; appropriate credit for coursework completed while justice-engaged; a graduation plan; privacy; education while committed; and participation in gifted and talented and college readiness programs. The privacy right requires officers who need to visit with a student regarding diversion, probation, or questioning about a crime to schedule visits in advance with the district office and hold a meeting in a private area out of sight of other students.

The bill has three major new requirements for local education providers (i.e. districts and BOCES)

1. Post explanation of services and resources available for justice-engaged students on the district’s website,
2. Designate a person to serve as a point of contact for justice-engaged students,
3. Follow the bill of rights for justice-engaged students, which includes providing the student with a graduation and promotion plan; appropriate credit for coursework completed while justice-engaged; prompt enrollment or re-enrollment no later than 10 business days after the first request to the local education provider; and allowing the justice-engaged student to participate in school activities or career readiness pathways in accordance with rules promulgated by the state board of education.

Small and rural school districts that are not BOCES members may use a member of the Colorado Department of Education as their point of contact, rather than a district employee. Additionally, the bill specifies that local education providers retain the right to suspend or expel a justice-engaged student if permitted by C.R.S. 22-33-105 and 106, despite any provisions in the bill to the contrary.

Each district’s point of contact must understand state-created guidance, support the justice-engaged student in a variety of ways, and complete training. The bill directs the State Board of Education to promulgate rules by August 1, 2025 and guidance by August 1, 2026. Additionally, the bill creates a working group, requires CDE to create a hotline, and requires CDE to develop a data tracking system to track data on attendance, drop-out rates, and graduation rates for justice-engaged students by 2025-2026.

CASB Policy Impact: KLG—Relations with State Agencies, JIH—Student Interviews, Interrogations, Searches and Arrests, and JK—Student Discipline will be reviewed and revised as necessary to comply with the bill.

[HB24-1277: Sunset Youth Restraint & Seclusion Working Group](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: The youth restraint and seclusion working group is set to repeal September 1, 2024. This bill extends the working group ten more years, until September 1, 2034.

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

[HB24-1009: Bilingual Child Care Licensing Resources](#)

Effective Date: June 6, 2024

Summary: The bill creates the bilingual licensing unit within the Department of Early Childhood to provide resources in plain language and prevalent languages (English and Spanish) to help individuals comply with child care licensing compliance requirements. CDEC is also required to provide services in different languages to individuals opening or operating an early childhood program licensed by CDEC. CDEC must report on language barriers in obtaining child care licenses to the General Assembly by March 30, 2026.

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

[HB24-1332: Sunset Continue Colorado Department of Early Childhood Executive Director Rule-Making](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: This bill continues the rulemaking authority for the Executive Director of the Department of Early Childhood, which is scheduled to repeal on September 1, 2024. State fiscal impacts under the bill include only the continuation of the program's current expenditures. The program is continued through September 1, 2031.

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

[SB24-071: Seasonal Outdoor Adventure Day Camp Program](#)

Effective Date: April 4, 2024

Summary: Currently, the Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) requires outdoor adventure day camp programs to meet the licensing requirements of school-age child care centers. The bill requires these programs to instead fall under the regulatory framework for children's resident camps, defining it as a type of children's resident camp that serves children five years or older and operates for at least six hours a day on a seasonal basis.

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

[SB24-078: Outdoor Nature-Based Preschool Programs](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: The bill requires the Department of Early Childhood to develop rules for outdoor program licensing for child care centers serving children between three and eight years of age with at least 50% in department-approved outdoor space. The rules must be developed by December 31, 2025, and the department will provide

trainings to licensing staff in the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and to outdoor program staff on their operations beginning in 2025-26.

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

ELECTIONS

[HB24-1147: Candidate Election Deepfake Disclosures](#)

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

Summary: This bill creates new regulations and penalties for using artificial intelligence and deepfake generated content related to communications about candidates for elected office, which includes school board elections. Deepfakes are synthetic media that have been digitally manipulated to replace one's likeness convincingly with that of another.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies, but CASB's election resources will be reviewed and revised as necessary.

[HB24-1131: Local College Districts](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: Under existing law, voters must approve a school district's annexation into a local college district at a regular biennial school election. This bill removes that restriction, so that the approval vote may occur at any regular election. Additionally, the bill makes a variety of changes to the structure of a local college district's board. The bill also allows housing projects in rural communities or rural resort communities that are subsidized by a Transformational Affordable Housing Grant to prioritize housing for students and government employees on land that is owned by a local college district.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies, but CASB's election resources will be reviewed and revised as necessary.

FINANCE

[HB24-1044: Additional PERA Service Retirees for Schools](#)

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

Summary: This bill provides school districts additional flexibility to address teacher shortages, and may increase employer contributions to PERA. Under current law, all PERA retirees may work up to 110 calendar days without experiencing a reduction in retirement benefits. When school districts have a "critical shortage of qualified instructors," they may hire up to 10 retirees who may work up to 140 days without the retiree experiencing a reduction in their retirement benefits. The bill allows school districts to hire up to 10 retirees whenever the district identifies a "need" for additional instructors. Additionally, school districts may exceed the ten retiree cap by 1 retiree for every 1,000 students above 10,000 students. School districts must provide a list to PERA of all service retirees it employs under this law.

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

[HB24-1182: Department of Early Childhood Supplemental](#)

Effective Date: March 6, 2024

Summary: This bill provides supplemental funding to the Department of Early Childhood.

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

[HB24-1183: Department of Education Supplemental](#)

Effective Date: March 6, 2024

Summary: This bill provides supplemental funding to the Department of Education.

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

[HB24-1205: Colorado Imagination Library Program](#)

Effective Date: February 27, 2024

Summary: The Colorado Imagination Library Program, established in Senate Bill 20-185, provides books to children under the age of five free of charge. CDE contracts with a nonprofit for operation of the program, with the cost of the books equally split between the state and local affiliates such as nonprofits, libraries, and other local entities. Beginning June 30, 2024, this bill relocates the program from CDE to CDEC. Additionally, it allows the contractor operating the program to partner with book vendors or publishers to provide free books to children.

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

[HB24-1206: School Food Authorities](#)

Effective Date: March 8, 2024

Summary: The Healthy Schools Meals for All program provides free meals for public school students who are enrolled in a participating school district, charter school, or other entity that serves as a school food authority. Beginning in FY 2024-25, it also provides employee wage and local food purchasing grants. The bill adds facility schools, residential child care facilities, and the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind to the list of school food authorities, making them eligible for state nutrition programs, including the Healthy Schools Meals for All program. These schools are already treated as school food authorities by the federal school meal programs.

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

[HB24-1207: Adjustments to School Funding Budget Year 2023-2024](#)

Effective Date: March 8, 2024

Summary: This bill makes mid-year adjustments to the 2023 School Finance Act to maintain the budget stabilization factor at the level anticipated by the original appropriation. Adjustments are based on the October 2023 student count and certified property values for the 2023 tax year. These adjustments increase the statewide average per pupil funding after application of the budget stabilization factor to \$10,670.18 in 2023-2024.

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

[HB24-1282: Ninth-Grade Success Grant and Performance Reporting](#)

Effective Date: May 18, 2024

Summary: The bill continues the Ninth Grade Success Grant Program, which was set to repeal July 1, 2025. The General Assembly is required to appropriate \$2.0 million per year through the 2027-2028 fiscal year, which is to be funded from the State Education Fund. The bill also specifies the school and district-level data that must be included in the annual program report.

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

[HB24-1387: Preschool Programs Cash Fund](#)

Effective Date: April 18, 2024

Summary: The bill prohibits the General Assembly from appropriating the full balance in the Preschool Programs Cash Fund and allows the Department of Early Childhood to access the reserve funds by submitting a request for a supplemental appropriation from the Joint Budget Committee. The bill also clarifies that CDEC may use the remaining money appropriated to provide additional preschool services for certain low-income families and for the Universal Preschool Program, only after providing the services outlined in current law.

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

[HB24-1389: School Funding 2023-24 for New Arrival Students](#)

Effective Date: April 18, 2024

Summary: The bill provides \$24 million from the State Education Fund to the Colorado Department of Education to be distributed to school districts and state Charter School Institute charter schools that enrolled new arrival students after the 2023-2024 count day. The funding must be districted by May 31, 2024.

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

[HB24-1390: School Food Programs](#)

Effective Date: April 29, 2024

Summary: The bill makes changes to the Healthy School Meals for All program and creates a technical advisory group to make financial recommendations for the program.

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

[HB24-1394: Mill Levy Equalization](#)

Effective Date: April 18, 2024

Summary: Under current law, the General Assembly appropriates or transfers money to the Mill Levy Equalization Fund to equalize mill levy override funding for Charter School Institute students. This bill repeals the fund, and instead, requires the General Assembly to appropriate General Fund or State Education Funds

directly to the CSI to fund full mill levy equalization for all institute charter schools, beginning in fiscal year 2024-2025.

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

[HB24-1395: Public School Capital Construction Assistance Fund Transfer Date](#)

Effective Date: April 18, 2024

Summary: The bill delays the scheduled transfer of \$20 million from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund to the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Fund from June 1, 2024 to June 1, 2026, and decreases appropriations from the assistance fund to the Colorado Department of Education.

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

[HB24-1427: Public Employees' Retirement Association Study Conducted by Actuarial Firm](#)

Effective Date: April 18, 2024

Summary: The bill requires the state auditor to contract with an actuarial firm to conduct a study of the Public Employee's Retirement Association's (PERA) financials.

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

[HB24-1448: New Public School Finance Formula](#)

Effective Date: May 23, 2024

Summary: The bill creates a new school finance formula, starting in 2025-2026, which restructures the distribution of Permanent Fund interest and makes other changes related to the funding of public schools, including changing how money flows into two funds and increasing state expenditures and school district funding on an ongoing basis.

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

[SB24-017: Distribution of State Share of District Total Program](#)

Effective Date: April 4, 2024

Summary: The bill modifies how the state share of school finance is distributed to school districts by increasing state workload and shifting the timing of state expenditures and local school district revenue.

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

[SB24-188: Public School Finance](#)

Effective Date: May 23, 2024

Summary: This bill is the 2024 School Finance Act that sets funding levels for Colorado's 178 school districts. It also adds a rural funding factor to the school finance formula, delays implementation of the new at-risk measure, provides funding for the mill levy override match program, among other program changes. The bill includes a state transfer and increases state expenditures and school district funding beginning in 2024-2025.

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

[SB24-221: Funding for Rural Health Care](#)

Effective Date: June 6, 2024

Summary: The bill appropriates funds to the Colorado Department of Higher Education to expand its rural health-care workforce initiative and to the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to make payments to rural hospitals only for the 2024-2025 year.

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

[SB24-233: Property Tax](#)

Effective Date: Upon results of 2024 Election.

Summary: The bill makes reductions in valuations for residential and commercial property taxation beginning with the 2024 property tax year. Starting in the 2025 property tax year, the bill makes reductions that impact schools and local government entities separately. The bill introduces a local revenue growth limit and makes other changes to property tax law.

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

[SB24-099: Public Employees' Retirement Association After Retirement for Rural Schools](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: The bill adds rural superintendents and principals to the list of allowed retirees who may return to work for a school district without a reduction in retirement benefits.

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

HIGHER EDUCATION

[HB24-1290: Student Educator Stipend Program](#)

Effective Date: June 4, 2024

Summary: The bill requires the General Assembly to appropriate money from the State Education Fund for the Student Educator Stipend Program and increases the state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

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

[HB24-1305: Changes for Concurrent Enrollment Students](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: Under current law, credits earned through the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) Program, concurrent enrollment courses, developmental education courses, the Accelerating Students in Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) Program, and the Teacher Recruitment and Education Program (TREP) count against a student's allowable College Opportunity Fund (COF) limits. The bill changes this law

so that P-TECH, concurrent enrollment, development education, ASCENT, and TREP credits do not count against a student's COF credit limit.

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

[HB24-1364: Education-Based Workforce Readiness](#)

Effective Date: May 23, 2024

Summary: The bill requires the Colorado Department of Education to complete a financial study on postsecondary and workforce readiness programs, and creates the Colorado Statewide Longitudinal Data System in the Office of Information Technology.

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

[HB24-1392: Cap Schools in Early High School Graduation Pilot](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: The bill limits future participation in the Fourth-Year Innovation Pilot Program, which disburses state funding to postsecondary education and training programs on behalf of low-income students who graduate high school early, and requires the Department of Higher Education and the Colorado Department of Education to jointly evaluate and present recommendations on the program.

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

[HB24-1393: Accelerating Concurrent Enrollment Program Modifications](#)

Effective Date: April 18, 2024; except that Section 3 of the bill takes effect July 1, 2024

Summary: The bill establishes caps on ASCENT program participation and per pupil rates, and requires a study of program costs.

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

[HB24-1402: Evaluation of Colorado Department of Higher Education Information Technology](#)

Effective Date: April 18, 2024

Summary: The bill requires an evaluation of the Department of Higher Education's Information Technology systems by the Office of Information Technology.

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

[SB24-104: Career and Technical Education Apprenticeships](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: The bill requires that the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Colorado Community College System align high school career and technical education programs and the registered apprenticeship system for certain industries, including education.

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

INSTRUCTION

[HB24-1331: Out-of-School Time Grant Program](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: This bill creates a grant program for nonprofit organizations that provide student activities outside of school hours.

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

[SB24-069: Clarify Individualized Education Program Information](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: The bill requires the Colorado Department of Education to create a training program on federal and state laws relating to individualized education programs.

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

[SB24-070: Remote Testing and Online Education Programs](#)

Effective Date: July 5, 2024

Summary: The bill allows students in online schools to participate in statewide assessments remotely using a video proctored administration.

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

LEGAL

[SB24-162: Best Practices to Prevent Discrimination in Schools](#)

Effective Date: June 6, 2024

Summary: The bill requires the Department of Education to contract with an organization to develop best practices and training related to reports of discrimination and harassment in public schools. The training would relate to SB23-296, which made changes to the definition of harassment and discrimination. The training would fulfill the requirements of SB23-296 and be available to schools and districts at no cost.

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

[HB24-1451: Include Hair Length in CROWN Act](#)

Effective Date: June 3, 2024

Summary: In 2020, the CROWN Act was passed which adds hair texture, hair type, or a protective hairstyle commonly or historically associated with race to the definition of race as it relates to protected classes for the purpose of discrimination and harassment. The bill adds hair length to the definition of race in the context of discrimination in public education.

CASB Policy Impact: AC—Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity has been revised to comply with the bill. GBA—Open Hiring/Equal Employment Opportunity, GCE/GCF—Professional Staff Recruiting/Hiring, GDE/GDF—Support Staff Recruiting/Hiring, JB—Equal Educational Opportunities, JF—Admission and Denial of Admission, JFBA—Intra-District Choice/Open Enrollment, JFBB—Inter-District Choice/Open Enrollment, JICDD*—Violent and Aggressive Behavior, JICDE*—Bullying Prevention and Education, and LBD*—Relations with District Charter Schools will also have minor edits.

HB24-1454: Grace Period Noncompliance Digital Accessibility

Effective Date: May 24, 2024

Summary: House Bill 21-1110 required state agencies to implement accessibility plans for their information technology systems by July 1, 2024, after which they are liable for discrimination claims. This bill establishes a one-year grace period from liability if the noncompliant agency creates a progress report demonstrating a good-faith effort towards meeting accessibility requirements. The progress report must demonstrate concrete and specific efforts towards compliance on the entity’s front-facing web pages, to be updated on a quarterly basis. There must also be a clear, easy to find process for requesting redress for inaccessible digital products.

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

PERSONNEL

HB24-1087: Professional Endorsement Special Education Teaching

Effective Date: April 19, 2024

Summary: Under current law, CDE offers a variety of special education educator endorsements, which can only be obtained by completing a special education degree or an approved alternative education program, as well as passing content-based exams. This bill allows a special education teacher endorsement to be issued to an applicant who completes an alternative teacher preparation program and requires that the State Board of Education adopt rules for the amount and type of work experience required to complete the alternative program and receive the endorsement.

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

HB24-1096: School Psychologist Licensure Interstate Compact

Effective Date: April 29, 2024

Summary: The bill enacts the School Psychologists Licensure Interstate Compact, which allows school psychologists in a member state to more easily obtain a license from another member state. The compact takes effect when seven states have enacted the compact into law—currently two states have adopted the compact (Colorado and West Virginia) and two states have introduced the compact but have yet to adopt (Nebraska and New Jersey).

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

[HB24-1240: AmeriCorps Education Award Tax Subtraction](#)

Effective Date: June 3, 2024

Summary: After completing an AmeriCorps term of service, AmeriCorps alumni are eligible to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education award which may be used to pay current education expenses or to repay student loans. The bill provides a state income tax subtraction for the amount awarded from the Segal Education Award.

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

[HB24-1324: Attorney General Restrictive Employment Agreements](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: The bill gives the Department of Law rulemaking authority over restrictive employment agreements. It also makes changes in definitions to make the recovery of education and training expenses from an employee by an employer subject to existing consumer protection laws overseen by the department.

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

[HB24-1376: Expand Teacher Mentorships](#)

Effective Date: June 3, 2024

Summary: The bill expands the Teacher Mentor Grant Program in the Department of Higher Education to include mentorships for novice teachers who have fewer than three years of teaching experience.

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

[HB24-1446: Professional Development for Science Teachers](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: The bill requires the Colorado Department of Education to contract with an institution of higher education to make available a free professional development program for science educators.

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

[SB24-132: Evaluation Protections and Educators](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: Under current law, an evaluation report and the records used to prepare the performance evaluation of a licensed professional in public education are confidential and available only to the licensed personnel being evaluated, to the person's supervisors, or to the courts reviewing a decision of a local board of education. The bill extends the confidentiality of evaluation reports and related records to all teachers, principals, administrators, special service providers, and education support professionals.

CASB Policy Impact: GBJ—Personnel Records and Files will be reviewed and revised as necessary to comply with the bill.

HB24-1174: Concealed Carry Permits and Training

Effective Date: July 1, 2025 for Sections 1, 4, 6, and 7 of the bill, which concern the requirements to obtain a concealed handgun permit, and August 7, 2024 for the remaining sections.

Summary: This bill makes changes to the current process for obtaining a concealed handgun permit by specifying requirements for initial and refresher training courses, requiring county sheriffs to verify instructors of concealed handgun training courses within their jurisdiction and to maintain and post a list of verified instructors online, allowing sheriffs to establish a fee on instructors for verification, requiring sheriffs who deny an instructor verification to notify the person in writing of the decision and allowing the person to seek review, excluding individuals convicted of certain misdemeanors for permit eligibility, and adding criteria for renewal permits.

CASB Policy Impact: There is no impact on CASB's sample policies, but if a district has adopted a policy on armed staff, it may impact their policies.

HB24-1320: Educator Safety Task Force

Effective Date: June 5, 2025

Summary: This bill creates the 18-member Educator Safety Task Force to study issues relating to safety of public school staff. Appointments will be made by July 31, 2024 and the task force will study laws and regulations that affect safety of public school staff, the influence of special education professionals on student behavior, the effect of staff shortages, increased class sizes and caseloads on disruptive learning environment, aggressive student behaviors towards public school staff, recommendations of other school task forces, and the effect of insufficient school funding and resource inequality on learning environments and public school staff safety. The task force must make recommendations and submit a report to the legislature by June 30, 2025.

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

HB24-1406: School-Based Mental Health Support Program

Effective Date: April 18, 2024

Summary: This bill creates the School-Based Mental Health Support Program in the Behavioral Health Administration, to begin by the start of the 2025-26 school year. The program is to provide training, resources, and implementation and sustainment support for educators to provide mental health services for students through an external provider and will emphasize rural schools or schools which do not have equitable access to mental health care.

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

[HB24-1416: Create the Healthy Food Incentives Program](#)

Effective Date: April 29, 2024

Summary: The bill codifies in statute the existing Healthy Food Incentives Program in the Department of Public Health and Environment. Since 2018, the Healthy Food Incentives Program has provided healthy eating incentives to low-income populations through partnerships with statewide nonprofits.

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

[HB24-1421: Modifying Public Safety Program Funding](#)

Effective Date: April 29, 2024

Summary: This bill transfers \$3.0 million from the General Fund to the Multidisciplinary Crime Prevention and Crisis Intervention Grant Fund in the Department of Public Safety and continues the program through the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

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

[SB24-007: Behavioral Health First Aid Training Program](#)

Effective Date: June 5, 2024

Summary: The bill creates the Behavioral Health First Aid Training Program in the Office of Suicide Prevention in the Colorado Department of Health and Environment. The program uses a train-the-trainer model targeted at participants from schools and other organizations.

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

[SB24-034: Increase Access to School-Based Health Care](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: Under current law, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment operates the School-Based Health Center Grant Program to assist the establishment, expansion, and ongoing operations of school-based health centers. This bill expands the grant program to include school-linked health care service models, including telehealth services and mobile health units.

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

[SB24-113: Safer Youth Sports](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: This bill has no direct impact to school districts but establishes requirements for non-profit and for-profit youth sports organizations. The bill requires that youth sports organizations require coaches to complete an abuse prevention training, maintain records of completed trainings, and develop a prohibited conduct policy for coaches, parents, spectators, and athletes and a system for reporting or investigating conduct policy violations.

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

[SB24-131: Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces](#)

Effective Date: July 1, 2024

Summary: Currently, firearms are disallowed in certain government buildings, schools, and transportation facilities. This bill adds additional “sensitive spaces” where individuals are prohibited from carrying firearms. This includes the chambers or galleries of a local government’s governing body, locations where the meeting of a local government’s governing body is conducted, and the official office of any elected member of a local government’s governing body. Local governments may enact ordinances or laws that permit a person to carry a firearm at the specified locations.

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

[SB24-142: Oral Health Screening in Schools Pilot Program](#)

Effective Date: June 7, 2024

Summary: The bill creates the Oral Health Screening in Public Schools Pilot Program which required the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to award at least five grants to screeners of oral health in schools of local education providers selected by CDPHE.

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

[SB24-227: Automated External Defibrillators in Public School](#)

Effective Date: June 7, 2024

Summary: Current law allows public schools to refuse to accept a donated Automated External Defibrillator (AED) if the donating party does not agree to take responsibility for training, installation and maintenance of the AED. The bill requires schools to accept donated AEDs and clarifies that schools will decide who will be trained and the timing and frequency of AED trainings.

CASB Policy Impact: JLCE—First Aid and Emergency Medical Care, and KDE—Crisis Management will be reviewed and revised as necessary to comply with the bill.

STUDENTS

[HB24-1003: Opiate Antagonists and Detection Products in Schools](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: Under current law, specified school district staff members have civil and criminal immunity if they receive training to administer certain medications, including opiate antagonists, to students experiencing an opiate overdose. This bill extends these protections to school bus drivers and other employees present on the bus, provided they receive the appropriate training.

The bill also allows school boards to adopt a policy to acquire and maintain a supply of non-laboratory additive detection tests, which are designed to detect the presence of additional harmful components to an opioid, such as fentanyl. Personnel who administer these detection tests have similar civil and criminal immunity as for administering an opiate antagonist.

Lastly, the bill allows school boards to maintain a supply of opiate antagonists on school buses, and students to possess and administer opiate antagonists or testing strips on school grounds, a school bus, or at a school-sponsored event. Under this bill, districts cannot prohibit a student from possessing or administering opiate antagonists or testing strips, and cannot discipline a student from doing so.

CASB Policy Impact: JLCD—Administering Medications to Students will be reviewed and revised as necessary to comply with the bill.

HB24-1039: Non-Legal Name Changes

Effective Date: April 29, 2024

Summary: The bill defines “chosen name” to be a name that a student requests to be known as to reflect their gender identity, and requires public school employees to address students by their chosen name at school and at school activities. The bill requires school boards to adopt a policy outlining the process a student can follow if they wish to use a chosen name. The policy may include a process to change the student’s name on school records. The bill also states that knowingly or intentionally using a name other than a student’s chosen name is a form of discrimination, and an affected student can file a discrimination complaint with the school. It also adds that the State Board cannot accept a district’s request for a waiver from bill’s provisions relating to the use of a student’s chosen name.

CASB Policy Impact: A required new policy will be released in an upcoming SPU that meets the requirements of this bill.

HB24-1063: Addressing Abbreviated School Days

Effective Date: June 5, 2024

Summary: The bill requires that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) create and implement a policy related to the use of an abbreviated school day (ASD), which is defined as any school day in which a student with disabilities receives instruction for fewer hours than the majority of students in the same grade and school district.

The policy must include the definition of an abbreviated school day and when the use of them is permissible, the extent to which children with disabilities may participate in field trips, extracurricular activities, and other school functions, recordkeeping requirements, a regular review process for the use of ASD, and information for parents to consent to or oppose the ASD schedule for their child.

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

HB24-1136: Healthier Social Media Use by Youth

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: By July 1, 2025, the bill requires that the Colorado Department of Education create a resource bank of materials and curricula related to the mental health impacts of social media use by youth. CDE must also create a stakeholder group to assist with the resource bank and identify ways to inform local education providers, educators, parents, youth, and the public about the resources available.

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

[HB24-1164: Free Menstrual Products to Students](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: The bill requires that local education providers provide free menstrual hygiene products to students in at least 25% of applicable bathrooms by June 30, 2025 and increasing by 25% yearly until reaching 100% in 2028. For grades 6-12, menstrual products must be provided in female and gender-neutral bathrooms in all school buildings, and if there is not a gender-neutral bathroom in the building, products must instead be provided in a health office. For grades K-6, menstrual products still must be provided, but can be provided in a health office or administrative office. This bill also expands the Menstrual Hygiene Grant Program in the Colorado Department of Education to be available to rural and small rural school districts and the charter schools located within those districts.

CASB Policy Impact: JLC—Student Health Services and Records will be reviewed and revised as necessary to comply with the bill.

[HB24-1285: Student Weight-Based Bullying Prevention](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: Under current law, bullying behaviors are subject to public school discipline policies and reporting requirements. Current law prohibits bullying behaviors based on a student's academic performance, their protected class, or any other reason. This bill specifies that a pattern of bullying based on weight, height, or body size is also prohibited.

CASB Policy Impact: JICDE*—Bullying Prevention and Education will be reviewed and revised as necessary to comply with the bill.

[HB24-1323: School Graduation Attire](#)

Effective Date: June 5, 2024

Summary: The bill allows graduating students in public schools, charter schools and institutions of higher education to wear items of cultural or religious significance as an adornment during graduation ceremonies. Schools and colleges may not restrict what a student wears underneath their graduation garments beyond dress code requirements, as long as the dress code does not infringe upon a student's gender expression, gender identity, religion, and culture. Schools and colleges must also adopt a policy for graduation attire that aligns with this bill.

The bill does not impede the school or college from prohibiting attire that will be disruptive to the graduation ceremony as long as the prohibition is based on evidence of disruption and uses the least restrictive means necessary.

CASB Policy Impact: JICA—Student Dress Code, and IKFB—Graduation Exercises will be reviewed and revised as necessary to comply with the bill.

[HB24-1058: Protect Privacy of Biological Data](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: Senate Bill 21-190 enacted the Colorado Privacy Act, which made it a deceptive trade practice for entities who control the personal data of at least 25,000 people to process sensitive data without consent. Under current law, sensitive data refers to data that reveals select demographic traits or genetic identifying material. The bill expands the definition of “sensitive data” to include biological data, including neural data.

Biological data means data generated by the technological processing, measurement, or analysis of an individual’s biological, genetic, biochemical, physiological, or neural properties, compositions, or activities or of an individual’s body or bodily functions, which data is used or intended to be used, singly or in combination with other personal data, for identification purposes.

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

[HB24-1076: Purple Star School Program](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: The bill creates the Purple Star School Program in the Colorado Department of Education. The program will award the purple star designation to public schools that provide services and supports to military connected students and their families.

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

[HB24-1255: Sunset Advisory Council Parent Involvement in Education](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: Under current law, the Colorado State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education and the Parent Involvement in Education Grant Program in the Colorado Department of Education are repealed on September 1, 2024. The bill continues the council and grant program until September 1, 2030.

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

[HB24-1278: Sunset Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board](#)

Effective Date: September 1, 2024

Summary: Under current law, the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board in the Colorado Department of Education is repealed on September 1, 2024. The bill continues the board until September 1, 2027. The bill also requires the board to work with CDE, the Department of Higher Education, and the community college system to support the enrollment of first-generation students, low-income students, and students of color in concurrent enrollment programs.

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

[HB24-1468: Artificial Intelligence and Biometric Technologies](#)

Effective Date: June 6, 2024

Summary: The bill changes membership to the Biometric Technology and Artificial Intelligence Policy Task Force, previously the Facial Recognition Task Force, and requires the task force to study artificial intelligence and biometric data and propose a variety of policy recommendations, including recommendations for how to protect vulnerable communities from bias based on AI discrimination and recommendations related to the use of facial recognition services and biometric technology.

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

[SB24-157: Colorado Open Meetings Law for the General Assembly](#)

Effective Date: March 12, 2024

Summary: Under current law, when a public body conducts public business, the public must be notified in advance and minutes of the meeting must be recorded. This bill establishes that for the purposes of applying the open meetings law to the General Assembly, "public business" means legislation and bills, resolutions, and memorials, or other matters being considered by a statutory committee, any interim committee, or a committee of reference. Public business does not include matters that are administrative, interpersonal, or logistical. Additionally, it does not include legislation, bills, resolutions, or memorials, or that concern personnel and other operations if the merits or substance of legislation, bills, resolutions, memorials, or other matters described as public business are not discussed.

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

[SB24-216: Standards for Decisions Regarding Library Resources](#)

Effective Date: May 31, 2024

Summary: The bill requires boards of public libraries to establish policies for the acquisition, retention, and display of library resources, as well as for consideration of the removal of materials from circulation upon a request from a patron. Libraries must not remove materials based on demographic characteristics of the author of the material or based on partisan disapproval of the material in question. This bill is similar to [Senate Bill 24-049](#), which proscribed a process for school libraries to review content of library materials, however, SB24-049 was not passed.

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

[SB24-005: Prohibit Landscaping Practices for Water Conservation](#)

Effective Date: August 7, 2024

Summary: Beginning January 1, 2026, the bill prohibits local governments and special districts from installing, planting, or placing nonfunctional turf, artificial turf, or invasive plant species as part of a new development or redevelopment project. Further, beginning January 1, 2025, the Department of Personnel and Administration must not use prohibited landscaping in construction and renovation projects on state facilities.

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

2024 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:

- [HB24-1073](#): Independent Ethics Commission Jurisdiction
- [HB24-1167](#): Prohibit Student Seclusion
- [HB24-1168](#): Equal Access to Public Meetings
- [HB24-1296](#): Modifications to CORA
- [HB24-1310](#): School Safety Measures
- [HB24-1363](#): Charter Schools Accountability
- [SB24-049](#): Content of Library Materials
- [SB24-088](#): Entity Authorizes Charter School Transparency

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.

- [HB24-1307](#): HVAC Improvements for Schools
 - For more information on this veto, please review the [Governor's veto letter](#).
- [HB24-1260](#): Prohibition Against Employee Discipline
 - For more information on this veto, please review the [Governor's veto letter](#).

[The November Election](#)

2024 is a presidential election year. School districts may submit tax and revenue measures to voters during this year's state election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Visit CASB's [Elections website](#) for information and resources on ballot elections. Visit the Secretary of State's [website](#) 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			
#50	Voter Approval to Retain Additional Property Tax Revenue	Asks voters to cap property tax growth at 4% per year.	On Ballot
#108	Valuation for Assessments	Reducing assessment rates will increase the amount of after-tax income available for homeowners and business property owners to spend, save, or invest elsewhere in the economy. The measure will decrease revenue collected by school districts under mill levy overrides and bond approvals, lowering the amount of funds available for school services.	Approved for Circulation
#138	School Choice in K-12 Education	The measure states that children in elementary and secondary schools have the right to school choice. Current state law requires school districts to have school choice policies in place. To the extent the state legislature modifies current laws or school districts change practices and policies to align with the measure, state and local spending on education may change.	Approved for Circulation
#205	Parental Notification of Gender Incongruence	This measure requires that any public school representative with information that a child enrolled in their public school is experiencing gender incongruence shall notify the child's parent within forty-eight hours of receiving such information.	Title Set
#287	Repeal Provisions in Open Meetings Law Applicability to Legislative Proceedings	The measure repeals legislation that took effect March 2024 modifying the applicability of the Colorado Open Meetings Law to the General Assembly.	Approved for Circulation

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